

Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
March 6th, 2017

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Steven L. at NorthernLight@area35.org

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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

2017 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <u>AREA OFFICERS</u> | <u>COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)</u> | <u>DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (D.C.M.'s)</u> | <u>DISTRICT 14</u> |
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| | | <u>DISTRICT 13</u> Allan K. dcm13@area35.org | |

MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?

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

Please contact our Group Records Secretary with your new or changed address:
GroupRecords@area35.org

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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, Pillager*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Little Falls*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

Zone IV

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

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

District Meeting Location Information

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

Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

Here we are at the start of another new year. I am believing that 2017 will be a year filled with many blessings, learning and growth for all of us as we work together to continue to carry our message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. I have been busy working on my arrangements and travel plans for the upcoming General Service Conference which will be in held in Rye, New York April 23-29th. As some of you know I also received a “Loving Invitation” from the General Service Office to present on the topic “Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligation” at this upcoming Conference. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be asked to do so and I humbly accepted. I completed my presentation and sent it in to them by the January 9th deadline. I would like to thank the General Service Office for this opportunity to share on this important topic, something all of us need to look at and be reminded often as members. The questions I find that we need to individually ask ourselves is this “Am I making it my obligation to make Alcoholics Anonymous self-supporting and if not what am I willing to do to see that it will happen?”

The Agenda Items also for the Conference will be available to me the week of February 15th. I will be sending Rodney our Webmaster a CD of them right away so that we can get them posted on the Area 35 website with a password to use. I will then have the CD’s and hardcopies for all of you at our upcoming Aitkin Committee Meeting February 26th for distribution. As I mentioned prior I will use the same list as last year to distribute them.

I look forward to our WCRAASC the following weekend in Cheyenne, Wyoming March 3-5, 2017 when we will have the opportunity to go over all of them with our regional friends from our 7 other Areas. And then of course with all of you at our Spring Assembly in Deer River, MN April 1-2, 2017. It is also that time to start scheduling my time with the Districts to do my report back from the General Service Conference, so DCM’s please contact me so we can get them scheduled.

I also wanted to mention that the Districts should be looking at possible nominations for the incoming Delegate. In order for an individual to stand for the position, they need a nomination from a District. The nominee’s then need to have their resume to our Area Chair Jim by June 1st so that they can then be posted in our Northern Light in plenty of time before our Fall Assembly so everyone will know who they will be voting for. So Districts start discussing this at your meetings, do you have someone in mind that you feel would be a good candidate?

As I reflect on this last year as your Delegate I am grateful for each and everyone one of you and the opportunity I have been given to serve. I look forward to my last year with you and as always if you have questions/ concerns or if I can be of service in any way please let me know.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

Alt. Delegate:

Roger R.

As we begin the year 2017, I am grateful for the opportunities I’ve had to serve the members, groups and Districts of Area 35. For myself general service has been a way to grow in sobriety and continue to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

The beginning of a year is also a time for me to assess my service performance and set new goals for my service work. I’m told that individuals who write down their goals are much more likely to achieve them.

The 41st Area 35 Service Workshop took place on January 14 and 15 in Bemidji MN. Ninety- seven members attended the workshop. Howard L., our guest presenter and speaker did an excellent presentation on growth and participation in AA on Sunday morning and told his story on Sunday evening. I would also like to commend Districts 6, 18, 15, 2, 21, 16, 9 and 1 for their excellent presentations. I’d also like to thank Jeff L. and the other members of District 21 for serving as greeters and registration workers. My detailed report on the service workshop is forthcoming.

I am directed by a recent Area Action 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. I will be in touch with DCM’s from Zone 2 to see if they have an interest in hosting a Zonal Forum in the first 6 months of 2017.

In the coming weeks, my attention will focus on backing up Kelly D. our Delegate in learning about the agenda items that will be discussed and voted on at the 2017 General Service Conference.

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

In service,
Roger
Area 35 Alternate Delegate.

Area Chair:

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Annual Workshop this year. If you missed it, it was truly your loss. I found the effort the districts put into their presentations commendable. It was a great learning experience. Thank you to all whom presented. I found the speaker quite interesting, good pick. Roger, you did a great job putting this all together and I am looking forward to next years’ workshop.

Of course, I want to mention that you should get your reservation for the Spring Assembly in. If you have any questions on how to register for the Assembly please call or email me as soon as possible. The format for the Assembly will remain as it has for the past several years with all discussion on agenda items in the general assembly meeting. One of the evaluations from the Fall assembly was that during the GSR, DCM and Area officers meeting at 5pm there isn’t anything for the other people to do. So, this Spring Assembly at 5pm I will have an Open meeting scheduled for those that would like to participate. I will find a volunteer to chair the meeting during the Saturday Morning session.

DCM’s, I hope you have been thinking about when your district will be meeting to discuss the agenda items. GSR’s, I hope you have been talking with your group about when you would like to discuss the agenda items. If you would like an Area Officer or Area Committee chair to attend your District, please do not hesitate to ask. You should look to see who is in your area when deciding on who you want to ask first, and then go from there, this is not an expense your district will incur. Area officers and Committee chairs include district travel as part of their yearly budget.

I of course will be attending the WCRAASC in Cheyenne along with the other members of the committee so I look forward to seeing you all there. At last year’s conference I was watching a young lady get up and speak quite informed about the motions, what I noticed was that she was either completely or grossly vision impaired. What I came to understand was that someone had read the background info to her. So, I ask myself, if reading through the material is really that difficult of a task for me to do? I hope you all take the time to educate yourself on the background material so we can give Kelly as informed of a group conscience as possible. Will it be difficult, yes, will it be burdensome, of course, will it be confusing at times where you want to break your computer or throw your copy across the room, oh yeah, but please take the time to read it.

I have compiled the Joint Workshop evaluation forms. One thing that was brought up several times was moving it to earlier in the year. There was a low turnout from Southern MN, possibly due to the poor weather that day. I will be in contact with the new Area Chair from 36 and get her input before committing to a date. By the time I am reading this I should have sent my list to Steve and Rodney to be published.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that the background material is on Area35.org and can be downloaded by anyone. I have not included the login and password in my report as at the time I wrote this we had not decided on them.

In Service,
Jim S. Area 35 Chair

Secretary:

Secretary Report: Since we meet in Aitkin in December, I have compiled the minutes for that meeting and sent them to Steve L. for publication in the Northern Light. Whenever possible please email me a copy of your report. It makes my job easier and I do appreciate that but if a hand written report works best for you I can certainly work with that.

