

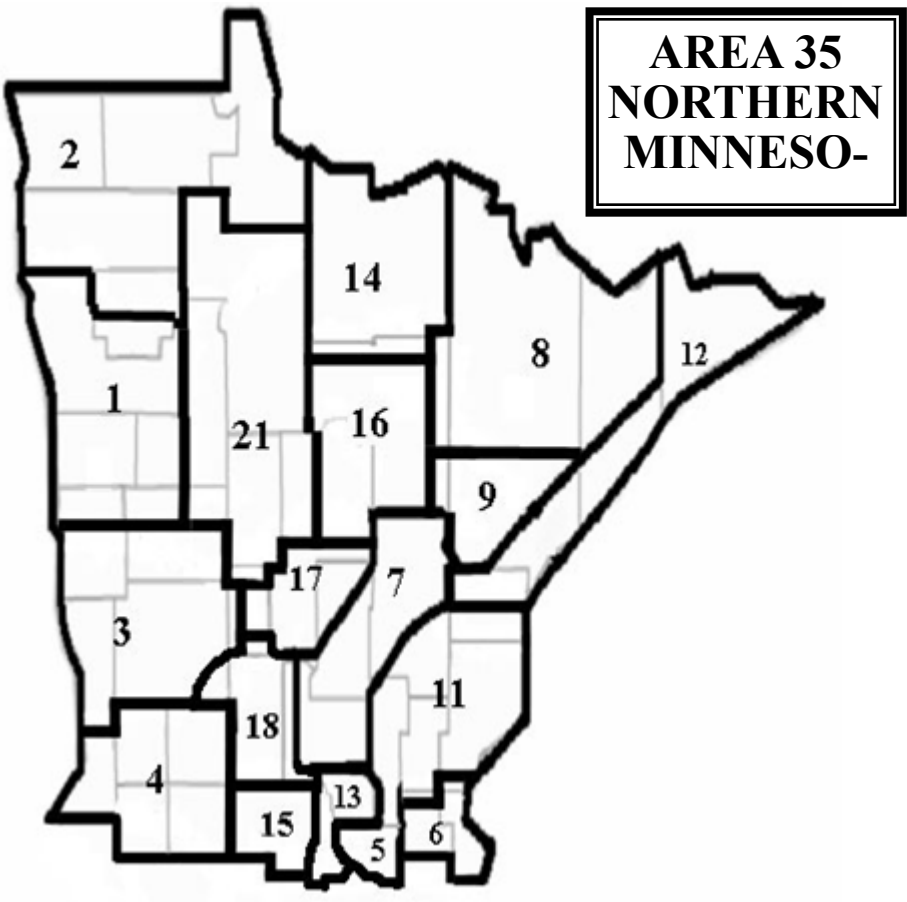
Deadline for the next  
*Northern Light* is  
**January 30, 2017**

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to  
Steven L. at [NorthernLight@area35.org](mailto: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

<p><b>District 1</b> 2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540</p>	<p><b>District 7</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church 415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401</p>	<p><b>District 14</b> 2<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Month, 5:00pm District Meeting Alano Club 410 5th Ave International Falls, MN 56649</p>
<p><b>District 2</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 210 Park Ave. N. Middle River, MN 56737</p>	<p><b>District 8</b> Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”</p>	<p><b>District 15</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave. Albany, MN 56307</p>
<p><b>District 3</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Alano Club 827 Summit Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501</p>	<p><b>District 9</b> Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p>	<p><b>District 16</b> 1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p>
<p><b>District 4</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>District 11</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Peace Lutheran 2177 Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735</p>	<p><b>District 18</b> 1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. Long Prairie Alano Club 21 2nd Ave. Long Prairie, MN 56347</p>
<p><b>District 5</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m. Freshwaters Church 12475 273rd Ave NW Zimmerman, MN 55398</p>	<p><b>District 12</b> 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)</p>	<p><b>District 21</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 3802 Greenleaf Ave NW Bemidji, MN 56601</p>
<p><b>District 6</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd. N.E. North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p><b>District 13</b> 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7th Ave. NE Saint Cloud, MN 56301</p>	<p><b>District 17</b> Not currently active or unknown</p>



OUR PAST DELEGATES

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

Q:  
Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

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

The Delegate’s Duties

Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate’s job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.</li><li>Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.</li></ul>

(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



AREA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe we are in the fall season and winter is just right around the corner. With that comes the holidays and November being gratitude month which is often celebrated among many AA’s around our fellowship. We have been truly given a program of change and with that change comes gratitude for what we have and the experiences whether good or bad to live life one day at a time. What are you grateful for today?

We had our Fall Assembly October, 1-2<sup>nd</sup> in Alexandria and our attendance was down. It is the first time in my many years of service that I have seen this. It makes me think about that question we are so often asked by those that serve “what do we do to get more people involved in service?” I know for me personally sharing how service filled a “void” in my life when just not drinking and going to meetings was not enough. The best way we can give back what was freely given to us is not only by working one on one with others carrying our message of hope, but also through the service we can do for Alcoholics Anonymous to carry that message. Let me ask you this question, what are you doing to get others involved in service? We covered a lot of business over that weekend with several presentations. I would like to thank Paul M. Area 35 Grapevine Chair and some of his committee members, Mark N. Area 35 PI Chair, Jim T. Area 35 CPC Chair and Christine G. Area 35 Secretary for their presentations. A great job was done by all of them! Michael (Jake) J. past Delegate of Area 35 was also nominated for Trustee at Large U.S., accepted the nomination and received it by white ballot. Congratulations Jake. The Trustees Committee on Nominating will be reviewing all the resumes for eligibility at the General Service January board meeting and voting will then take place at the 2017 General Service Conference. We will be coming up on the 2017 Agenda Items soon. I did a presentation on “How to Get an Item on the Agenda” for the General Service Conference at the Fall Assembly and I want to remind you that the deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup> for me to submit one if you have one. Also if you would like to have a copy of that power point I presented, I would be glad to email it out to you. I also recently emailed a flier that I created out to the Area on the process and timeline once I receive them. GRS’s if you have not received it please request it from your DCM’s it does answer many questions you have that we see through your evaluations done at our Assemblies on this process. If you still have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar and plan to attend the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, Wyoming the first weekend in March when we will take the first look at the Agenda Items. I look forward to attending our Joint Workshop with Area 36 November 19<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud where it is always a great opportunity to share ideas with them on how we can together continue to carry the message in our great state of Minnesota. Hope to see many of you there! As always thank you for the opportunity to be of service as your Delegate. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or if I can be helpful in anyway. Have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

In love and service.  
Kelly D.

Alt. Delegate:

As your Alternate Delegate my main responsibilities are in the following three areas.

Zonal Forums. I am directed by a recent Area action/motion to check with DCMs in each of four zones to see if they would like Area Officers to conduct a forum in their zone during this two- year rotation. The purpose of the Zonal Forums is to reach out to AA members in a zone, attract members to general service and assist the zone in issues facing a local area. We are currently discussing having our second Zonal Forum of this rotation.

January Workshop. I am planning for Area 35’s 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Workshop. The theme of our workshop will be “Supporting Our Future” and this will take place in Bemidji MN on January 14-15, 2017. Howard L. a former Area Delegate and Southwest Regional Trustee will be our guest presenter for this workshop. Eight districts will be conducting presentations at the workshop. I ‘m currently scheduled to visit two districts to assist in planning their presentations. I welcome invitations from the other 6 Districts to assist in your presentations. I can facilitate one additional District presenting at our workshop. Please feel free to call on me to assist your District in planning for a presentation if you are on this year’s schedule.

Backing up Kelly D. our Area 35 Delegate. Reading communications, she receives and sends on to me from AAWS and our General Service Office. This service will intensify in February and March as we prepare for the West Central AA Service Conference and become familiar with many pages of background information on the Agenda Items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in April of 2017. Please contact me if your district would like me to share knowledge I will gain on these Agenda Items with you.

On a personal note I attended a Celebration of Life Service today for Rick L. of St. Cloud on October 29. Rick would have celebrated 37 years of sobriety before depression took his life this past week. He was a sponsor and friend to

me for many years and was loved by all in our fellowship. Ricks gave from his heart to many a troubled soul. Service to Rick wasn’t anything formal, it was just the way he lived our program.

I appreciate the opportunity you all have given me to continue serving as your Alternate Delegate.

In service,  
Roger  
Area 35 Alternate Delegate.

Area Chair:

Good Morning Everyone,

I have been looking through the evaluations from the Fall Assembly and there were some points people brought up. I do appreciate the time you take to complete these as the feedback can help make future assemblies just that much better. I will have a complete list at the Dec ACM and ask Rodney to post to the website for everyone to see at their leisure.

This is likely a duplicate of something Kelly will discuss, but she has created a poster that details the time line for the agenda items to be out for the groups. I bring this up as this was a major topic of evaluations from the Spring Assembly. This poster is on the website for everyone to see. I bring it up as it is the DCM’s responsibility once they receive them from Kelly to get them to the GSR’s so they can be brought back to the groups. It would be a good idea to start talking in your district meetings when a good time for a meeting on the agenda items would be as this will come quicker than you can imagine. GSR’s should also start thinking about when to go through them with their groups so we get a true group conscience when voting in April. This would also be a good time to ask any Area officers or committee chairs you would like at your district meetings. GSR’s should start thinking about talking with their DCM’s about attending any meeting that may want some support during their discussion as well. I will be bringing this up at every chance I can to remind everyone how fast this will be here.

A flier for the Spring Assembly is being created as I type this. Once it is done, it will be up on the website along with the room registration form for Rutgers Resort as well. A question was brought up to me about how to register multiple people for a room. After talking with Rutgers, they suggested having the name of all people staying in your room ready when you make the reservation. Remember, they do not accept personal checks. They will take checks from your group, so if you make your reservations early you can have your group or district send in your check instead of using your own funds which may or may not help some people out. You should plan to make your reservations early enough in order to mail in your check, which I would suggest about a month and half early. No reservations will be taken 3 weeks prior to the event. Your cost includes room and meals for the weekend. Coffee is just \$10 for the weekend payable at the registration desk when you arrive. I want to thank both Cathy R. and Scott M. for helping with finding locations for the 2017 Fall Assembly. I am now in contact with the Hibbing Park and Hotel about signing a contract with them. It looks like we will be getting the conference room for around \$700 for the weekend, room rates will be around \$110 for a two-person room per night. I will be going to visit the location after deer season to ensure the location is adequate before signing a contract.

In Service  
Jim S., Area 35 Chair

Secretary:

Since the last area committee meeting I have busy writing the minutes. I want I just completed the minutes from the fall assembly. I forgot how much information is presented at our assemblies and along with my habit of procrastination I found I had grossly under estimated the amount of work I was leaving until the last minute when putting together the minutes. I was typing into the early hours on Monday, November 31. I sent the minutes later Monday morning along with my apologies to Steve L. for missing the deadline by a several hours. I will try to do better in the future to meet my deadlines in a timely manner.

With Jim S.’s help, I made a flyer for the upcoming Spring Assembly which will be April 1-2 in Deerwood, MN. I sent a copy of the flyer to Rodney so he could put in the calendar on the Area 35 website. Steve L. was also sent a copy of the flyer for publishing in the Northern Light.

After the Fall Assembly a GSR from Alexandria sent me an email stating he is a GSR for a new meeting in Alexandria. He received his GSR packet from GSO but did not receive a group number so I referred him to our Group Records Secretary, Bob B. I wish this group success in reaching the alcoholic that still suffers.

The District 12 Corrections Chair, Frank K., approached me several weeks ago and asked if I would consider chairing a Women’s AA meeting at the Douglas County Jail in Superior, WI. I chaired this meeting at least once a month early in my sobriety and did so for several years. Then the elevator broke and all volunteer groups were suspended for a period of time. Even

(Continued from page 5)

after the elevators were repaired I found dozens of reasons (excuses) not to go back until Frank K. reached out and asked if I would be of service. I'm grateful Frank gave me that nudge as I'm chairing the meeting on a weekly basis now and as with most service work I get more out of it than I put in. About a year ago a woman approached me and said "Remember me? My name is 'Mary'; I attended the meetings at the jail. You and the other women made a difference in my life, I'm sober!" Many of the women have had some exposure to AA in the past but for others it is their meeting ever. I am looking for other women who are willing to share their experience, strength and hope in the jail setting. Please contact me if you are interested, it's an opportunity to be of service and give back to the program that has saved so many lives, including our own.

In Service,  
Rillis E.