I attended the Service Workshop in Bemidji on January 14 and 15. All of the presentations were very informative and interesting. The theme of the workshop, “Supporting our Future”, is so important as we all want AA to be there for the next generations of alcoholics just as it was there for us. It’s great, always great to spend time with fellow alcoholics in recovery.

I will be attending the next Area Committee meeting on February 25 in Aitkin and will bring fliers for the Spring Assembly. I also plan to go to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference on March 3, 4, and 5th in Cheyenne, WY and am willing to come to your district to share information about the agenda items when I return.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In Service,
Rillis E.

Treasurer:

I attended the January Service Workshop and the districts did a wonderful job presenting on the topics. I enjoy these workshops and the presentations because it brings a different angle on a lot of the challenges that we face in

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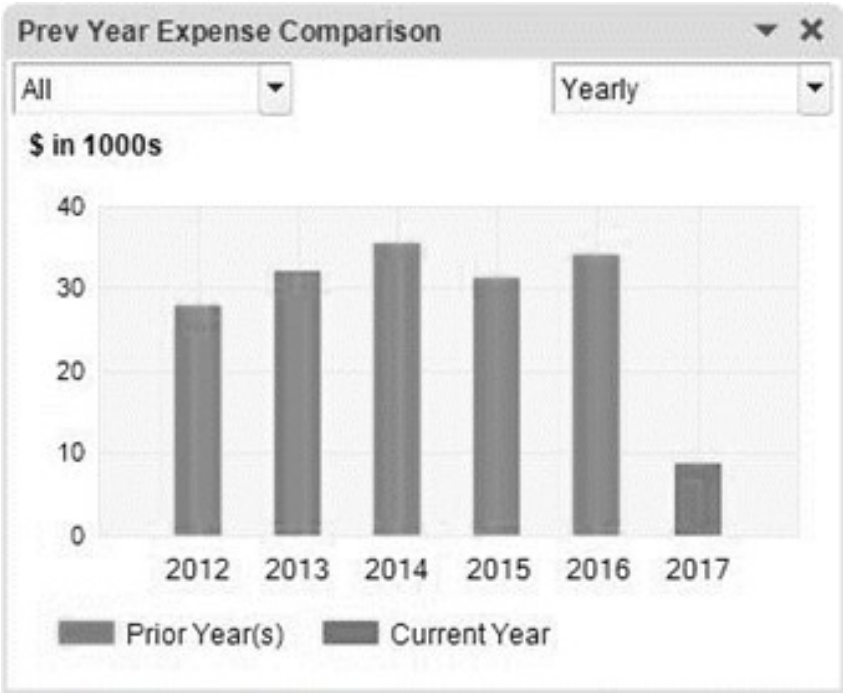
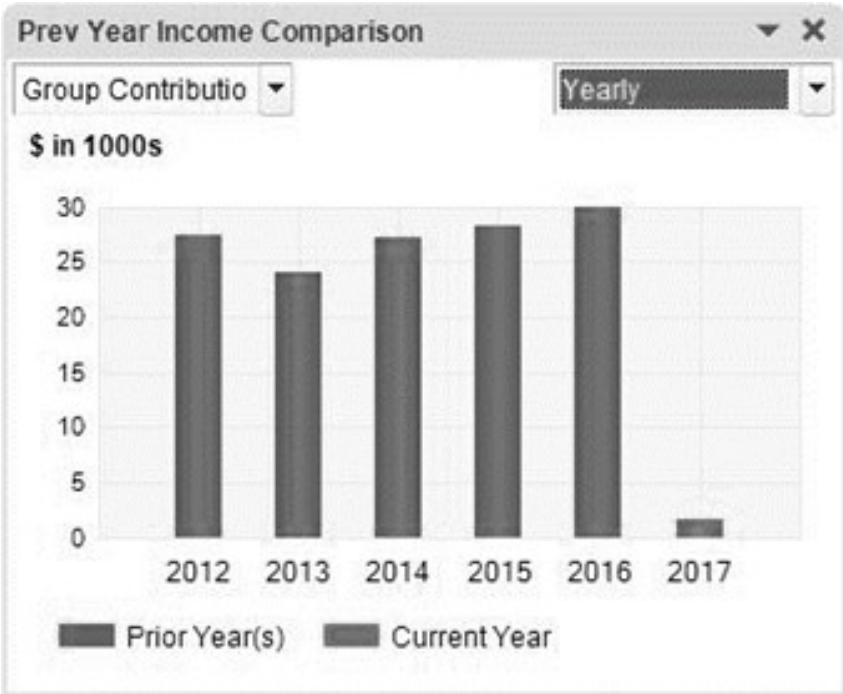
AA. It brings out great discussions and people share how their districts or groups handle the situations. These are the places where we learn how the Traditions and Concepts work in AA. These are the places where we are able to get information and bring it back to our groups and get an informed group conscience.

In 2016, Area 35 had a total of \$36,252.71 in income. \$29,862.07 was from group contributions and the remainder came from money collect for Grapevine sales, registration, coffee, 7th tradition baskets at assemblies and miscellaneous contributions from roundups.

Our total expenses were \$34,105.33 and the amount that was approved at the Spring Assembly for the Financial Responsibility was \$40,860.00.

The graphs below give some yearly comparisons on contributions and expenses.