**Treasurer:**

Greetings Area 35,

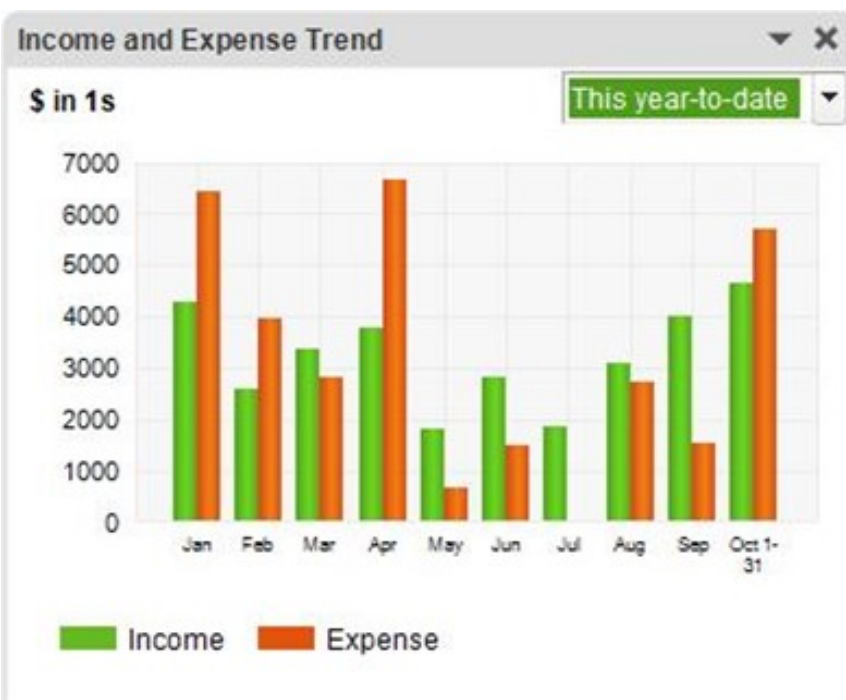
It was great to see a lot of you a few weeks ago at the Fall Assembly. I felt the facility did a great job and all the staff were very friendly. I am also happy to report that coffee cost 173.22 and we collected 280.80. That will help offset the spring assembly coffee costs. The facility rental was 1224.25 for the weekend. I really enjoyed all the presentations and information that was shared over the weekend. It was one of my favorite assemblies.

For the month ending October, your Area checkbook has a combined balance of 27,173.38 as shown below:

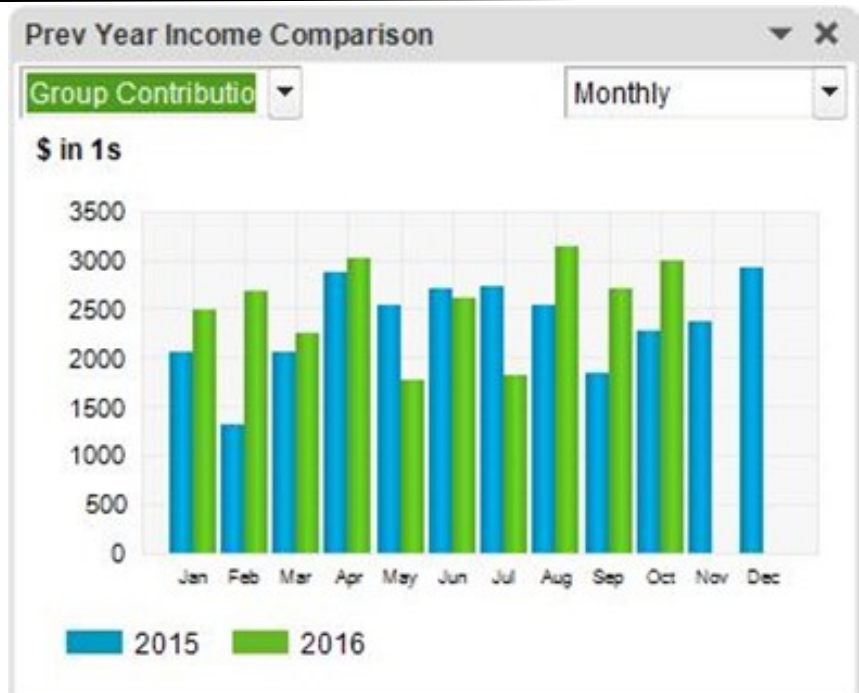
Account Balances	
ACCOUNT	BALANCE ▼
♦ Area 35 Checking Account	18,595.49
♦ Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,042.65
♦ NL Mailing Flyer Cash	1,383.00
♦ Grapevine Cash Account	1,152.24

Select Accounts Go to Chart of Accounts

This month's total income was \$4,333.10 and the expenses were \$5,677.53. Year to date income is \$31,879.22 and year to date expenses are \$31,957.70. We are 78.48 behind in contributions for the year so keep sending them in. I have paid about \$2000 for next year's expenses so we are technically operating in the positive for the year.



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



Congratulations to everyone who has celebrated a sobriety birthday this month. Please remember to send in your donation to the Area and GSO. The suggestion is \$1 per year of sobriety or whatever you would like to send in to show your gratitude to the program. So far, we not received any birthday contributions in October. Let's see if we can beat \$365.70 that was sent in 2011. It is never too late to show your gratitude through your personal donation.

I am working on group contribution mailing this month so be looking for those sometime in November and let me know right away if there is any discrepancies. I want to make sure all contributions are getting reported to the proper accounts.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing everyone at the December Area committee meeting.

In Service,  
Christine  
Area 35 Treasurer

## Archives:

Good afternoon. My name is Steve D. and I am an Alcoholic. Currently serving as your Archives Committee Chair.

I would like to encourage all Districts to have someone that can attend our committee meetings. If you do not have someone, I would like to provide the DCM from each district and information that we would pass forward.

Also, I would be very willing to attend any of your District meetings and provide a brief presentation on the importance of archiving our history.

We had 3 districts represented, District 8, District 18 and District 13.

District 8 is putting together an Archives workshop in December at Pike Sandy Town hall. There will be an Old timers panel and a presentation by past Archivist Scott J. and Kevin V. alternate Archives chair.

District 18 is busy gathering group histories and collecting oral history interviews of old timers.

District 13 has been able to obtain the District Archives from the former Archives Chair and is sorting and cataloging the material.

Brad I.gave a report on his recent activities and discussed how we can organize material, digitizing oral history, as tapes and CD's do not last forever.

Two questions were discussed. The first was what is the purpose of the Area Archives Committee. We will distribute the current Area 35 Archives Committee guidelines and review them. We will also develop a Mission Statement or Statement of Purpose.

Another question was “What should we not keep for Archives?” We developed a short list of documents to start with which include:

- Minutes
- District Events, Flyers, Speaker Meetings.
- District Oral History

There was a consensus to develop a proposal to present to an area function a brief presentation on the history of the traditions and how they were developed.

Finally, we discussed gathering information on how the old-timers used to organize roundups. We discussed how roundup attendance has decreased and how those who have been successful can provide us ideas on developing a re-

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)  
pository of roundup ideas.

Yours in Service,  
Steve D.  
Area 35 Archives Committee Chair

**Archivist:**

Since the Fall Assembly I brought the Archives display to the Saint Cloud Round-up. The display was well received and enthusiastically toured. However, there was one person who I sorely missed. I will go into the whys later.

In the years I have been Archivist and the decades I have been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous I have observed a disturbing trend. Attendance at Round-Ups is rapidly decreasing. This is forcing the events to try and cut costs to remain viable. The obvious solution is to get more attendees. I could conjecture upon several reasons as to the attendance drop but I will focus on one aspect. I hear from a lot of long-timers that the cost has gone up so much. I will use a historical example to bring this into perspective. The Upper Midwest Round-up that was held in 1946 in Iowa had an admission of \$3.25. This included a floor show with 18 acts at an Auditorium and a chicken dinner at the club. There was only one speaker. Sounds like a bargain right? A mixed drink at Sadri's in New York City in 1946 with a call liquor was 45 cents. The minimum wage in 1946 was 40 cents. The admission was 7.22 mixed drinks or over an 8-hour work day. Now take that 7.22 times what a call drink would cost now or an 8-hour work day at minimum wage and an 18-dollar admission to a Round-up is a bargain.

To extrapolate on this theme; those of us who come to an AA meeting with a 5-dollar Caribou Turtle Latte and drop a dollar in the basket are cheating themselves of their opportunity to be freed of the Bondage of Self and help preserve this Fellowship of ours. My late first sponsor and the man that I wanted to emulate the most when I was a scared shaky newcomer hammered into my head that I would not find sobriety by osmosis and I would not find serenity sitting at home watching television or going to a college sporting event. I would find this only in being of maximum service to God and mankind.

Rick L. of Saint Cloud was that man I wanted to emulate. We shared an obsession for guitars and Merle Haggard. He was 10 years sober when I first walked through the doors and I was amazed by that. We shared countless hours talking about the premises and principles of our Program of Recovery. He had a gift of getting down to the nuts and bolts of How It Works to counter my philosophical, psychological and physiological flights of intellectual fantasy. He saved my life. He was so proud and grateful how this Program of Recovery had worked for me. He was so proud of where I had taken the Archives Display. He contributed a one of a kind item to the display that is very coveted by several other archivists. Rick took his own life on the Tuesday before the Round-Up. He was going to meetings, reading his Big Book, working with others and being of service to the Fellowship. None of us are immune from overwhelming despair. Experience has taught me by 2 instances, that if I am at that point where I don't know what to do, when I feel the world as I perceive it crashing down on me, when my ego and sense of self are gone, and I ask for help and guidance from God with no qualifiers I will receive it.

My biggest hope is when Rick crossed dimensions and became a part of the Universal Mind, his perception was expanded and he could see not only the effect of the message he carried had on the people he was in direct contact with but the effect his message had on other's expanding outward exponentially. I will miss him until I draw my last breath. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service and for saving my life.

Brad I.  
Area 35 Archivist.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community:**

The most recent activities of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee have focused on outreach to the certain professionals in 9 of our Area's counties. In an effort to bring our message to professionals "where they are", as Chair of the CPC committee I have mailed a letter and two appropriate AA pamphlets to the Sheriffs, Health, or Health and Human Services Directors in Crow Wing, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin, Itasca, Becker, Todd, Douglas and Hubbard counties.

Each personal letter asks these county officials to contact me if, in future department in-house training events, they are willing to provide opportunities for a 15-20 minute presentation regarding Alcoholics Anonymous. The intention is for us to take our story of recovery through the 12 Steps of AA into the work place and to contact an audience which is already gathered to receive training for their respective profession. Deputy Sheriffs and Social Workers, particularly, experience daily the ravages of alcoholism in homes and businesses. If those professionals have not received direct information regarding what we do and how we do, this brief introduction can at least put in their hands pamphlets and information upon which they can further build knowledge.

Much of my professional life has been spent working with county offices and departments which see and viscerally feel the impact of alcoholism. The front-line workers who can be reached through this approach are often the first people outside the affected individuals or families to see the effects of alcoholism. This effort to educate does not ask the county workers to do our work; they are professionals hired to cover a huge waterfront of daily tasks and duties. We simply want them to be aware of our option for recovery from alcoholism and to tap into it if there is opportunity to do so. It could be that a family has heard about AA, but simply don't know how to reach us. Front line workers can offer contact numbers for clients or customers to reach.

Future mailings to all other counties in Area 36 will follow. This approach is a "one step at a time" undertaking. Should you in any of the communities within these 9 counties be contacted because of this letter, but you already have an established relationship with Sheriffs, Jails or Human Services professionals please continue to build on that relationship. Let me know what you need to supplement work you already are doing. Let me or the Literature Chair know if materials are needed. As always, please contact me should you have need for CPC outreach or if you have questions regarding this report.

Yours in Service  
Jim T.  
Area CPC Chair

**Corrections:**

Due to a busy work schedule and some family responsibilities, that I am grateful to have, there has not been a lot of free time. I've been fortunate in having a lot of help to cover the bases that have needed to be covered. Heidi (district 8) and Vicky (district 7) helped cover the joint corrections mtg. earlier this month for which I am very thankful.

My work has been very understanding in allowing me to schedule time off for upcoming responsibilities both service work and personal. I would like to express my appreciation to all those who have assisted and to those who have shown understanding and consideration. What a wonderful society to feel a part of. I will keep trying to improve in my abilities to serve our area as well as finding balance with all that God and AA have provided me with.

Thank you again for allowing to be of service and participate in my own recovery.

Gratefully yours  
Servando M.  
Area 35 Corrections

**Grapevine:**

Greetings this is Paul M your area 35 Grapevine chair. We had eight districts represented at the fall assembly in Alexandria. We discussed the importance of having it grapevine representative from your group. We met on Friday night as a committee to all go over the presentation we did on Saturday at the fall assembly. I would like to send Dave A., Dave C., Mike and Sarah for their part in the presentation! And also to Carla from the area 36 who did a pitch on the Livinia. I passed out about 45 Arbor cards I hope many of you fill them out and send in. I placed another big order of literature for the next upcoming events, I also have pocket planners and wall calendars for 2017 as well as the new traditions book! Things seem to be going pretty well in the grapevine world! If any questions concerns or you would like grapevine literature brought to your open meeting or Round up please contact me at!

This is AA and I love this place!

Thank you for letting me serve  
Paul M.

**Group Records:**

**Meeting Guide:** At our last Assembly we approved putting area35 meetings on "Meeting Guide" so that we would review the Meeting Guide Application. Our meeting are automatically updated on Meeting Guide when area35 meeting are updated on aaMeetingLocator.org. To use meeting guide go the Apple App Store or the Google Play and install the "Meeting Guide" App on you cell phone or tablet. I will be ready to demo this tool at our area committee meeting.

The past couple months have been slow. There have been minimal updates to our group records database. If our meeting information is not correct on aaMeetingLocator, group records needs to be updated.

Bob B.  
Group Records  
grouprecords@area35.org

**Literature:**

Good day All,

Well to start with, we had a great weekend in sales at the Fall Assembly in Alexandria October 1st and 2nd. We had a total of \$820.49 in Literature sales. This is over twice as much as I have witnessed so far in this rotation. I would like to thank everyone for these sales, without you I would be very bored.

I would like to let everyone know that the literature is FOR SALE not just to take if you need it. We have had 3- Big Books, 2- Twelve and Twelve, 1- Daily Reflection, and 1- Came to Believe missing sense January 2016. Not to mention the G.S.O. inventory that came up missing at the January Workshop (but were returned). So I brought this concern up at the Fall Assembly when the Area Officers and Committee Chairs met Saturday night. The answer was to audit the literature. Not a bad idea, considering it is your \$1000.00 that starts the bank account at the beginning of each rotation. I do have to say this has not happened in the past. I do know that I do not put prices on the books, so maybe people think they can just take them, but I think if that was the case, more would be missing. I don't price the books because the prices change with bulk orders, and I do like going through the catalog with you so we both know how to place orders, and why the prices can change.

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*(Continued from page 7)*  
So if you would like to place an order through Area 35 Literature and pick it up at Area Events, **PLEASE** contact me **TWO WEEKS** before an Area Event. The next event is Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin, MN. on December 4th 2016, and then the January Workshop in Bemidji on January 14th 2017. My contact information can be found in the Northern Light.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In service,  
Skip D.  
Area 35 Literature Chair

**Northern Light:**

Howdy,

Well, this newsletter was a little more challenging with the assembly and all. I was able to clean up the messy directions for flier insertion that were a fuzzy Jpeg now they are clean and readable. I updated some of the mechanics of the newsletter to make updating the newsletter more automatic.

One thing to remember when submitting a flier, a report or an article is that the Northern Light is printed in 256 shades of Gray. What looks good in color doesn’t always translate being readable in grayscale. Dark backgrounds with dark lettering makes for bad contrast and hard to read. When comparing two or more things different hashing patterns instead of color differences make for easier reading.

Yours in Service  
Steven L.  
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

**Public Information:**

Greetings from the Area 35 Public Information Chair;  
When we met for our breakout session at the Fall Assembly in Alexandria we discussed at length a few issues of importance concerning getting the message of AA out to the general public.

One was the use of P.I. Luncheons, where we choose a date well in advance and ask the groups to invite members of the community who come in contact with active alcoholics in their daily routines to come and have lunch pick up some AA literature and listen to a few presentations on what AA does and doesn’t do. I have been involved in a few of these and some were fairly successful as far as turnout of interested people and some not so successful. It was pointed out by someone this low turnout is not just a problem with AA functions but other organizations can have similar problems with or without food, getting the invites out in timely manner or what have you. It seems we can do everything right on occasion and still not be as successful as we would like it to be.

Some people thought it makes more sense to take the information directly to the organization, hospital, school, probation centers, etc. either through personal presentations or literature and pamphlet displays. How do we best get the AA message in front of people who are busy and have very little free time during their day for informational presentations of 15 to 30 minute duration. How do we get the information of AA General Service to the groups and membership? It seems there is a lack of knowledge and interest in AA general service and the service conference. There is a nice DVD out there of Bill W. discussing the 12 traditions that can be used for a special meeting of your home group or pass it around to other groups for them to view. I did try a presentation at an Alano club but with limited results it’s something I need to work on. One thing to keep in mind is that if we are planning a presentation its best to include more people than just yourself to plan it, run your ideas of what you want to do past someone to get a second opinion, this helps keep the session interesting and practice some of your presentation ahead of time, work with in a committee of interested people and meet together more than once to discuss it. The more planning the better the outcome.

Doing AA service work is very rewarding, it seems that finding time in our busy lives can be difficult, but if we go that extra mile and make it happen the outcomes are positive for you and the still suffering alcoholic and that’s the person we need to get to. Good Luck and God Bless.

Yours in service

Mark N.

**Treatment:**

Greetings Area 35, since the fall assembly I have attended District 4 round robin district meeting. I haven’t attended a round robin before. Bonnie does a terrific job; her district is well informed. Thank you Kathy, District 4 Treatment Chair, for inviting me to sit in. The food was amazing, really liked the Pizza Soup... I have received several request for temporary contacts which have been forwarded to the correct Area and Districts. I thank you for sending me your treatment and district reports, I always enjoy reading about all the ways we help the still suffering alcoholic. District 6 is looking for old issues of the Grapevine for treatment centers in their district. I am looking forward in attending the St Cloud Roundup this weekend as well as the upcoming District 18 hosting a Corrections/Treatment Workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Gayle R  
Area 35 Treatment Chair.

**Webmaster:**

Greetings Area 35,

I haven't had a lot going on between the August committee meeting and Fall Assembly. I attended the September District 12 meeting in Cloquet, at which Kelly gave her presentation on the 66th General Service Conference. It was one of her largest turnouts and was an enlightening experience for several attendees who were new in service.

I attended the Fall Assembly in Alexandria. The Statement of Financial Responsibility approval process went smooth and each of the proposed budgets was approved, with a few edits and updates. The process was smooth, not in the fact that the individual budgets were immediately approved without questions and discussions (there was discussion and questioning), but smooth in the fact that there wasn't a lot of repetitive and unnecessary controversy, or confusion over the interpretation of past actions.

Our Delegate, Kelly D. gave a wonderful and informative presentation on the Agenda Item Selection Process.

I appreciate those who have expressed their gratitude and satisfaction to me regarding the area 35 website, in person and via email.

Two of the newer items on the site are:

- 1) some information and a link to a site for mobile device users needing help in finding meetings wherever you are—this can be found on the redirect page below the link to aameetinglocator.org.
- 2) a download for a flyer that Kelly put together on the Conference Agenda Items Selection Process, which is found at the top of the downloads page. Thanks to Bob B. and Kelly D. for these items.

I will be attending the Area 35/36 Workshop in St. Cloud on November 19th.

In Service,  
Rodney S.,  
Area 35 Webmaster

**A Small Spiritual Experience**

This month has been focused on the 10<sup>th</sup> Step in the Daily Reflections which has brought up my willingness to actually work this step. I sat here the other day drinking my coffee, taking my inventory for once, and realizing that I don’t really execute this step that much. I get lazy sometimes and think well I go to meetings, talk to my sponsor on a somewhat regular basis and stay in contact with other alcoholics. I think I am doing enough. The lies that my alcoholic brain will tell me are amazing. The other thing my screwed up complacent brain will say is that I got this or I’m fine. Well we ALL know what FINE stands for. The denial and games that my disease will try to play on me are astounding. Anyway I REALIZED that I am not really working that great of a program. I work a program probably 80% of the time. I tell you what though that 20% is a big 20% of not doing what I am supposed to be doing. In doing this reflective exercise I realized that the hardest place to work the spiritual principals of my program is in my home life and with my family. Someone put it to me this way one time, “It’s not what you do between the Serenity Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer, it’s what you do from the Lord’s Prayer to the next Serenity Prayer.” This is the saying that popped in my head while doing my weekly inventory. So with that ruminating around and around in my head at the same time as thinking about the words, thoughts and actions that have been said, thought, and done.....I have not been doing the deal as the old timers tell me. What a kick in the pants. Everything for me starts with a thought, then turns into words and eventually turns into the action. I have been judgmental and snippy, cussing all the time, almost acting like a miserable dry drunk. What was I missing? Why is it that I was doing what I thought was so good and now all of the sudden this drastic attitude change? What is really going on? Hmmmm.....what could it be? Then it hit me. I had completely kicked God out of the driver’s seat and had decided that things were going so good in my life that I could be in control for a while. WRONG!!!!!! (The last time I decided to do that I went back out drinking again after 3 years in the program.) So I had to make the choice. Am I going to work this program to the best of my ability or am I going to work this program to the best of my willingness? I can tell you my best ability isn’t that great. That’s what got me to this program in the first place. I know me if I don’t get back on the right track and work these Steps then it is only a matter of time before the thought of a drink comes in my head, then I am saying I want to drink and then eventually whether right away or in due time I am sitting at a bar pounding on it wondering how did I get here. Just like the one paragraph in the Big Book talks about. I’ll be mixing whiskey in my glass of milk because the booze won’t hurt me then. My main issue is that I had gotten complacent on having God in my life directing me down the path that he already has laid out of me. I decided that my way was the easier softer way. WRONG!!!! Again.....imagine that. An alcoholic trying to take back control being wrong, oh the irony. Thank God for this program and the people in it. Without the fellowship, meetings, and 12 Steps there is a chance that I could or would have been drunk very soon. The moral of the story is this: (it may seem obvious to some if not most of you but I am a slow learner.) Without God I can have no quality sobriety or life. It is a DAILY inventory for a reason. It’s the step to hold me in check every day multiple times a day. Not once a week or once a month when things in my

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Area 35 Fall Assembly Minutes

Alexandria Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN October 1-2, 2016

Convened by Jim S.

Why We Need a Conference: Reading

Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance: Scott J., Bob J., Suzie A., Tom A, John K., Jake J., Tim C., and Denise B-Area 36.

Recognition of GSR’s in attendance: Three new GSRs

Motion made to Approve 2016 Spring Assembly Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate – Kelly D.

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe we are in the month of October already and we are here at our Fall Assembly of this first year of this rotation. It is good to be here with all of you and I look forward to this weekend of business and fellowship with you. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to any of you over the week-end. I would like to start out by asking you all to join me in wishing our Area Chair Jim, a happy birthday. I am sure that he could not think of a better way to spend his day then with all of us here doing what we all love. Ok on to business. This morning we Area Officers presented in the GSR Orientation. We had 22 in attendance and 3 were new GSR’s. The GSR Orientation has always been the highlight of the Assemblies as many of you know for me. It has proven to be a great way for us to get to know the GSR’s and be of service to them. Again, I would like to thank them all for their commitment to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. I have completed my report back from this year’s GSC will all the Districts that set up time with me and I will be happy to give the screen and projector back to Rodney this weekend that I have had for the last 5 months in my car until I will need it again in May. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to be able to share with all of you my conference experience along with the business and agenda items. I will be having Rodney post the power point of my report back once I have it anonymity protected to the Area 35 website for those that were not able to attend when I presented. Also, please see Skip, our Area Literature Chair to get a copy of the Final Report of the 2016 General Service Conference. I recently sent out an email with the A.A. Guidelines for the Internet to the Area. There is still a lot of concerns of our traditions and anonymity being broken on social media such as face book. It is important that we educate everyone, I do not believe that anyone in Alcoholic Anonymous would not want to be a guardian of all our traditions. Those guidelines have also been posted to our Area 35 website so please take the time to read them and pass them on to others within our fellowship. I received the minutes from the last GSB meeting in July that are not approved yet until their next meeting and will be sending them out to you when that happens. The Feasibility Study was discussed and I will share some of that outcome with you. I emailed out the flier I received with the registration for our upcoming WCRAASC coming up March 3-5, 2017 in Cheyenne, Wyoming and you can also find it on our Area website. I hope that many of you plan to attend that event and as you know we will be going over the 2017 Agenda items with our friends in our WCR. We have a full Agenda this weekend and will have some great presentations along the way with discussions, please feel free to “make the mic your friend” with your comments and concerns. We will also be hearing from our WCR Trustee Tom A. and be going over the Area 35 budget for 2017. Enjoy your weekend and thank you all for your commitment to service.

In love and service,  
Kelly D.

Alternate Delegate – Roger R.

Welcome all to our 2016 Area 35 Fall Assembly.

Please feel free to approach Kelly, Rillis, Jim, Christine or myself if you have any questions.