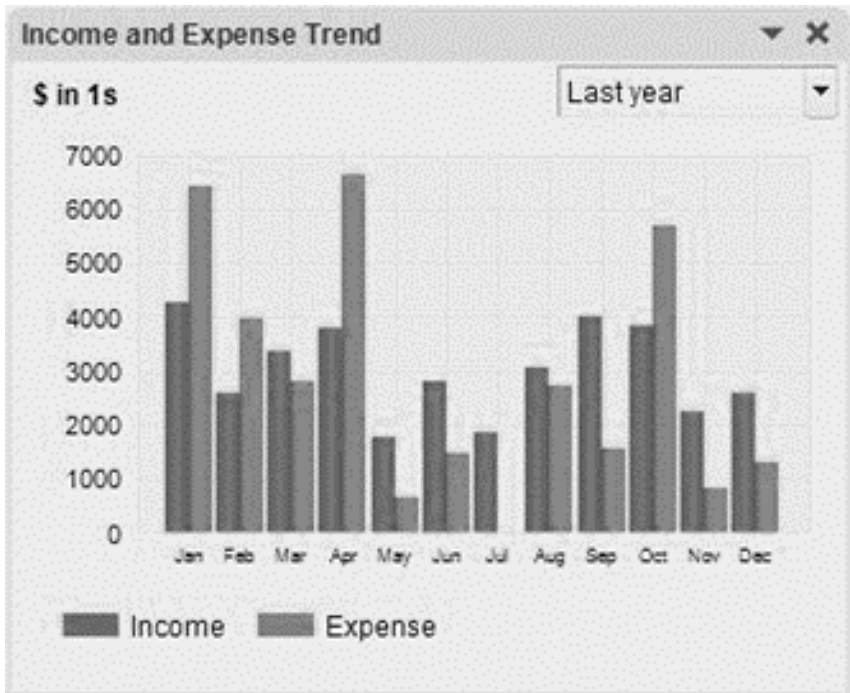
I have not reconciled the month of January 2017, but as of January 29th, your Area accounts have a total balance of \$23,785.58. All expenses for the January Service workshop have been paid and reimbursements made. I have also mailed out the \$1600.00 to the General Service Board for our Delegate to attend the conference in April.



I have been working with the State of MN to ensure that our nonprofit status is active so we are exempt from paying MN sales tax. I will also be filing the 990N for Tax-Exempt Organizations with the IRS and working on getting the budgets that were approved at the Fall Assembly entered into QuickBooks.

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

This graph shows what was received for contributions and what went out for expenses in each month of 2016. I have also been working on letters for the groups who contributed in 2016 and by the time you are reading this newsletter you should be seeing them from your groups.



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

In Service,
Christine
Area 35 Treasurer

Archives:

No Report

Steve D.
Area 35 Archives Committee Chair

Archivist:

Greetings to Area 35. I hope this issue finds you all well. The Work Shop went very well and was the warmest in a decade. If anyone wants recordings of the speaker or any of the presentations please bring a flash drive to Aitkin and get it to me early in the day. I had a display along to set up but lack of space precluded that. We seem to be running into that lately. I have been assured that there will be plenty of space at the Spring Assembly.

Area 36 has a new Archivist. The outgoing Archivist gave her my contact information but I have yet to hear from her. I hope she is as enthusiastic about joint displays as her predecessor. I am doing Gopher State as joint display that is confirmed. Other than Superior and Thunder Bay my calendar is open. If any districts would like a history talk or display for a Longtimers panel get in touch with me as soon as you can.

I am eager to see what the final agenda is. There were some proposed items that I am curious about. If they make the agenda I really want to see the background.

I don't know if I am going to be able to go to Cheyenne due to work.

I look forward to seeing you all in Aitkin and please keep your minutes coming.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

It was a great weekend in Bemidji! No, that's not the start of a cheap novel. It expresses my observations and impressions from the January 14-15 Area Service Workshop "Supporting our Future." The Districts responsible for the presentations gave to us some of the most spiritually-intense words I have had the privilege to hear at AA functions. We were given some laughter, some tears, and clearly from each District a well-prepared and thoughtful viewpoint on the serious questions and topics which impact every AA Group:

- Is your meeting a safe place?
- Do women, in particular, feel comfortable and welcomed and are not being "13th Stepped?"
- How do spirituality and money mix?
- Are your Trusted Servants and your group living the Responsibility Pledge?
- Does your group understand the difference between the "Fellowship" and "Membership?"

Reactions from those of us in the audience spoke volumes as to how well the

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messages were carried. AA’s lined up at the microphone to ask questions and offer perspectives. In addition, Howard L., past Southeast Regional Trustee, brought southern-style experience and hospitality. If your group doesn’t have a GSR…name one. Or call your DCM or any Area Officer for guidance if your Group Leader needs assistance. The opportunities to learn at workshops are magnificent!

In early January, I presented to the Health and Human Services staff at Aitkin County, outlining briefly, what AA is and is not; sharing the Reader’s Digest version of my story; and leaving for the professionals a host of CPC pamphlets for their use. One of the outcomes was an invitation from an attendee to present to a regional group of Social Services workers in Brainerd in March.

Letters to 28 county Sheriff’s and Human Services directors requesting time at their in-house training sessions are in process. I received one inquiry from the Hubbard County jail for more information, but no follow up date has been set for a presentation in Park Rapids.

If your doctor, hospital staff, police agency, or local clergy would like to hear a CPC presentation, please send a note to me or call 320-287-3092. This year’s theme for the committee’s work is to “*Take Our Information to Them.*” Check with your local association of ministers or talk to you doctor. Do they understand the message of AA? Area PI Chair Mark N. and I will be in Virginia, MN on Saturday, February 25 to take part in the District 8 Workshop “Service is Action” at Our Saviors Lutheran Church beginning at 1:00 p.m. Be there for great fellowship and a wonderful learning experience. There will be a supper and the featured AA speaker is Bob F. of Hoyt Lakes. Join us!

Yours in Service
Jim T.
Area CPC Chair

Corrections:

I have been blessed with so many responsibilities in such a relatively short time that sometimes I can't believe it.

One of my greatest responsibilities is, every Sunday I get to line up and bring in a speaker to the correctional facility where I first heard the AA message and received the smallest inkling of hope. I used to sit there and listen week after week to the stories of AA members. There were times that I would think that I didn't relate to the speaker but I was always interested in what they thought were key factors in their individual recoveries.

I was asked, not too long ago, who should be allowed to speak at one of these meetings and how do I choose who gets to share. My answer was, that I don't. All of those that volunteer are AA members with sobriety time and just that alone qualifies them to share, in my opinion. I don't believe that I can say who will relate to what part of anybody’s story. I have no idea what might inspire or touch someone.

So what I'm saying is, if you feel that you have nothing to offer, please reconsider. Maybe you haven't been to jail. But if you have found a solution to alcoholism the folks who are locked up might just be waiting to hear something that they relate to in your story. Most of those folks don't need to hear about getting locked up, they have that part figured out. They want a way out.

Today when I attend that meeting I get to observe and see what grabs their attention, what they connect to. I work with some of the guys after they're released and see them connect with people in the "outside" meetings and talk about what they heard when that person spoke. It's pretty awesome.

I'm not sure how God may use me for his purpose, but I feel that if I don't make myself available to be his instrument I limit my own recovery.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Assembly and West Central Regional.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in my recovery and for my sobriety.

Gratefully yours
Servando M.
Area 35 Corrections

Grapevine:

Greetings from area 35 grapevine chair. I attended the area 35 workshop in Bemidji, I sold approximately about \$300 worth of literature was an awesome weekend with awesome presentations I'm going to be placing another order for about \$500 as I've sold a lot of literature. I will be bring some of the literature to the February committed meeting for you to purchase!

I would like to thank area 35 and the members as I celebrated 30 years of continuous on January 15 it is been an awesome journey! This is AA I love this place!

If you need any additional information please contact me or if you have any questions or concerns please let me know thanks for letting me serve.

Paul M.
Area 35 Grapevine

Group Records:

Northern Light Mailing List: At our last Assembly, we discussed the Northern Light Mailing List. I have been updating the Group Records database so all area35 members will receive US mail from GSO and the Northern Light. As of this mail, all active area35 members will receive the Northern Light. If the Northern Light is returned due to a non-deliverable address, the database will be updated not to send additional mail.

I do not have current area36 Officer and Committee member updates. I will continue to use the out of date list.

AAmeetingLocator: Area36 is up to date. They will be sending me a updated database 2 times per month or as needed.

We need to start thinking about support for AAmeetingLocator at the end of this year.

Bob B.
Group Records
grouprecords@area35.org

Literature:

Hello everyone,

I would like to start by thanking all of you for allowing me to attend the January Workshop in Bemidji. With all the participation that weekend, it really got me thinking. So I went through the foreword to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th edition of the Big Book. It seems to me that we are growing at a good rate, but it seems to me that the participation is not growing at the same rate. At the January Workshop, we had 97 people in attendance. How many groups do we have in Area 35? Each group should have had representation. Even the Area Committee was not at 100%. I heard a long time ago that in service work, you have 20% of the people doing 80% of the work, I don't think we hit that 20% at the Workshop. I do hope you do not take this the wrong way, cause I do believe in growth. Personally, I have had to learn that I don't always think right, I need you and your thoughts in my life if I am to remain sober, if it were not for you I would not be doing what I do today. I have come to the point, those trying things that are different from what I am used to are not near as bad as I thought they would be. I have you to thank for that.

Now onto the business side, as the Area 35 Literature Chair, I would like to thank you for the \$461.58 in literature sales at the Workshop.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

In service,
Skip D.
Area 35 Literature Chair

Northern Light:

Howdy,

I take it you are all staying cozy and warm during our tropical heat wave this winter. I readjusted the numbering of the Northern Light to reflect how many years it has been available for publishing, since it was OK’d at the ’82 Fall Assembly for starting in 1983. Another change I made was the addition of a Table of Contents on page 2. I tweaked a few cosmetic things too. Please let me know if you like the new and improved look.

I went to the Area Workshop in Bemidji. I was very impressed with the quality of the presentations and how informed the presenters were with their topics. I enjoyed all the questions and feedback given at the mic. Overall, the Workshop was nicely done. Good job Roger and all who participated. I had a fun time getting to know some of you better. I was able to convince a couple of you to submit an article to the Northern Light. Persistence paid off.

There were nine articles submitted for publishing and I published eight. I was overjoyed at having such a large submission of articles along with the diverse nature of them. Keep more articles coming I believe it makes a better paper when we all participate. Everyone did a great job getting their reports to me before deadline.

Remember that articles published are the author’s own experience and opinions for no one can speak for our area or AA as a whole.

Yours in Service
Steven L.
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

Public Information:

“Twelve step work, not a burden but a joy”. Quoted at the Winter Workshop.

There are two items in the proposed conference agenda items that came out of the Public Information committee, one is to alter the membership survey so as to become a Group survey, the other is to change to gender option in the AA survey. I don’t have background on either one so will not venture a comment.

Together with Jim our Area 35 Cooperation with the Professional Chair, we will be doing a presentation at the District 8 workshop on February 25, 2017 at the Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Virginia MN. The event runs from 1:00pm

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(Continued from page 6)
to 8:00pm. It's titled "Service is action – a little of the present, past and future. We will be presenting at 2:30.

I attended the Area 35 Workshop in Bemidji MN on the weekend of January 14th and 15th. Some of the things I took away from it were. Safety is a major issue in alcoholics anonymous especially for the women in AA and I think there will be some good discussion forth coming at the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne and at the Area Assembly. There was also a presentation that discussed the demonstration AA meetings that are happening in Area 78 Alberta Canada, The mock AA meetings are performed for student doctors there at the University. The complete story is in Box 459 Winter 2016 edition.

We can get better participation when we: 1. Visit the meetings. 2. Tell them that the District has made a rule that directly affects their meeting. 3. that if they want to do something about it they will need to send a General Service Representative to the next District meeting and that there will be free food.

Do we want to grow Alcoholics Anonymous, through social media and other gimmicks or do we stick to General Service work, maintain face-to-face contact with the still suffering alcoholic and stick to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA to attract rather than promote, letting our higher power and good works decide our fate?

Things to keep in mind when working with others, they can recover from this seemingly hopeless disease, if they can accept the fact that they are an alcoholic.

Without that - they don't know what they're missing.

Hope to see you at the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne WY, I will be moderating the CPC/PI break out session and if not there then at a District meeting or event or the Area 35 Spring 2017 Assembly.

Mark N.
Area 35 Public Information Chair

Treatment:

Greetings Area 35, there is not a lot to report since the Area 35 Committee Meeting in December, I have only had a few temporary contacts and have forwarded those requests to the area or district as needed. I attended Area 35 January Workshop in Bemidji, all the districts who presented did a wonderful job. I apologize for missing the Area Officers and Committee Chair meeting during the workshop. I am working on communicating with a facility in Mora finding out what cities the clients are being discharged to so we can get a temporary contact lined up. I am looking forward to GSO agenda items and background, if anyone would like any help with discussion, we can try to help.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Gayle R.
Area 35 Treatment Chair

Webmaster:

Greetings Area 35,

I attended the Area Workshop in Bemidji. I really enjoyed the presentations. How the central theme to all of them was about sticking to our guns regarding traditions, especially where money is concerned. I was reminded during the presentations and throughout the weekend of how diverse, our membership is, and how great and strong we are when we remain unified in our diversity through singleness of purpose and our primary purpose.