As your Alternate Delegate my main responsibilities are in the following three areas.

Zonal Forums. I am directed by a recent Area action/motion to check with DCMs in each of four zones to see if they would like Area Officers to conduct a forum in their zone during this two-year rotation. The purpose of the Zonal Forums is to reach out to AA members in a zone, attract members to general service and assist the zone in issues facing a local area. We are currently discussing having our second Zonal Forum of this rotation.

January Workshop. I am planning for Area 35’s 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Workshop. The theme of our workshop will be “Supporting Our Future” and this will take place in Bemidji MN on January 14-15, 2017. Howard L. a former Area Delegate and Southwest Regional Trustee will be our guest presenter for this workshop. Eight districts will be conducting presentations at the workshop. I ‘m currently scheduled to visit two districts to assist in planning their presentations. I welcome invitations from the other 6 Districts to assist in your presentations. I can facilitate one additional District presenting at our workshop.

Backing up Kelly D. our Area 35 Delegate. Reading communications, she

receives and sends on to me from AAWS and our General Service Office. This service will intensify in February and March as we prepare for the West Central AA Service Conference and become familiar with many pages of background information on the Agenda Items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in April of 2017. Please contact me if your district would like me to share knowledge I will gain on these Agenda Items with you.

I appreciate the opportunity you all have given me to serve as your Alternate Delegate.

In service,  
Roger

Chair – Jim S.

Good Morning Everyone,

Welcome to the 2016 Fall Assembly. I have a contract signed with Rutgers Resort by Deerwood, MN for the Spring Assembly 2017. Rates for the resort include rooms and meals. If only one person is staying in a room the rate is \$140 per night, each additional person up to 4 people is an additional \$32 per night including meals. So, if two people stay just Saturday night it would cost a total of \$172 for room and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday Breakfast as well. Coffee is \$10 onetime charge for the weekend. This will be paid at the registration table. There are registration forms for making your reservation at the registration desk. This form is only for making room reservations, not for the Assembly. Payment is due upon making the reservation. You can mail your group check or a money order, no personal checks are accepted. There is a 3-week deadline prior to the Assembly for making your reservation. Once you pass the deadline, you can only make a reservation if a cabin has been opened up as the resort is normally closed at this time.

Please do not forget to complete an Evaluation form of the Assembly, they are at the registration desk. And of course, we have our Ask It Basket up here at the front table.

Christine will have the budgets ready for your approval or disapproval during new business tomorrow. If you need a copy, there are some on the table up front. Also, Skip has some Northern Light from August which also has the complete budget as well. I will be needing help from Districts 8, 9 and 12 to find locations within Zone 4 for the 2017 Fall Assembly. The facility needs to hold at least 130 in the convention room, we would need space for 6 breakout sessions for Saturday morning and a larger room of about 80 people for the GSR orientation.

In Service,  
Jim S., Area Chair

Secretary – Rillis E.

Good afternoon, it nice to see everyone. Since we last met I submitted the minutes from our August 7<sup>th</sup> Area Committee Meeting to our new Northern Light editor and those minutes can be found in current edition of the Northern Light. The deadline for the next Northern Light is October 31 so please have the reports you give today to me by Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have a written report please leave it with me as you leave the podium or email your report to me as soon as possible. Also, motions longer than six words will need to be writing to ensure your motion is presented to the group in your own words. This morning I presented at the GSR orientation on resources that are available to GSRs which may be helpful in their service positions. I will be making a flyer for the Spring Assembly which will be held April 1-2 at Ruttger’s resort in Deerwood, MN.

Treasurer – Christine G.

Greeting Area 35,

It’s been a busy couple week getting ready for this Assembly. I have been working on a presentation with Kelly that we will be showing you tomorrow along with finalizing the budget that Jim will be presenting tomorrow morning.

Per the latest Final Conference Report for Area 35 indicates 570 groups and 8,418 members. The budget shows we will need \$49028 in contributions for 2017 to provide the services. That is about \$86 per group or \$6 per member if all contribute. Knowing that only 35% of the groups/members are contributing to the Area, the contributions needed from groups is about \$245 OR \$17 per member for the year. Keep in mind, that you’re a portion of your contribution will only come to the Area if your group contributes OR if you send it in directly yourself.

I will be working on getting a mailing to your groups showing contributions made so far this year. We have had an awesome period 5! Thank you for spreading the word and encouraging the groups to contribute.

Balance Sheet: Through September, your accounts have a balance of \$28,517.81.

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Income, Expense, & Contribution Statement: We have received \$5839.45 in contribution for Aug and Sept plus another \$90 in Birthday contributions plus a contribution of \$878.66 from the Gopher State Roundup plus NL flyer income and interest. Giving us a total of \$7097.30 in income.

We had \$1926.88 in event expenses (\$1500 of that is for down payment for the Spring Assembly) and then \$2330.33 in Area Officer and Chair expenses = \$4257.21 in expenses for the period.

Which gives a positive cash flow of \$2840.09 for the period. YTD, we have a positive cash flow of \$1265.95. That is great news. Keep up the great work at sharing the message about the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and being self-supporting. We have a few more expenses this year.

If you have any questions, see me anytime this weekend or you can email or call.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area Treasurer!

In Service,  
Christine G.

## COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCM REPORTS

### CPC – Jim T.

One of my great discoveries in sobriety is that I will never get to be anything other than human. Those many years of alcohol-driven day dreams of being the biggest guy in town (my diet my get me there) ...being a millionaire by age 30...living in a house with a picket fence, 2 kids, two cars, and enjoying the “good life” ...are rather normal experiences of non-alcoholics, I suspect. But if you’re like me, I carried those “dreams” to heights of insanity while pumping full the pocket books of the Pabst Blue Ribbon Brewery.

How does this pertain to CPC? Well, as your Chairman I have returned to some of those practices of dreaming rather than taking action. I cannot report a huge number of successes these past four months, so this report will focus on what you can do to help Alcoholics Anonymous to work under the banner of Cooperation with the Professional Community. The presentation this evening will provide you hands-on material to bring back to your districts and make contact with local professionals so they may come to better understand what AA offers to them and their clients, customers, or patients. Two reminders.

1. This isn’t about you. By that I mean that all of us carry a fear factor when approaching a judge, a doctor, social worker, or police officer. Some of that fear is simply “I will look stupid” or “I don’t know what I’m doing.” Welcome to the club. Bill W. and Dr. Bob had to have felt some of those fear factors when they approached Bill D. Alcoholic No. 3. They had the nerve to tell that rough and tough Irishman that they “had a program whereby we think we can stay sober” and that they needed to give it away if they were to maintain sobriety. Were they nervous? I should think so. But they acted...they did it...even to the point of telling Bill D. that if he didn’t want what they offered they would go on to the next guy.
2. The person you approach may be nervous too. Not all ministers have received the basics of alcoholism...that it is a disease and not a moral failure. The behaviors we exhibit when drunk may be sinful in the eyes of religion, but the underlying cause is an illness which is incurable, but can be arrested. If the minister or other professional is unaware of the facts of alcoholism, you can arm yourself with a variety of pamphlets which will provide answers to both basic and advanced questions. If you are comfortable to sit with your professional contact, do so over lunch when the atmosphere may not be so intense. And always recognize that you may be the only face of alcoholic recovery your contact my experience. Carry the message with confidence, understanding that not all responses will be positive. But such a contact will help to keep you sober.
3. Procrastination. My biggest enemy. Don’t let it be yours. Take action. As one public speaker stated: “Procrastination is the bad habit of putting off until the day after tomorrow what should have been done the day before yesterday.”

Yours in Service,  
Jim T., CPC Chair

**District 1 – Leslie H.** Not present

**District 21 – Brent T.**

My name is Brent T. and I’m an alcoholic. I am representing District 21 for our DCM Jeff who is unable to attend this assembling. Again, this past September, the Heartland Round-Up was quite successful with approximately 450 in attendance. There are approximately 50 AA meetings in our District.

Three of our groups have open/potluck meetings that are well attended. There are 4 counties in our district and we are working hard to meet our Corrections commitments with volunteers to conduct jail meetings.

In an effort to attract more members and encourage them to become more involved in service work, we showed the film of Bill W. discussing the 12 Traditions, followed by a brief talk from Jeff, our DCM, ending the Saturday Bar-B-Que. We felt the event was a success. We felt the event was a success and have decided to plan a similar indoor event in the early days of December.

Our biggest challenge at the present time is getting GSRs and other member involvement in the District meetings and in their respective groups.

Jeff and Stan have been around our District and have visited most of the meetings.

Yours in Service,  
Brent T.

**WEBMASTER – Rodney S.**

Greetings Area 35.

At present, I have found an even pace in maintaining the website, updating district information and adding flyers. I want to remind districts that send minutes to be posted on the site or who have their own sites with minutes posted to be sure to remove last names from those minutes.

I have placed AAmeetinglocator cards on the registration table and on Skips literature table in the back. If anyone needs some of the cards or knows of a future need, I am the person to contact regarding that.

Welcome to Steve L., who has come in to finish the Northern Light rotation. He was unable to attend this assembly due to a commitment he made prior to accepting the position.

Our meeting this morning consisted of the DCM from District 6, Renell P., Past Delegates Jake from Area 35 and Dennis from Area 36. Bob B., group records, and Tom and Susie A. joined us at the tail end of the meeting. It was a relaxed and informal meeting. I especially appreciated the input of both past delegates, a bonus being Dennis’s experience as webmaster for Area 36 and his knowledge with other technical items. Just *how technical we could or should be*, and whether or not it fits into our intent to be effective in our twelfth step work seemed to be the overall spirit of our group. I expressed my feelings as to the status of the website being that my main focus was on maintaining the current information on the site and unless otherwise directed by the Area Committee not to add new items. I know that next spring will bring a lot of new information and tasks that I didn’t have to face this past year.

I attended the District 12 meeting this month, at which Kelly gave her Delegate’s Report. I was surprised when she told us afterward that it was the best turnout she had had. She did a good job and I know that several people there commented later that her presentation helped clear up some confusing items or thoughts they had had.

Thank you,  
Rodney

**LITERATURE – Skip D.**

Good day,

We had sixteen people this morning in the Literature/Grapevine breakout session, Districts 2,3,6,7,9,11,12,13,14 were represented, we also had the Grapevine Chair from Area 36 visiting.

District 7 is using the \$.77 beginner’s pamphlet package that the Area 35 lit./GV committee came up with in February 2016, they made up 100 packets, and now ordered for a 100 more. There was some discussion - are the beginners packet taking away from sponsorship? District 12 is getting literature into schools. District 11 has a new Literature Chair. Hopefully we will meet them soon. District 3 still going to roundups and District meetings, seems literature sales are down a bit. District 13 went to an AA convention in St. Cloud sold some literature, looking to order more. District 2 is getting literature to law enforcement. District 8 attended the 75th anniversary in Hibbing, also went to a PI luncheon and sold some literature and pamphlets

I did attend the Heartland Roundup in Park Rapids September 9th-11th 2016. Had a lot of people stop by, not a lot in literature sales for the two and a half days. Did sell 14 books and 6 sure beats sitting in a cell, however did give out a lot of information on how to order Literature. You can order through your District or the Area if you would like to save on shipping cost. If you order through Area 35 I can bring the order to Area events, please order 2 weeks prior to the Area event that you would like to pick the order up at.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Skip D.  
Area 35 Literature Chair

**District 11 – Bill C. for Sharla W.** no report

**District 7 – Liz L.**

We are excited to announce an upcoming Sponsorship Workshop October 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). Potluck, Sponsorship Panel 6:30 PM and business meeting to follow at 7:30 PM. Please plan to join us at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Brainerd.

We’ve also been working on a Newcomer Packet Project and with 90 some groups in our district, it’s been interesting trying to get a “sample packet” to each group. That said, we’ve already had several groups order lots of packet,

so they seem to be working well.

As of our September Meeting, we have filled all our service positions in district 7. A huge word of thanks to all who have stepped up to the plate this year to “do the deal”.

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*(Continued from page 10)*  
As Roger mentioned, our district is contemplating hosting a zonal forum for Zone 3 which includes districts: 5, 6, 7/17, 11, 13, 18 and one of the topics we’d like to address in redistricting of Area 35 in our zone. I’m looking for input from the other DCMs in our zone, so please let me know if interested.

Last but not least, we had a large move in our District of the Lakes Area Alano Club from Brainerd to Baxter; and 2 relatively new groups starting a Grapevine meeting in Nisswa at the Christy House on Saturdays at 6:00 PM and a “Sane and Sober” meeting in Brainerd at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

Good to see many of you at the Heartland Roundup! Grateful for the opportunity to be of Service!