I cannot express how much pleasure I felt after the point being made by the Southeast Regional Trustee, Howard L. during his presentation on Sunday became clear. I felt it tied in perfectly with the basic principles being driven home during the previous day's presentations. The phrase "Grow our Membership" rubs me the wrong way. It is a marketing term; we will not need to concern ourselves with how much we grow, as long as we continue to participate in our recovery. In service, and in the fellowship while being vigilant in our practice of the traditions and concepts, maintaining integrity through singleness of purpose, staying focused on our primary purpose, and being self-supportive to the best of our abilities.

A few years ago, I was taken aback when former delegate Mike J. asked me what I thought Alcoholics Anonymous would be like in ten or twenty years—my reply was something along the lines that I did not think it would be much different than it is now, but that it might be smaller. I think I would give the same reply today, and after the hearing the Sunday presentation, as well as attending the workshop, I feel that response was somewhat validated.

I had several opportunities to share with a few districts regarding their meeting schedules and having them put on their district pages on the area website. I repeatedly used District 16 as an example because Mike F. has done (and continues doing) a great job of having the correct information on his district meeting schedule. If all the districts keep their own, directories updated and correct they can have that information in their district pages on the site, plus they will have the information need to send to Bob at Group Records so that he can enter it in the GSO database.

By the time this is printed, I should have a link on area35.org for the agenda items background material. I intend to put the link on "the downloads" page just below the link for [Information on the 2016-17 Agenda Selection Process](#). It may be up before I actually get the information from Kelly who will receive it by February 15th. This will be password protected—the passwords will be e-mailed to DCM's when the link is active.

I am planning to attend the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Cheyenne on March 3rd and will avail myself for any districts interested with input at their meetings.

Thanks for all your support,

In Service,
Rodney S.,
Area 35 Webmaster

While I may be powerless to solve the globe's problems, I am given all the power I need to make a difference to my community, my family, my job, my friends, and most importantly, to stay sober and help other alcoholics.

"The Scoop," Woodinville, Wash., November 2013
AA Grapevine

Inventories We Take

I read with interest the following from the West Central Regional Forum Workshop in 2015:

"The inventories we take—whether at the group, district, area, or G.S.C.—all bring about the same conclusions. Where is our participation? We are forced to become a top-down organization due to our lack of unity. “- (Jake) J. Panel 64 Delegate, Area 35

The above reminds me of a plaque I once read. It said, "The beatings will continue until morale improves." - Anonymous

We are not forced to do anything in AA. On the contrary, this is a program of freedom and choice. If we have become a top-down organization, it is because we have chosen to do so, not because anyone or anything has forced us to do so.

Moreover, it is quite possible that being a "top-down" organization is the very reason why membership has flat-lined, people are not participating, and donations are down across the three entities. To illustrate this point, at our last Area 35 Fall assembly there were less than 100 people in attendance.

Let's not be guilty of the folly of, "beatings will continue until morale improves". Instead let's focus on encouraging our inverted pyramid style of leadership and avoid the "top down" organization that is so contrary to our AA way of life.

Perhaps it's time to get back to AA basics like:

1. Putting the groups at the top of the pyramid
2. Reminding our leaders they are but trusted servants
3. Carrying the message and keeping the newcomer foremost in our minds and hearts.

Perhaps if we focus on these things we can start to turn around this troubling trend of non-participation and flat-line growth. And more importantly, we can avoid turning into a "top down" organization.

JD, TNYPAA
Dist. 13 PI Chair

AREA 35
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?
Area 35 holds committee meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st Ave. N.E.
Aitkin, MN.
Come join us!

AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

Area 35 December Area Committee Meeting Aitkin, MN December 4, 2016 Minutes

Jim S. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer

Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Tom A., Panel 50; Susie A., Panel 44; Bruce B., Panel 48; Jim K., Panel 62.

Minutes from the August Area Committee Meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate - Kelly D. Good morning Area 35,

It is good to be here with all of you today. It has been a busy time for me since our Fall Assembly starting with reading up on all that is going on at our GSO. I hope you all have had the time to read the many emails I have passed on that I received with all that information. Just an update on Finances: The G.S.O. nine-month unaudited financial report revealed that net sales were \$9,978,462 or \$29,448 (.3%) more than budget; contributions were \$618,638 more than budget and an improvement from the June 30 over budget condition of \$257,236. Expenses for the nine-month period were \$690,129 less than budget and just \$13,285 greater than at September 30, 2015. Net profit for the nine months was \$800,145 compared with a budgeted loss of \$662,152 and a nine month 2015 loss of \$283,716. It was noted that contributions got off to a very slow start in 2016 with January being approximately \$113,000 below budget; however, things have improved each month as the year has progressed with each month this year reporting more contributions than the same month of 2015. To date contributions are up 14% which is great news! Thank you all for your contributions.

On November 20th the Delegates from our WCR had our quarterly meeting with Tom, our WCR Trustee. One of the topics we discussed and Tom shared with us Delegates is that he sat on the Trustees Committee on Corrections at the October 29th meeting and found that we were the predominant region with correction facilities with indigenous people. The conversation was based on the *AGENDA ITEM 9: Discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated First Nations people*. Tom asked that the WCR gather experience in carrying the message to Native American people in correctional facilities and have that information to him by the middle of December so that he can compile the information. Some of the questions we need to ask are “what is taking place, what isn’t taking, place, what is being used, what isn’t being used?” I had the opportunity to have a great phone conversation this past Friday with Jeff, Corrections Coordinator from GSO on this topic personally (complements of Tom) because of my history and experiences with Corrections and carrying the message into the Mille Lacs County jail in my home District 5 that houses a large majority of Native Americans. I have emailed Servando the information received from Jeff and have spoken with him over the phone last night about discussing this in his Committee Meeting this morning to gather any information he can on how we are carrying the message to our Natives whether it be in our Correctional Facilities and/or on their reservations in northern Minnesota. I look forward to seeing what kind of information and experiences that Servando, the District’s and fellow A.A.’s come up with related to this.

We also completed the updating and revisions of the guidelines for the WCRAASC during our meeting and again a special thank you to Dennis, past Delegate from Area 36 for all his work on helping us accomplish this. As you may or may not know that conference will be hosted by us in Area 35 in 2019.

Earlier this month all Conference Members received an email asking to vote that “The General Service Conference be held April 7-13, 2019 instead of the previously approved dates of April 28 – May 4, 2019.” Of course there would needed to be a quorum (meaning 2/3 of the vote) in order for it to pass. A quorum was met with 127 votes cast. The results were 77 members voted yes, 49 members voted no and 1 abstention. The recommendation did not pass. The minority then spoke and then there was a vote to reconsider. The results for that were with 105 votes, 56 no, 49 yes and 0 abstentions. Only a simple minority was required so it did not pass. I voted no both times because I believed that this would have put Area 35 in a position with those dates because that is when he hold our Spring Assembly to go over the Agenda Items. We would have been put in a position where he would have had to move our Spring Assembly to sometime in March and it could not have been the first weekend because of the WCRAASC that is always held the first weekend. There would also have been a \$25,000.00 charge to the GSO for changing the dates and the Conference would have been a day short. With that being said I feel it was a good thing that the dates were not changed.

I attended the Area35/36 Workshop on November 19th in St. Cloud. Attendance was low and I want to believe it was due to the weather conditions. We had many that “weathered the storm” anyway from northern Minnesota and made it there. I would like to thank Rillis, our Area 35 Secretary for taking minutes of that workshop. It is always a good thing when we can get together with Area 36, exchange ideas and work together to carry the message of hope within our state. Thank you all that attended.

I recently sent Rodney my report back from the 2016 General Service Confer-

ence to post on our website. I hope those of you that were not able to attend my report back take the time to review it. There is a lot of information on the Agenda Items. Speaking of Agenda Items those for 2017 will be coming out sooner than we think. I plan to use the list of what everyone requested from last year to distribute them by CD or hard copy. I also have copies of the Agenda Item process flier that I email out to all of you and that Steve put in the Northern Light. DCM’s please take copies and make sure that you get that information to your GSR’s.

I would like to thank the Districts that currently send me their minutes and encourage all Districts to do the same. As always if you have any questions or I can be of service to anyone of you or your Districts please let me know. Thank you all for your service! Wishing all of you a happy and joyous holiday season.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE - Roger R.

January Workshop:

Information on how to reserve a room at the Hampton Inn, where our conference will also take place in Bemidji is on the Conference Agenda and a flyer which is at the back table. A double queen room at the Hampton is \$135.00 plus tax and includes a hot continental breakfast. To receive our Area 35 Group Rate, reservations need to be made before December 14 at the Hampton.

Rooms are also available at a new Candlewood Suites in Bemidji. A double-queen room is \$109.00 plus tax. The double queen rooms have two walk-in showers. Breakfast is not included and a \$25.00 incidental deposit is taken at check in and returned later to you. These rooms include cooking facilities. Call 218-497-3000 to reserve a room at Candlewood Suites in Bemidji. By reserving online at CandlewoodSuites.com you can get a rate of \$94.00 on a double queen suite.

I anticipate a very informative and interesting service conference. Please encourage District officers and chairs and GSR’s to attend this conference. Our guest will be Howard L. who is a past delegate and SE Regional Trustee. I have been in communication with all eight presenting districts and have had the opportunity to work in person with Districts 15 and 6 on their presentations. Feel free to contact me if you would like me to attend a planning meeting in your district.

Zonal Forums:

I am directed by a recent Area Action 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 in District 7. I will be in touch with DCM’s from Zone 2 to see if they have an interest in hosting a Zonal Forum in the first 6 months of 2017.

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

In service,
Roger

AREA CHAIR - Jim S.

Good Morning Everyone,

This is getting to the time where we will have our busiest time of the year with many events coming up. I hope you will all be able to attend and hopefully be able to bring some new faces.

First I would like to remind you about the Spring Assembly coming up in Deerwood at Rutgers Resort. Please keep in mind there is a 3 week deadline to reserve your room. If you do not make your reservation before that you will not get a room there. Room reservation forms are on the back table and on the website if I am not correct. Coffee is \$10 for the weekend, and that will be collected at the registration table at the assembly. The agenda will be the same as last year’s where we will discuss in general session format and not be breaking out into committees.

The Fall Assembly evaluations have been compiled. I will be submitting them to the NL and I will ask Rodney if he has a spot on the website they could be uploaded to. They are reprinted exactly as they were handed in. I make no changes to them. There was one comment someone made that seemed like a real good idea, and that was when the GSR, DCM and Area Officer sharing sessions are happening there isn’t anything for the rest of the group to do, someone suggested having an AA meeting during that time. This seems to be a good idea and I really can’t see any downside to it as it would only lead into dinner break.

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The 2017 Fall Assembly looks to be at the Hibbing Park Hotel. I have been in contact with them as a result of Kathy doing a little foot work for me. I would also like to thank Scott M. for his help as well. I would very much like to visit the hotel before signing with them to ensure the facility will meet our needs. Our initial talks put the conference room rate at \$650 for the weekend, hotel rooms under \$110/night. I do not remember exactly what coffee came in at, but I am fairly certain it was around \$18 after taxes.

The Area 35/36 Joint workshop was a great success I thought. Several people in the evaluations mentioned that the event should be considered earlier in the year. This may be something to discuss with Area 36, we can't have every event during the summer months, and sometimes we have to make extra efforts to make it, but perhaps the tough weather conditions made attendance from Area 36 a little skittish.

I received an email from Tom A. regarding our filing status with the state of MN. It had lapsed, and thankfully Tom knew what to do so we are now a Corp in Good Standing with the state. He has forwarded me the information and we will be discussing what I would need to do next year to re up our filing status. After looking at our profile with the state this is something that has happened before and we should make better efforts to not let this happen again. So I have made a reminder in my calendar for the end of November 2017 to be looking into renewing our status and passing that info on to the next chairperson when the time comes.

Now for the good stuff. The agenda items will be coming shortly. I'm sure Kelly has gone over this but I feel it is worth repeating due to the importance. DCM's, you should be thinking about when you will be going over the agenda items at your district meeting in March. Keep in mind that your GSR's need time to go back to their groups to discuss it with them as well. So, GSR's, you should also be talking with your groups about when you will want to have your steering committee/group conscience meeting which ever the case may be. Please keep in mind that the area officers and committee chairs may be available to help you go through them. You may want to find out who is closest to your district and get with them. With that being said, it is the responsibility of area officers and committee chairs to be at the WCRASSC so you may want to make your reservation early. There is about one month from the time the agenda items are made available till the time we vote at the Spring Assembly. Please make this a priority for that month. I know you have lives, jobs, kids, hobbies, vacations etc., but, this is something we signed up for so let's put our best foot forward.