Liz L.  
DCM district 7

**NORTHERN LIGHT – Scott M. for Steve L.**

Howdy,

I’m sorry for not being here this weekend. While Jim and I were discussing my ability and desire to fulfill the job as editor for the Northern Light; I told Jim I had made a previous engagement (Cirque du Soleil in MPLS) months before and wouldn’t be able to make the Assembly. I truly want to thank Bob, Rodney, Christine and Scotty for their help to fulfill my duties this weekend. Bob, for passing out the Northern Light, Rodney, for taking on Calendar of Events, Christine, for bringing the Northern Light to the Assembly and Scotty, for giving my report. See, we are not alone and sometimes I need all the help I can get.

This issue was a learning curve for me. There was a small self-created SNAFU in the printing but Cold Spring came through and bailed me out. I’ll have to send them a Christmas card. They had my back.

The Northern Light will only be as good as the articles being published. Having said that, it means I need articles from you. Views about the Area, GSO, spiritual moments of awareness or just a funny story. For without these articles we have a newsletter that reads like a regular newspaper’s public record section. Remember, no anonymous articles. You have to take responsibility and sign your submissions.

Remember, there is a difference between having a flier inserted into the Northern Light mailing and having it printed in the Northern Light. Being inserted has a cost of \$75 and makes it easier for the groups to post or read at their meetings. Having it printed has no cost but space is limited. There is only so much space which could either mean a small footprint for your flier or not making the cut to be printed. I don’t see many groups reading announcements from the Northern Light. The procedure for flier insertion is listed in the Northern Light.

I still find it funny that a guy like me who has a hard time with deadlines now has to remind people about making their deadline and has a date sensitive position. My higher power has a sense of humor. Lastly, the next deadline for the Northern Light is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Make sure all you DCM’s pick up your Northern Light bundle from Bob.

Thank you for the privilege to serve,  
Steven L.

**GROUP RECORDS – Bob B.**

- E-mail works best, forms by the time they are scanned are a mess, phone is very poor
- Copy of e-mail from GSO:  
... and I work in the Records Department at G.S.O. There is a group that we received a Group Information Change Form from, but the new GSR did not know the original group name. He has it listed as the Wadena AA Group on the form, but there is no group in our record with that name. The Thursday Night Birthday Group may be the group he is referring to as the meeting address and some of the meeting times are similar. However, he wasn’t 100% sure so I just want to verify this is the correct information.
- Anytime I have to have GSO update records id delays getting aaMeetingLocator updated
- Example New group GSR’s address did not verify
  - Checked with USPS address verified.
  - Check with GSR and address was correct.
  - Contacted GSO they would override address
  - I was adding a new group so they had to have the form first.
- 25 meeting moved a couple miles down the road in Brainerd into Baxter. I cannot change cities requires a group change form for GSO. This delays getting aaMeetingLocator updated.

**District 14 – Paul E.** no report

**District 6 – Renell P.** no report

**TREATMENT – Gayle R.**

Greeting Area 35,

Since our last committee meeting, I have not had any request for temporary contacts. District 4 has had a slight confusion on AA literature, I plan on attending their District meeting. Would love to get together with District 4 DCM, if she is here. We are planning on a Correction/Treatment workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5pm in District 18. This morning we had twelve people present at our committee meeting with Districts 2,3,6,7,8,9,12,14,15,18 represented.

**Rich** from District 12 reported that the directorship has changed for Liberalis women’s facility. They are still working on getting in there, seems as if they want AA in but they want to pick who chairs the meeting. They take in 2 speaker- 2 informational meetings a month for the Center for Alcohol and Drugs. The speaker meeting at Bethel is still bringing in up to 100 persons, this treatment center meeting is open to the public.

**Paul** DCM from District 14 reported there is a core group of about 6 persons who is stepping up to fill in district chairs. District 14 focuses on the county jail and treatment centers in International Falls. Concerns of us being to preachy, our too long drunk-a-log they seem to want experience – strength – and hope along with time for questions. Pineview has been around for 25 years and with-in the last year they have had 4 directors. With a new director wondering when is the right time to contact. There was a group of 4 guys that stayed about 45 minutes after the meeting to answer questions about alcoholism.

**Sara** from District 8 they go into Arrowhead Range Center in Virginia which has changed directorship three times so there has been difficulties setting scheduled meetings. This facility is not using AA as they have in the past. We need to remember our commitments, not getting to preachy, and watching our drunk-a-log stories...

**BR** DCM from District 18 stated previous Treatment Chair, Scott stepped over to CPC and a new Treatment Chair has been elected, he is a farmer and is harvesting his crops so unable to attend. District 18 is hosting the upcoming Corrections/Treatment Workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm in Long Prairie.

**Chuck** from District 9 states they speak in 3 treatment centers in Hibbing, Grand Rapids & Virginia. Questioning on how to encourage those who make commitments to go in a facility to follow thru. Hibbing facility doesn’t want to hear about Alcoholics Anonymous right now. Lake Place in Grand Rapids has a speaker in every Friday would like to share this meeting with District 16. It is rewarding to see those from the treatment center coming in the doors after their release wanting more, would always like to see more of those...

**Tony** from District 7 commitments for treatment center in Brainerd are being met and doing great. Concerns about a high rate of deaths and suicides in the southern part of District 7, a doctor in the community is attending the CPC Luncheon and is going into nursing homes.

**Gene** from District 3 We have brought schedules to treatment centers in Red River, Dilworth/Moorhead and Detroit Lakes. Speakers are needed for treatment centers and we need to follow thru going to centers. There is a facility we are contacting that is not responding. We have a solid list of men and women ready for the Bridging the Gap program. WE are working with Fargo/Moorhead Intergroup to get more speakers into new treatment centers.

**Pat** in District 15 reports volunteers are needed for treatment centers. Has received a call for meeting in Passages for the women. How can we get more volunteers, working on pitching the 12 steps, sponsors bringing sponsees? If we are not enthused about what we are doing, what message are we sending to those we are asking. Speak from the heart. In Paynesville, we take in one speaker a month, the treatment center now wants one weekly speaker...

**Carrie** from District 6 is new treatment chair. District 6 needs help taking meetings into Dellwood and Cambridge. Frustration by lack of communication within the district. Has fears about not reaching the youth. There are non-AA meetings being perceived as AA. A treatment center allows clients to come to local meeting as a privilege, seems to be going well. How can we help the bleeding deacon that goes into a facility from hurting us as a whole...?

During our committee meeting we talked about” Suggested Treatment Facility Guidelines” such as why we have guidelines, rotation, purpose of a treatment committee. What a great discussion. (I have those guidelines available electronically if anyone wants it)

**District 18 – William “BR” B.**

Hi my name is BR B. from district 8. We have a new corrections chair; Brent H. John H. is the CPC chair. We’ve had several activities that have been successful this year. The latest has been the Round Robin at Sylvan Shores and movie night in Long Prairie. We recently got new meeting directories. WE do have some upcoming events which are: pot luck in Long Prairie on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Staples annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, Corrections and Treatment Workshop on November 1<sup>st</sup>. We also are organizing an activities committee for district 18 and we hope to have more information on that in the near future.

BR B.



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**District 12 – Steve E.**

Hello to Area 35,

I would like to thank Kelly D. for sharing with us her experience as delegate at the 2016 General Service Conference. Our district met on Thursday, Sept. 15th at the Cloquet Alano Club, with about 20 in attendance. Another Duluth

Roundup is in the books. It has been at Marshall School for three years. PI/CPC Committee has been working on having two billboards as in the past to try to carry the message more effectively. Our Corrections Committee chair, Frank K., has ordered and received many big books and 12 and 12's to use at the jails and prisons for their meetings. He has also put together a flier for attracting volunteers to chair meetings at the facilities. Rich G., our alternate DCM, has been filling in as Treatment Committee Chair until we can find someone else. Liberalis Women's Treatment Center in Carlton is having AA meetings, but as yet doesn't want the help of District 12. We surely could use more volunteers for service work. Coming up Oct. 13th and 14th in Duluth is the 34th annual St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference at the DECC. District 12 will have a manned table with pamphlets and other literature available.

Yours in service,  
Steve E.  
DCM District 12

**ARCHIVIST – Brad I.**

Since The August Committee Meeting, I gave a history talk at the District 3 Round-Up in Battle lake where I was part of an esteemed panel of speakers. I shared the lectern with a past and a current West Central Regional Trustee. The muskies in Battle Lake must have seen the flyer because as of Saturday he was fishless. I spoke in Northfield at the Friday Night open meeting. I brought the display to the Duluth Round-Up where I was very well received. For upcoming events I have the Joint Area Workshop and helping Area 36 with their display at Founders Day in November. I am trying to build a searchable data base and inventory of the Archives collection. This has been an incredibly complex task and is ongoing.

All D.C.M.'s please make sure I am receiving your District minutes. I can't archive anything I don't receive.

Thank you all for this opportunity to be of service,  
Brad I.

**ARCHIVES – Steve D.**

Good afternoon. My name is Steve D. and I am an Alcoholic. Currently serving as your Archives Committee Chair.

I would like to encourage all Districts to have someone that can attend our committee meetings. If you do not have someone, I would like to provide the DCM from each district and information that we would pass forward.

Also, I would be very willing to attend any of your District meetings and provide a brief presentation on the importance of archiving our history.

We had 3 districts represented, District 8, District 18 and District 13. District 8 is putting together and Archives workshop in December at Pike Sandy Town Hall. There will be an Old timers panel and a presentation by past Archivist Scott J. and Kevin V. Alternate Archives chair.

District 18 is busy gathering group histories and collecting oral history interviews of old timers.

District 13 has been able to obtain the District Archives from the former Archives Chair and is sorting and cataloging the material.

Brad I. gave a report on his recent activities and discussed how we can organize material, digitizing oral history, as tapes and CDs do not last forever.

Two questions were discussed. The first was what is the purpose of the Area Archives Committee. We will distribute the current Area 35 Archives Committee guidelines and review them. We will also develop a Mission Statement or Statement of Purpose.

Another question was "What should we not keep for Archives?" We developed a short list of documents to start with which include:

- Minutes
- District Events, Flyers, Speaker Meetings.
- District Oral History

There was a consensus to develop a proposal to present to an area function a brief presentation on the history of the traditions and how they were developed.

Finally, we discussed gathering information on how the old-timers used to organize roundups. We discussed how roundup attendance has decreased and how those who have been successful can provide us ideas on developing a repository of roundup ideas.

Yours in Service,  
Steve D.  
Area 35 Archives Committee Chair

**District 8 – Scott M.**

Greetings Area 35

It's a pleasure to be here this weekend to participate in our Fall Assembly. District 8 continues to being focused on what we can do to serve the groups and the still suffering alcoholic in our district. We will be starting to work on putting together a district workshop this winter as well as our PI/CPC committee starting a PI luncheon to be attended by the professionals in our community. We recently elected (albeit by white ballot) a new treasure. Also, filled alternate Archives. We are still in need of a secretary. Hopefully this position will be filled at our next district meeting, which are held every month – rotating Monday – Friday at various meeting locations in our district. Committee meeting start ½ hour prior to the district meeting and GSRs are encouraged to sit in and participate on the committee of their choice.

Yours in Service,  
Scott M.

**District 4 – Deb S.** not present

**CORRECTIONS – Servando M.**

This morning's meeting had 11 in attendance representing districts: 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 19. I thank you all for attending.

We discussed several topics such as gathering a list of all corrections meeting and their contacts (ours and the facilities). We discussed communication between the districts (asking your neighbors for a hand). The more information we share the better we can help each other.

We talked about county jails and short term holding facilities especially in places with sexual offender programs. We discussed experiences with what kind of information to be cautious of sharing.

I am experiences some difficulty in finding volunteers to participate with the Moose Lake correctional facility. A few have actually stated that it is SOP and the connection. I've also been told by the Moose Lake residents that staff has discouraged local participation. Along with these difficulties, MCF Moose Lake has not been able to set a time without approved volunteers and it's difficult to get volunteers without a set time. So, if you can help please feel free.

I look forward to the workshop with District 18. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Servando M.

**District 2 – Myron H.**

Hello, my name is Myron H. and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 2. Our district is financially sound and meets the second Sunday of odd numbered months, in Middle River.

We are trying to encourage more people to participate in events at the area level by offering to supplement travel expenses to members of small groups that can't afford to fund attendance.

Also, we have funds to help finance a round-up type event if any group would like to sponsor a gathering.

At our last meeting, we voted to bring up a discussion of social media use and anonymity. Since that meeting, we have realized this subject has been addressed in AA guidelines and other areas. Also, changing any wording in a tradition such as tradition 11, requires written approval of three-quarters of all registered groups that respond to such a proposal after a six-month decision period (from our conference charter). Not very likely.