In Service
Jim S., Area Chair

Secretary - Rillis E.

Good morning everyone. It's great to see you all again. Since we last met, I have been busy writing the minutes from our fall assembly which are printed in the recent edition of the Northern Light. I attended the Area 35/36 Workshop in St. Cloud last month. It was interesting to learn about the challenges we all face as well as sharing our successes with each other. Finding people willing to get involved with service work is a common problem in both Areas. The Area 35 secretary was responsible for writing the minutes of that meeting and I'm grateful to Jeanne, the Area 36 secretary, for sharing her notes with me. I sent the minutes of the joint workshop to Jim S. and Missy (Area 36 chair). The chairs will decide how they will make those minutes available to everyone or you can ask me for a copy and I will send it to you. I will be attending the Winter Workshop in Bemidji and I look forward to that event every year. I hope you will be there as well. If you will be giving me a paper copy of your report please leave it with me as you leave the podium. Otherwise email your reports to me before January 20th.

In service,
Rillis E.

TREASURER - Christine G. Good morning, I'm Christine, Area Treasure. First I'd like to open with a letter received from GSO in November. "It's on behalf of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous I'd like to express our gratitude for your willingness to participate in the 7th tradition. Without the support of members like you the hand of AA might not reach the suffering alcoholic around the world, or around the block. Yet your contributions of time, money, and services allow the General Service Board and General Service Office to provide the wide range of services both for the alcoholics who are still suffering and those who are trying to reach them with our message of hope and recovery. Please see the attached 7th tradition fact sheet for information. (Fact sheet was in 2 additions ago of the Northern Light which shows services funded by your dollars in the basket) AA needs more than just money and the General Service Board greatly values the time and effort AA members around the world expend in passing it on. Sharing freely what has been given so freely given to them. Simply put our fellowship relies on one alcoholic reaching out to another. The fellowship reflects on gratitude month which is October in Canada and November in the United States. Please accept the thanks from the General Service Board for the contributions you have given in spirit of love and service." The important part of that is not only what we are putting in the basket but also our time and service. It takes all of that for our 7th tradition.

Thank you Melissa, Gayle and I have scheduled our 1st district visit for the agenda items. We will be attending District 15 on 3/6/17 at 8:00 PM. So if anyone else around the District 13 area would like a visit see us otherwise we will be looking at who is around us and well will approach you as well.

I attended the Joint Workshop on November 19th and it was very informative. I can pretty much repeat what Rillis said. Its interesting hearing the battles are

the same. Getting people involved and finding those people just seems to be a challenge. So continue doing what you're doing, it's greatly appreciated and grab a new person and bring them along. The workshop cost Area 35 \$240.37. The cost of coffee was \$146.00 and we took in \$87.00 so coffee ended up costing about \$50.00.

Period 6, which is October 1 through November 30, financial statements were reviewed. If you have questions or want specific explanations please see me.

In Service,
Christine G.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

CPC - Jim T. The simplicity, elegance, and direct purpose of recovery through application of the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous have been stated in many ways by our Co-Founder, Bill W. The most recent statement that has been running through my mind is the nugget:

"It must never be forgotten that the purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to sober up alcoholics. There is no religious or spiritual requirement for membership. No demands made on anyone. An experience is offered which members may accept or reject. That is up to them."

It is difficult to find a better explanation of "free will" as we humans apply it toward recovery from our progressive, fatal disease.

Now, how does this connect to the purpose of the committee assigned to the challenges of Cooperating with the Professional Community? One direct link is that of remembering our primary purpose whenever we reach out to the professionals in our towns and cities. Another indirect link is to remember that, while we seek to assist those professionals we might just be talking to professional who may qualify for our program of recovery.

Last month I sent to 9 county Health and /or Human Services Directors and 9 sheriffs in those counties an invitation to allow CPC to present information during in-house training opportunities. One of our objectives is to share AA's story and particularly how we can relay our many pamphlets to the professional staff. In turn they may enlighten and offer options to their clients. I received an invitation from the Aitkin County Health and Human Services Director to present to that department's in-house training on January 11th. I have been contacted by the Jail Coordinator at Hubbard County and we will soon set a date to present the CPC message to the Sheriff's Department staff. I will coordinate with GSRs and CPC chairs in District 7 and District 21 to prepare presentations.

I am in the process of preparing letters of invitation to the other 28 counties in Area 35. I also seek your cooperation to identify ministerial associations in your communities so that we can work with the clergy throughout the area. I will attend the Area Service Workshop in Bemidji January 14 and 15.

Additional notes from this morning's meeting: There were 3 attendees this morning. CPC and PI chairs and District 8 PI/CPC chair, Sally L. Brief discussion on actions of committees. District 8 will hold a workshop on February 25th in Virginia. Area Chairs have made us available to attend.

District 1 - Leslie H. Our district meetings continue to be every 2nd Sunday of the even months. We meet at the Fertile community center, at 2 pm. Our turn out has not been the best over the summer months due to other commitments. We have our group gathered to speak at the Area 35 Service Workshop in January. And have been meeting on this every month since October. We also have been gathering ideas for our 35th annual Spring Fling on March 11th 2017 at 1pm. This will again be held at the Fertile Community Center, in Fertile. Hope you are all able to attend. I will have flyers on this by our January workshop. We will be having the workshop together with Ala non in our area. Hope to see you all there.

Yours in service,
Leslie Ann H.

District 21 - Jeff L. First, I look forward to seeing everyone at the Bemidji Workshop, January 14th & 15th.

I am super proud of our district this year. We have added more meetings and we have also added more social events, but most importantly, we've gained more members due to member's work practicing 12 step work.

Next weekend, December 10th, we will be showing two videos: "Bill W.'s Story" and how he got started with AA and the story "Alkali Lake". This is the being held at the Alano-Gratitude Hall Club beginning at 10:00 AM. The District will provide the food for this event.

We have plenty of money, books and willing members to continue to spread the message.

Our District held the 4th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Bagely Group. More than 110 people attended. Come and help kick off the holiday season. I look forward to 2017 and the continued growth of our district.

Thanks,
Jeff L.