We want to say thank you to Rod from Thief River for getting a current, updated district meeting list ready for printing. It been a long process and we realize it is a continuous effort to maintain an accurate list. We also appreciate Bob B.'s work on Group Records. Thank you to all in service work!

Yours in service,  
Myron H.

**District 13 – Al K.**

District 13 meets on the 1st Monday of each month at the Alano Club in St Cloud. There are about 43 groups that meet each week in District 13. We have now completed the first 9 months of our rotation. At this point I take a moment to review what we have accomplished so far. In the past 9 months, we have:

- A. Hosted the Winter Workshop in St Cloud in January.
- B. Presented at the Winter Workshop.
- C. Presented at the WCRAAC
- D. Maintained a 24 hour AA Assistance Hotline.
- E. Manned a booth at the Benton County Fair.
- F. Printed 10,000 meeting schedules and distributed them to:
  - 1. Hotels, motels
  - 2. Police Departments
  - 3. Halfway Houses
  - 4. Treatment facilities
- G. Created an ad hoc committee to review our voting procedures.
- H. Maintained an inventory of literature and pamphlets available to AA

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members at our cost.

G. Hosted a Delegates report with District 15 to get updated on the activities at the conference.

H. Continued taking meetings into Stearns County Jail, Benton County Jail and the State Prison.

I have been involved with District 13 since 2009. As DCM, I have gained a new perspective of the officers and the activities in the District. I am able to watch the miracles and the work that is performed by chairs. I am very lucky to be able to work with our Secretary Peggy, our Treasurer Justin, our Archives Chair Peter, our Treatment Chair Amanda, our Corrections Chair Doreen, our CPC Chair Jim, our Literature Chair Sara, and our Alternate DCM Sean.

Yours in service  
Allen K.  
District 13 DCM

**District 15 - Melissa A.** no report

**PI – Mark N.**

Report from October 1<sup>st</sup> Area 35 Assembly Public Information Break-out session

We met at 10:00am with Area chairs from Cooperation with the Professional community and Public information committees. There were 9 people in attendance representing Districts 13, 21,9,5 and 8.

We heard a report on the Hibbing’s celebration of 75 years of Alcoholics Anonymous and the PI luncheon held in conjunction with that event. There had also been an article in the Hibbing Daily Tribune, front page on AA’s history in Hibbing.

We discussed the ways in which seeds are planted through the 3<sup>rd</sup> person by way of activities of the Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community committee.

One district held a BBQ and showed the DVD of Bill W. discussing the 12 Traditions.

We discussed, how to work with schools, through the use of pamphlets, literature in the libraries and presentations to students and teachers.

We discussed at length how to get information to the medical professionals and the difficulties of that, do to their busy schedules and lack of available time to meet with them, we also discussed at length PI luncheons their successes and failures. Whether or not they are a good use of our time and should we be looking for new ways to share the experience, strength and hope of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was pointed out that AA is not the only organization facing difficulties in attendance at informational meetings, free food doesn’t always assure attendance.

That’s it for now.  
Mark N.  
Area 35 Northern MN PI Chair

**District 9 – Cathy R.**

It’s beautiful in Hibbing and the rest of District 9. The leaves are turning bright red, orange, and yellow. Our meetings are on Sunday night a 6 PM – the last Sunday. We had our Alternate DCM resign and elected a new one - Gary W. We have begun to plan for next year’s events. So far our plans include: another PI luncheon and District Inventory. Our Archives Chair announced that the Hibbing Alano Club is going to expand the Archives space in the basement. Thanks to all people in in District 9 who have offered assistance as my arm heals.

In Service,  
Cathy R.

**District 5 – Jon S.**

Hello all, my name is Jon and I’m an alcoholic and DCM for District 5. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Freshwaters Church. Things are good and bad in our district. We are meeting all of our minimum obligations but nothing more. We only have 3 positions filled; DCM. Treatment, and Treasure. We had several people step down in the last two months due to other obligations. Many of you know we have been out of Sherburne County Jail for several months. Now due to low volunteer numbers we are not back in yet but are very close. If you are interested in volunteering, please see me. We had a booth at the Mille Lacs County fair. Special thanks to everyone who helped staff that, especially Skip D. We are working towards doing an inventory as a district.

**GRAPEVINE – Paul M.**

Greetings from your Area Grapevine Chair. I received a letter from the GV that they received my story. I attended the Heartland Roundup and sold a lot of material and some subscriptions. This morning we met with Literature/ Grapevine, we had 17 in attendance. We discussed what’s going on in our districts and area. We also talked about our upcoming presentation tonight, “more will be revealed”. We also had our friend Carla from Area 36 GV/LaViña in attendance, thank you for attending. I have the 2017 pocket calendar and wall calendar on sale in the back along with a lot of Grapevine Literature. For those

who want to play grow your Grapevine, literature in on the back table and in you GV I was informed no one from Area 35 has filled one out. I’m sure most of us would qualify. GV has a new book out “Our 12 Traditions, AA Members Share Their Own Stories of Experience.” I will have more of them at the Area Committee meeting. If you need GV literature let me know, I can order it.

Thanks, Yours in Service,  
Paul M.

**District 3 – Brian P.** no report

**District 16 – Mike F.**

We are represented here today by me and our district Literature and Grapevine Chair Dave Clark.

Our PI, CPC, Corrections, and Archives positions are currently open, as we recently had our PI/CPC Chair step down. We do support a weekly meeting in the men’s county jail.

The Wednesday Calumet meeting has been suspended. We have a new meeting on Thursday in Federal Dam that needs to register as a new group. We currently have 22 groups in our district.

The district is solvent and we have a prudent reserve.

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

## OTHER REPORTS:

**Trustee Responsibilities – Tom A.**

Tom talked about the requirements and responsibilities of a trustee. He also talked about his experiences of attending a quarterly General Service Board meeting in New York. He will be serving a 4-year term where in years 2 and 3 he will serve on either the AAWS or Grapevine Corporate Board. During the first year Tom will be invited to observe meetings of both corporate boards. Traditionally, the West Central Regional Trustee has served on the Grapevine Corporate Board. Tom describing his schedule while in New York as rather vigorous and included working lunches and dinners. Tom was assigned to three committees: Corrections, International, and PI. He compared some of the activities as being similar to our Area Assemblies and Area Committee meetings where committee meetings are attended and then reports given to the body.

**Agenda Item Process – Kelly D.**

Kelly talked about how to write an Agenda Item. She reviewed the AA General Service structure and referred Chapter 7 in Service Manual. There are 10 Conference Committees and Agenda Items fall into one of these committees. Agenda items need to researched – was it a previous agenda item, review the background information, what was the outcome? A floor action was made that delegates be more involved in vetting and selecting agenda items.

## PRESENTATIONS:

**Grapevine Workshop – Paul M.**

Paul talked about the requirements when submitted a story to the Grapevine. The story should be M00-300 words. Poems, songs, hymns, and previously submitted materials should not be submitted. Stories can be submitted on line at GVEDitorial@grapevine.com. Mike F. talked about the audio project where stories are submitted over the phone and described the process to do so. He attended a 3-hour Grapevine writing workshop and found the best part to be listening to the stores and sharing afterward. Dave told us each month of the year has a theme. Articles for the December issue are selected in August, then edited, and released in November. Carla, Grapevine and LaViña Chair Area 36, stated our areas are similar, we are similar. She also stated the LV in overlooked as a tool to reach Spanish speaking alcoholics.

**CPC/PI Workshop – Jim T. and Mark N.**

Jim T. talked about the CPC work book as a valuable tool for doing CPC work. CPC is for everyone, “you are an expert in your own recovery”. Jim encouraged member working in CPC to approach police, doctors, lawyers, social workers, and ministers if they would like a presentation about AA. Jim provided each district with a packet of CPC related information. Jim pointed out employee assistance programs can be accessed to help the still suffering alcoholic.

Mark N. stated he was in AA for 10 years before he was introduced to general service work. It wasn’t until he moved back to Brainerd and attended the Sleepy Hollow group where others were involved that he became active in service work. He reminded us it’s important to share our experience of general service with other groups and individual members. He encouraged us to work harder to get AA member aware of the general service conference.

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### 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.*

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## OLD BUSINESS:

**Area 35/36 Joint Workshop**  
November 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at the Tuscan Center in St. Cloud, MN

**2017 Annual Service Workshop**  
“Supporting Our Future”, January 14-15, Hampton Inn, Bemidji, MN

**Statewide Joint Corrections Report**  
See Servando’s report in Area Officer Sharing Session Report

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Redistricting:**  
**Liz L.** suggested redistricting of Districts 7 and 17 because District 17 is dark. District 7 is absorbing District 17 at this time to provide opportunities for service to all interested. She requested this be discussed at a Zonal Forum. Kelly D. provided some background: Former Area Chair, Sarah K., visited Dist. 17 and they chose not to be represented at the area level. There 15 meetings in District 17. District 14 has 8 meetings and was dark but is up and running now. Roger R. thought there might be 2 issues: Redistricting of 17 and a large re-districting of Area 35. Scott J. informed us there were fewer districts in the past but members were tired of having to drive so far. AA grew in the 1970-80’s so members made a decision to form their own districts. It’s up to the groups to make decisions about district activities. He suggested talking with District 17 to find out how we can be helpful to them. He also stated it’s our job to communicate with them as to how important this issue is.

**Meeting Guide – Bob B.**  
Bob wants to test Area 35 meetings in an app called Meeting Guide which runs well on cell phones, lap tops, etc. and is used by several areas. Bob wants to test the app and have results to present at the Joint Workshop. AA Meeting Locator has been running for 9-10 years and no other areas have asked to joint. Kathy R. made a motion “to authorize the appropriate Area 35 leadership to initiate a demo of an additional meeting locator methodology.” The motion was seconded by Chuck R. Discussion followed: Scott M. asked a question about the data base. Will use FNV, Bob will find out if it automatically updates. Addy R. had concerns about FNV being accurate. Allen stated 39 other areas are using it including Mpls. Bill C suggested we need as many apps as possible to reach the still suffering alcoholic. Jim S. called for a vote, greater than 2/3 majority voted to accept the motion, minority was asked to speak but declined, the motion passed.

**7th Tradition Responsibility – Kelly D. and Christine G.**  
Christine and Kelly shared a power point presentation on the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. Christine referred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Illustrated pamphlet and explained we are not self-supporting because not all of GSB operating funds come from member donations but rather Grapevine and other literature sales. Of the 1,348,000 members and 65,741 groups only 40% contribute to the GSO. If each registered group donated \$146.00/year and each member gave \$7.14 per year AA would be fully supporting. With just 40% of the groups and members actually contributing it would take \$387.77 from each group and \$19.05 per member donated to directly to the GSO to achieve our goal of being self-supporting through our own contributions. We currently have a 25% shortfall. Over the next three years our expenses will increase, if our donations do not also increase our reserve fund could be depleted. Ways we can encourage self-support: Bring the power point presented today back to our groups-Kelly will email power point to DMCs, committee chairs, officers and past delegates. We can share 7<sup>th</sup> tradition fact sheet and pamphlet with our groups, read Self Support Card at meetings. Ways members can contribute directly to GSO: Birthday envelopes, on-line options, and GSO self-addressed envelopes. Kelly sits on the Finance Committee and learned members can have money automatically drafted from their bank account and sent directly to GSO. Our area has 577 registered groups but only 191 contribute to GSO. Since the GSC there has been an overall increase of 4% in donations. A question was asking regarding where the prudent reserve came from. Tom A. explained the fund grew over the decades when income was greater than expenses and is equal to approximately 11 months of operating expenses. He also stated literature prices go up and down depending on the amount of money in the prudent reserve.

**2017 Budgets for approval** – all budgets for 2017 were approved

### GSR Sharing Session Report – Tiffany

- How do you get people to volunteer in your group and make service work more appealing?**
  - ◆ Lead by example
  - ◆ Part of “becoming a part of” is becoming a part of service work. We get back more than we give. Enjoy it!
  - ◆ Add service work to the meeting format, or hold a topic meeting about
  - ◆ Openly ask for volunteers. Keep it simple
  - ◆ Voluntold – some people need to that push. Build people up!
  - ◆ Hold nominations during meetings, let people know we need help.
- How do you regulate sharing time?**
  - ◆ Adding a time limit to the format, using a timer, or breaking up

- into smaller groups.
- What kind of information should we take to the district and what should we take back to our groups?**
    - ◆ Bring the pertinent information that represents your group. You can use format sheets; some are available at Area35.org
    - ◆ Bring back all information to your group, but present highlights and hot topics. Let them know more information is available.
  - How much information do we give out and keep the group interested?**
    - ◆ Make a written report or use the agenda and summarize
    - ◆ Keep recruiting new people
    - ◆ Give more background info and reiterated AA service structure
    - ◆ Inform people in format and present information at business meeting
    - ◆ Attract fellowship and promote sponsorship
  - Some of the “old timers” bombard people, how do you make them slow it down?**
    - ◆ Go back to the Big Book says, use the new comer packet
    - ◆ Discuss it in the business meeting
    - ◆ Allow people to have their own process
    - ◆ Decide as a group to change format or hold a first step meeting
    - ◆ Some people are intimidated by old timers and some are more comfortable with them

### DCM Sharing Session Report – Brian P.

- Zonal Forum- input on being a part of the zonal forum, and what we would like to see from the area officers when they come. Zone 3: 5, 6 11, 13, 18, 7 & 17.**
  - ◆ We voted not to have zonal forums unless the DCM’s specifically requested them because we did not think that it was financially worth it. What the point on having the vote to decide something if it doesn’t get followed through on.
  - ◆ Roger R. approached me that the action booklet states that he will talk to whoever will be holding the zonal form that they get to each of the zones one time throughout that 2-year period. It is zone 3’s s turn to have the zonal forum. I am looking for input to see if the districts are interested in having a zonal forum. I asked my district about what if we had more time to plan the zonal forum would you want that to occur. Getting a flyer together etc. we are discussing redistricting. I thought it would be an opportunity to discuss the redistricting between 17 & 7.
  - ◆ Explanation of a zonal forum.
  - ◆ Our district has declined from the hosting perspective.
  - ◆ We dealt with some redistricting in district 14 & 8. If the district doesn’t want to do it, then the district doesn’t want to do it. If my district is not in favor of it then we will not do it.
  - ◆ After we had enough people to reform district 14, we are 100 miles from everyone; it doesn’t seem feasible for us. Maybe the redistricting needs to come from the larger areas, and maybe more districts need to be added so that we can have more DCM’s to get to these groups, where you are splitting it up instead of having one person try to get to all these meetings.
- How do we get people involved?**
  - ◆ We have tried a lot of things. I want to throw some things out we tried. Ice cream social, didn’t affect anything, we are a big district; we have tried a number of things. We had a BBQ and it attracted 1-2 more people to our district meeting. We are struggling. In terms of member involvement, over half of our chairs are open; we will be all ears for advice.
  - ◆ We had our round up, we had 13 people there and 3 were speakers and 2 with the speakers, it was again the choir sitting there and a bad turn out. 2 weeks later there was a round robin and it was full, standing room only. You get the areas that are always busy, we wonder if we should just put them in the areas where it is busy, or do you put them in the areas where people aren’t showing up. That is what we are discussing. We are dealing with the same thing. Until I got a new sponsor. And then I got involved in service. You just learn as you go.
  - ◆ Moving district meetings.
  - ◆ We rotate Monday through Friday the first full week of the month, at the same time, but the day changes during that week, and a different group hosts it. So we are always traveling around the district.
  - ◆ I like that because some people do not like missing their meetings.
  - ◆ We picked a time where no one had a meeting, but everyone shows because there is no conflict.
  - ◆ Who had the heartland? What part of that does the district put on?
  - ◆ The district does not run it. The group runs it.

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 14)

- ◆ Participation thing, we have discussed it for a long time. This is not an area 35 problems, this is AA as a whole problem. This goes right back to sponsorship and our home group. For me I got to be willing to sponsor people.
  - ◆ How many people here brought new people with?
  - ◆ A couple people raised hands.
  - ◆ It is really up to me as a sponsor, but I forget to ask them to come to the district meeting. There is my opportunity right there to get people involved.
  - ◆ When you have 1-2 people assigned to the action chairs in your district that is working specifically with a chair, that you are automatically grooming the people to be the successors, a lot of it for us is our attitude to; I have to be enthusiastic about our position. I was told I couldn't say no the first year of being sober. That's how I became a GSR.
  - ◆ Is there a relationship between how many people come to the district meeting, does that mean that there is no one at these local meetings?
3. Informing our groups better.
- ◆ I run into people all the time who don't even know about the district meetings.
  - ◆ I run into people who say it is all about politics. We are not political. Just because your opinion is not the same as mine doesn't mean we are going to argue.
  - ◆ We need our GSR's to bring things back to their groups.
  - ◆ Us being here and doing these things, and getting out there and taking the actions, people will see it, and we might not have a ton of participation, I remember I was a treatment chair during the rotation when district 14 showed up to district 8 and asked to join us, and pretty soon random people started coming to the district meeting and they decided they were going to try having a district meeting again, they didn't fill all the chairs but they did take action.
  - ◆ This has been going up for many years. We need to let people know that it is not the truth that this is survival.
  - ◆ Do you find that people, who are against service, are against having a sponsor and working the steps?
  - ◆ Yes, absolutely.
  - ◆ Part of our deal is to make sure that AA is there for the next guy that hasn't come in yet, we have pretty good recovery, we need to have unity, we argue once in a while but we have unity, it is 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the stool, service that is a little weak, we are trying to pay back this debt that we owe, but it is also there for the guy that hasn't come into the door yet. I want to make sure AA is there.
  - ◆ Anyone who comes to a district meeting can carry that information back to that group, most people go to more than one meeting.
  - ◆ DCM split up different things within the district and have them visit meetings so that the DCM is not doing it all.
  - ◆ Communication within the district. When there are a lot of meetings within the district. A lot of meetings just aren't aware that there is a district and there is opportunity for service work. They need to be informed.

## Area Officers and Area Chairs Mtg. Report – Gayle R.

**Servando** (Corrections)- Joint Corrections Committee, wondering if he could attend via email, this request is due to the distant he has to travel on a Tuesday, takes time off work and about 6 hours of time... These meetings are more direction verses input. Area 36 is not asking for our help and we are not asking help from Area 36. Moose Lake facility, in Area 35 and was volunteered by Area 36, maybe they are no longer going in. Servando feels as if Area 35 and Area 36 are not working as a team. Is this a good use of Area 35 dollars? Kelly discussed the start of the Joint Corrections Committee, transitional fairs, stating it was different back then. Perhaps mention at the upcoming Joint Workshop. Paul mentioned that the already established joint workshop Servando could get the information at that time. Servando stated facilities in the north have different requirements than those in the southern part of Minnesota. Is it necessary for Servando to attend physically or can he attend by an electronic means, such as Facetime, Email or Skype?? This was tabled until the November Joint Workshop with Area 36; Servando will attend the Joint Corrections Workshop in October.

**Skip** (Literature) has had some literature issues, Jim will make announcement.

**Steve** (Archives) Asked for an Archives workshop at the Winter Workshop in 2018, Roger will take care and put on agenda...

**Paul** (Grapevine) Budgeting for Grapevine to include a checking account. Christine suggested Literature, Grapevine and Area be under one bank. Literature is given \$1000 up front, Grapevine does not, Paul uses his own

money when ordering. We will bring this to the floor. Literature reconciled, perhaps oversite committee or treasurer. Reconciliation monthly, or an audit quarterly or yearly. Skip will audit the literature inventory for December.

**Jim** (CPC) Talked about projecting a map so when a person is speaking it would highlight the town that the person is from, we don't all know where persons are from.

**Redistricting** districts 17 and 7

**Gayle** (Treatment) asked about workshops at assemblies, she is putting on her first workshop with Servando, on a Tuesday (November 1@5pm). Wondering if could have workshops at assemblies? We have previously voted NOT to have workshops at assemblies, we have presentations.

## Calendar of Events – Rodney

See Northern Light and 35 Website calendar.

## Nomination for Trustee at Large US

Suggestion made by Scott J., past delegate to have Trustee pamphlet available at assemblies. There 6 regions in the US, one person from each region in nominated then voted on during the GSC. The Trustee at Large must be a past delegate. Duties are the same as the West Central Regional Trustee in addition to attending forums throughout the country as well as the World Service Conference. Jim from district 9 nominated Michael Jacobson and he accepted, no other nominations were made. Jake stated he would do his best to serve AA as a whole and our area.

## Ask it Basket – Past Delegates

### Why is the Grapevine so great?

Bob J. – A Grapevine Rep. put this question in the basket years ago to increase awareness of GV. It's our meeting in print and only as good as the articles written by AA members.

### Why is the Lord's Prayer said at the end of meetings and when did it start?

Suzie A. – It started while Bill was still around, it's tradition like a lot of things in AA. Brad I. added it come about due to association with the Oxford Group; they closed their meetings with the prayer and it continued in Akron.

### When Christine and Kelly talked about the price per person per year does that amount cover total expenses without the sale of literature. Would literature sales cover literature printing costs?

Michael J. - Yes, literature printing costs would be paid for by the sale of literature and cost of literature would go down.

### A well-established group makes no contributions to district, area, or GSO. Rumor is treasure has been pocketing money for years. Does not support district or have a GSR. If true is there anything that can be done at the service level or is it a group conscious matter?

Tom A. – This is why we have group conscious meetings. We don't act as government; each group is autonomous but does this affect AA as a whole?

### Use your own experience to explain and simplify singleness of purpose.

Bob J. – We do one thing in AA when we do it right we do it very well. First year at the GSC Bob was on the PI committee. An AA group membership survey asked if members had addictions other than alcohol. Went beyond singleness of purpose. The one thing that binds us our common problem, alcoholism, and we have a common solution. Scott J. added we lose our identification with one another when we lose our unity. When he was a newcomer he could identify with the old guys in the room because he identified with obsession of the mind and allergy of the body; could understand what they were talking about. Discussed purpose of open meetings.

### How does being a delegate affect your family life and as well as personal time to enjoy hobbies and making time for work? Was it worth it?

Lived, eat, and breathed AA. Both were going service work. "This is our life. We love Alcoholics Anonymous". Grateful to be one of the people who got to sober up. Can never repay what has been given to her. Bob J. – sobered up 1976, attended Area Assembly as GSR in Brainerd when sponsor nominated him literature chair. This began his time in area service. Was married in 1981, had children, then became delegate in 1990-91. Wife in non-alcoholic, member of Alanon and supports all AA activities. "Nothing but good things have come from this".

### Speaker sign-up sheet?

Michael J. – Officers have a lot of things to do and not able to make a list. Suggested individual go around and ask who is willing to speak.

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.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

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

December:

3<sup>rd</sup> : Ottertail Round Robin \*

United Methodist Church  
Shores Rd, Ottertail, MN  
6:00 pm - Food and Fellowship  
7:00 pm - Speakers

3<sup>rd</sup> : Recovery Workshop

United Methodist Church  
110 East 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Aurora, MN  
12 - 5 pm

4<sup>th</sup> : Area 35 Committee Meeting \*

Aitkin Alano Club  
322 1st. Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2017

January :

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> : 41<sup>st</sup> Area 35 Service Workshop\*

1019 Paul Bunyan Dr SE  
Bemidji, MN

13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> : 15<sup>th</sup> Wild rice Round-Up

Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center  
777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen, MN

20<sup>th</sup> : Hawley TGIF January Round Robin\*

423 6<sup>th</sup> St, Hawley, MN  
potluck - 6:00 pm open meeting - 7:00 pm

February :

4<sup>th</sup> : 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Courage to Change\*  
Round Robin

First United Church

March :

3<sup>rd</sup>– 5<sup>th</sup> : WCRAASC

Radisson Hotel  
204 West Fox Farm Road  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> : 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Warm-Up \*

Comstock Memorial Union  
615 14th St S, Moorhead, MN  
(14th Street & 6th Avenue South)

17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> : Big Ole Round-Up\*

Holiday Inn  
5637 Hwy. 29 S  
Alexandria, MN

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> : 38<sup>th</sup> Winter Rap-Up\*

Mt. Iron Community Center  
8586 Enterprise Dr. S.  
( just off Hwy 169)

April :

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> : Area 35 Spring Assembly \*

Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge  
25039 Tame Fish Road  
Deerwood, MN

1000 1st Street SE, Little Falls, MN  
Starts at 5:00 pm  
5:30 - Potluck dinner  
6:45 Al-Anon speaker 8:00 A.A. speaker

(Continued from page 8)

A Small Spiritual Experience

life start being a little struggle. (Which now that I am sober and have a few 24 hours the struggles are mole hills not Mount Everest.) I have been given a huge gift from God and Alcoholics Anonymous to have a structured plan laid out for DAILY living. And just for the record I do not like admitting I’m wrong and having to go back and make amends all the time. I especially do not like having to tell my fiancé that I’m wrong. (That is just a joke. I swallow my pride today.) Thank God that the following Step is “sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.” After having this spiritual experience through a Step 10 and

Step 11 life feels good again. Sometimes quickly sometimes slowly my sponsor tells me and sometimes I don’t want to listen to her but I got to feel that serenity. I am so grateful for the God of my understanding waiting for me to come back to Him and turn my will and my life over to Him again. I am grateful today that I did not get to the point of picking up a drink. I am so grateful for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous for this new life. This program has saved my life and given me one that I could have never fathomed would materialize. God Bless you all. I hope to be seeing you as we ALL trudge the road to happy destiny. May God bless you and keep you until then.

Adrienne S.  
Thief River Falls, MN

## Area 35 2017 General Service Conference

Greetings Area 35,

I created this flyer to help you understand the upcoming Agenda Item process. The Agenda Items do not come out any sooner to the Delegate’s than the week of February 15, 2017 due to the January General Service Board Meeting. Once I have the information I make copies and CD’s to distribute at the Aitkin Committee Meeting on February 26, 2017 to all Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM’s and past Delegates. It is the DCM’s responsibility to get this information out right away to their GSR’s so they have plenty of time to discuss them with their home groups before the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

We realize that this timeframe does not give us a lot of time for discussion within our home groups and District’s on the Agenda Items so it is important that this information is passed on as soon as it is received.

I look forward to seeing you and going over all of the Agenda Items with you at our upcoming Area 35 Spring Assembly April 1-2, 2017 and carrying your voice of northern Minnesota to the 2017 General Service Conference in Rye, New York April 23-29, 2017.

In love and service, Kelly D. Area 35 Panel 66 Delegate

## Agenda Deadline Dates

<b><u>December 15, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>March 3-5, 2017</u></b>
Deadline to receive proposed Agenda Items from Area 35 to Delegate	Agenda Items are discussed at the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne, WY
<b><u>February 15, 2017 (week of)</u></b>	<b><u>April 1-2, 2017</u></b>
Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office	Agenda Items are discussed at the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Deerwood, MN
<b><u>February 26, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>April 23-29, 2017</u></b>
Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD along with the “Hot Topic List” from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting. Pass protected site is set up for Area 35 to review Agenda Items online and Area 35 is given that information from the Delegate	Delegate attends the General Service Conference in Rye, NY

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Kelly D.  
Area 35 Panel 66 Delegate  
[delegate@area35.org](mailto:delegate@area35.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

\*See area35.org for printable flyers

**OTTERTAIL ROUND ROBIN**  
**Saturday, Dec. 3**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**104 Shores Road**  
**OTTERTAIL, MN**

**POT LUCK**  
**Food and fellowship start at 6:00 pm**

**SPEAKERS 7:00 pm**  
**Jessie O. - Wendell, MN - Alanon**  
**Sharon J. - Detroit Lakes, MN - AA**

**SOBRIETY COUNTDOWN**

**GIFTS FOR SOBRIETY DATES**

**GIFTS FOR FURTHEST DISTANCE**

**DAILY REFLECTIONS, DEC. 3**  
**IN ALL OUR AFFAIRS**  
**... we tried to carry this message to**  
**alcoholics, and to practice these principles**  
**in all our affairs.**  
**12 x 12, pg. 106**

**Come and enjoy the evening!**

## RECOVERY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY  
AURORA BIG BOOK GROUP

WITH PARTICIPATION FROM  
WEDNESDAY BACK TO BASICS & COOK BIG BOOK,  
AND OTHERS

COME AND LISTEN AS MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS  
GROUPS DISCUSS:

THE INVENTORY PROCESS  
AMENDS  
PRAYER AND MEDITATION  
SPONSORSHIP

DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2016  
12-5PM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
110 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> AVE. NORTH  
AURORA, MN.

QUESTIONS?

## Supporting Our Future

2017 West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference

March 3, 4, 5

**Radisson Hotel**  
204 West Fox Farm Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82007  
Call 307-638-4466 for Reservations



For group room rates on or before 2/16/17, mention reservation code WCRAASC. One or two beds (\$109.00 + tax) or Queen and King Suites (\$149.00 + tax).

Other nearby hotels include Spring Hill Suites (307-635-0006) and Comfort Inn (307-514-6051).

For transportation from Denver International Airport (DEN) to Cheyenne (CYS), visit [www.GreenRideCO.com](http://www.GreenRideCO.com) or call 970-226-5533 to arrange for **Gold Line Shuttle**. DIA pick-up located at east side of terminal, Door 507, Island 5.

<b>Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00a General Session 2—"Participation"	7:30p Open AA Speaker Meeting – Ivan Lemelle (Class A Trustee, Non-alcoholic)
2:30p Registration	9:45a Break	
3:30p Early Bird Meeting	10:00a GSC Agenda Items II	
7:00p Opening and Welcome	11:30a Lunch (on your own)	8:45p Break
Meet the Delegates/Area Highlights	12:45p Breakout Sessions	9:00p GSC Agenda Items IV
Meet the Trustee/Report	1:45p Break	
8:00p General Session 1—"Growth"	2:00p Breakout Sessions	<b>Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup></b>
8:45p Break	3:00p Break	7:00a Early Bird Meeting
9:00p GSC Agenda Items I	3:15p General Session 3—"Contributions"	8:00a General Session 4—"Anonymity"
	4:00p Break	8:45a Break
<b>Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	4:15p GSC Agenda Items III	9:00a "Ask It Basket" and General Session 5 with the Trustees
7:30a Early Bird Meeting	6:00p Dinner (on your own)	
8:45a Opening and Welcome		

Contacts: Mary M. (307) 286-9715 – Richard M. (518) 441-2876

To complete online registration or print more registration fliers, visit <http://aa-wyoming.org>

## Registration Form – Please print clearly

**Registration Fee -- \$15** Mail to: WCRAASC, c/o District 12, PO Box 4164, Cheyenne, WY 82003

Preregistration must be received by 2/20/2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group \_\_\_\_\_  
Position (GSR, DCM, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ District Represented \_\_\_\_\_ Area Represented \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs Request \_\_\_\_\_



## COURAGE TO CHANGE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROUND ROBIN

FEB 4<sup>TH</sup> 2017

**First United Church 1000 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE**  
**LITTLE FALLS, MN.**

**5:00 P.M. MEET & GREET      6:45 ALANON SPEAKER**  
**5:30 P.M. POT LUCK          8:00 P.M. AA SPEAKER**

**RULE 62 RENDEZVOUS**  
3RD ANNUAL AA WOODSTOCK OF NORTH DAKOTA  
JANUARY 13, 14, 15, 2017  
BAYMONT INN & SUITES MANDAN (FORMALLY THE SEVEN SEAS)  
Call for room reservations: (701) 663-7401.  
Ask for the Rule 62 Rendezvous discounted room rate

**SPEAKERS:** Karl M., Covina, CA  
Rich B., Ocean City, MD  
Steve L., Nashville, TN  
Don L., Bellingham, WA  
Carla R., Los Angeles, CA  
Earl H., Scottsdale, AZ  
Polly P., Jacksonville, FL

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**  
**FRIDAY, JAN. 13TH**

- 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm - Registration
- 5:00 pm - Opening & Welcome
- 5:30 pm - Step 1 – Karl M., Covina, CA
- 7:00 pm - Step 2 – Don L., Bellingham, WA
- 8:30 pm - Speaker Personal Story – Carla R., Los Angeles, CA
- 9:45 pm - Social & Photo Booth

**SATURDAY, JAN. 14TH**

- 8:30 am - Step 3 – Steve L., Nashville, TN
- 10:00 am - Steps 4 & 5 – Carla R., Los Angeles, CA
- 11:30 am - Steps 6 & 7 – Polly P., Jacksonville, FL
- 2:00 pm - Steps 8 & 9 – Rich B., Ocean City, MD
- 3:30 pm - Step 10 – Don L., Bellingham, WA

**SATURDAY CONT.**

- 6:00 pm - Banquet
- 7:15 pm - Countdown
- 7:30 pm - Speaker Personal Story – Earl H., Scottsdale, AZ
- 9:00 pm - Q & A Panel (All Speakers)

**SUNDAY, JAN. 15TH**

- 7:00 – 8:30 am - Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00 am - Step 11 – Steve L., Nashville, TN
- 10:30 am - Step 12 – Earl H., Scottsdale, AZ
- 12:00 pm - Closing

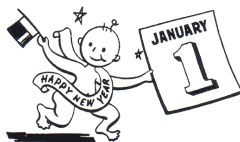
All listed events are included in registration cost. • Schedule and speakers may be subject to change.

3RD ANNUAL RULE 62 RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AA \_\_\_\_\_ Alanon \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME GROUP \_\_\_\_\_  
FEES: Pre-registration \$75 - includes all events (postmarked Jan. 4). At the door: \$85.  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ ALL SALES ARE FINAL - NO REFUNDS  
Complete, detach and mail to: **Rule 62 Rendezvous PO Box 1497 Bismarck, ND 58502**  
Or register online at: [www.rule62rendezvous.org](http://www.rule62rendezvous.org) by January 4th



## Seasons Greetings & A Happy New Year





NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

- ◆ Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what’s happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the N.L.
- ◆ Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to

- D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example “Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN” this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.
- ◆ Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the Grapevine or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- ◆ Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.
- ◆ Listen to comments from the Area on the content of the N.L.

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

**Desirable qualifications:** Current 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](mailto:northernlight@area35.org). Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

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

Northern Light Editor,  
Steven L.

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

1. First & Foremost **Contact the Northern Light Editor** at [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) or call the phone number listed on page 3 of the hard copy, print version of the Northern Light, for the Northern Light Editor (remember this will change every 2 year rotation).
2. Email a pdf version of your flier to [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) for approval. Upon approval a copy will be forwarded to the webmaster to be placed on the Area 35 websites calendar of events.
3. Upon approval mail to : **Cold Spring Record  
PO Box 456  
403 West Wind Court  
Cold Spring, MN 56320**  
**With an attn.: Northern Light on the mailing address**  
**Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light**
4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Printing costs are for 600 one sided printing is \$48. Printing costs are for 600 double sided printing is \$60. This cost is added to the \$75 inserting charge.
5. The cost for having a flier inserted into the Northern Light is \$75. Make Checks payable to NMAA
6. Mail payment to: 

NMAA  
PO Box 401  
Becker, MN 55308

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST  
CURRENT ADDRESS!!!

RELATED FLIER INSERTION INFORMATION

- ◆ Only Area 35 A.A. Members may submit a flier. Fliers must be only for A.A. Sponsored Events.
- ◆ Fliers needed—600

Northern Light Deadlines for 2017 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 30<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 6<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 1<sup>st</sup> : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 10<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 5<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 6<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included 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  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

<div><div>_____ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings (9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting</div><div>_____ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>_____ Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>_____ Add to Agenda</div><div>_____ DATE</div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div>_____ Delegate – Kelly D.</div><div>_____ Alternate Delegate – Roger R.</div><div>_____ Chair – Jim S.</div><div>_____ Secretary – Rillis E.</div><div>_____ Treasurer – Christine G.</div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div>_____ CPC – Jim T.</div><div>_____ District 1 – Leslie H.</div><div>_____ District 21 – Jeff L.</div><div>_____ WEBMASTER - Rodney S.</div><div>_____ LITERATURE – Skip D.</div><div>_____ District 11 - Sharla W.</div><div>_____ District 7 – Liz L.</div><div>_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Steve L.</div><div>_____ GROUP RECORDS – Bob B.</div><div>_____ District 14 – Paul E.</div><div>_____ District 6 - Renell P.</div><div>_____ TREATMENT – Gayle R.</div><div>_____ District 18 – William BR B.</div><div>_____ District 12 – Steve E.</div><div>_____ ARCHIVIST – Brad I.</div><div>_____ ARCHIVES – Steve D.</div><div>_____ District 8 – Scott M.</div><div>_____ District 4 – Deb S.</div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Servando M.</div><div>_____ District 2 – Myron H.</div><div>_____ District 13 – Al K.</div><div>_____ District 15 – Melissa A.</div><div>_____ PI – Mark N.</div><div>_____ District 9 – Cathy R.</div><div>_____ District 5 – Jon S.</div></div>	<div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Paul M.</div><div>_____ District 3 – Brian P.</div><div>_____ District 16 – Mike F.</div><div>12:00 P.M. Lunch</div><div>12:45 P.M. Reconvene</div><div>OLD BUSINESS:</div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ FOC Report</div><div>_____ Webmaster and Group Records</div><div>_____ District 5 proposal</div><div>_____ WCRAASC</div><div>_____ Fall Assembly Evaluations</div><div>_____ Statewide Joint Corrections Committee</div><div>_____ Calendar of Events</div><div>_____ Adjourn</div><div>NOTES:</div></div>
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Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

NMAA  
PO Box 401  
Becker, MN 55308