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Webmaster - Rodney S. Greetings Area 35,

It's always good to be in Aitkin in December. I think there's a sense of relief plus an easy sense of expectancy with the upcoming year—but that's *next year.*; this was the case for me even before I held any Area positions. I believe it to be connected to emotions and activities not just within my A.A. responsibilities, but in my personal life, and to be a continuance of the unconditional acceptance we all experience in the fellowship that is not felt among our closest coworkers or family members.

I attended the joint workshop two weeks ago in St. Cloud. Most of what I shared in our break-out session came at the beginning and consisted of recounting what I was able to do at the beginning of the rotation, what I was not able to do, and how this changed after the conversion to WordPress. I shared that I wouldn't have continued in the position without the conversion. Area 36 was interested in who did the conversion and how long it took to complete.

On listening to the discussion surrounding group records and maintaining meeting databases it would seem that much or most of the delay with meeting information being updated is due to a lack of information on using the proper terms, when new GSR's are asked to fill out meeting information sheets, and this is a result of misinformation during the rotation handovers, but I'm sure Bob will have more to report on that.

I believe he will be doing a presentation on meeting guide, a site that provides assistance with meeting databases on mobile devices. Hopefully the bulb on the projector will last—he pointed out to me at the Fall Assembly that the occasional dimming on the screen during Kelly's presentation was due to the bulb getting hot because it was ready to expire.

I finally met a man at the workshop with whom I have had quite a bit of communication via email, even as Northern Light Editor, some rather frustrating. It was a refreshing and down to earth experience, and as he stated, sometimes he is just the messenger.

A few words on creating flyers:

- ◆ The more time between making a flyer and the event taking place equals a better flyer
- ◆ Include the 3 basics—what?, when?, where? (a bonafide address)
- ◆ Include the group or entity sponsoring the event
- ◆ A few words about other documents and anonymity: Remove last names from files such as minutes (it's not just about you; it's about the association to you that others might make—legitimate or not)

I am looking forward to attending the annual workshop in Bemidji, but as I stated earlier—that's *next year!*

Happier in service, drive safe, and have a Merry Christmas,

Rodney

Literature - Skip D. Good day all,

We had 13 people in attendance this morning, Districts 2,3,6,7,8,12,and 16 were represented.

District 7 the welcome packets are going well, but have slowed down a bit. If you noticed they called them WELCOME packets, (not beginner's packets) I thought that were a nice way to put it. Literature sales are a little slow. District 16 Grand Rapids roundup had \$200.00 in sales. There are some issues with cross talk at some meetings. District 2 was questioning if the District should stock Literature for the groups. District 3 is making literature available at round robins, not much in sales.

District 8 does not keep much in stock for literature, but is getting out the catalogs and letting the groups know how they can order. District 12 ordered a lot of literature for fairs, not much was taken. There was a Health and Wellness Fair with many vendors, a lot of literature for professionals was taken. They also purchased Big Books for the jails in their District. I did attend the Area 35/36 joint workshop in St. Cloud. The literature Chair in Area 36 was talking about; he was able to reduce the Literature to fit in his car. Can I do that?? Travel expense would be a lot less for me. (I was told NO at the podium).

I am looking forward to the Service Workshop in January.

In Service,
Skip D.

District 11 - Sharla W. New DCM, Cindy S-K, will be starting on January 1st. Fellowship Bowling is the third Friday at 7:00 – 11:00 PM. \$11.00 for the evening in Sandstone. Pot luck is on first Saturday of the month at 6:00 P M with both Alanon and AA speakers. Bring something to share.

Report given by:
Gary

District 7 - Liz L. Not present

NORTHERN LIGHT – Steve L. Good morning Ladies and Gentleman,

I'm Steve Lere your Northern Light editor. I apologize for the lack of Northern Light to pass out here. There was a small snafu with Cold Spring Printing on the number of

papers to print. I'm speculating the confusion came from Cold Spring misplaced the mailing list that was emailed to him from Bob which was the purged list of @300 names. Last issue we sent out @300 papers and had @350 printed to be passed out at the fall Assembly. This time the mailing I sent them had @600 names to send out. I asked Cold Spring to print enough to send the 600 and have the 350 to pass out here. So this time I only have 45 papers to pass out. I will do better the next issue with only 650 issues printed instead of 950 that is why the surplus of fliers.

We discussed the distribution of the NL at our meeting with four in attendance. We mail out the NL we place it on our Web site and pass out copies at area meetings. Very over redundant. Do we need to pass out all these copies at the area meetings because are the issues being distributed to the groups. If there are 30 groups in your district and I give you 20 or 30 copies are all 30 groups at your district meeting and do they take a copy, probably not so there is a lot of wasted money.

There were 4 fliers inserted into the Northern Light two for area functions and two paid inserts from round-ups. I did some background improvements to the NL and cleaned up the flier submission section in the paper. Remember the northern light is printed in 256 shades of gray. Flyers that look good in color do not necessary transfer to gray scale.

I attended the joint 35/36 workshop saw lots of cars in the ditch. It was interesting talking with the Pigeon editor (area 36 paper). Look forward to the workshop in January.

Next, I challenge all of the area action chairs, area officers, DCM's and past Delegates to write an article for the Northern Light, not a report of what you did but on why do you do what you do, why is your position important to the Area, District or groups. What challenges, difficulties, rewards and joys you have found and/or addressed in AA?

Now a shameless plug for the GV, my group listened and now sponsors a medical clinic waiting room in Mt Iron with a GV subscription.

Remember the deadline for the next issue on the Northern Light is January 30th.

Humbly,
Steve L.

GROUP RECORDS - Bob B. Much of the FNV database manual should be public knowledge. The directions in this manual would help DCMs and GSRs fill out Group Records forms and updates. The group records forms are confusing. If you have an update just e-mail the update to grouprecords@area3.org.

There is confusion at our Northern Light printer. They lose the mailing list. Steve and I worked together and all contact with the Northern Light printer will be made by our Northern Light editor. I will mail the mailing list to Steve and he will get the updated list to our Northern Light printer.

Meeting Locator: It's been about 5 months since we had updates from area35 for aameetinglocator.org.

At the joint workshop we discussed the need to replace me at the end of 2017. The aameetinglocator software will be 6 years old. We need to start updating aameetinglocator to current software. I made a first pass at converting aameetinglocator to WordPress. A tool still needs to be written to convert the FNV Group Records database to a format that WordPress can use. Work continues.

Bob B.

District 14 - Paul E.

I apologize for not attending the committee meeting but I have been scheduled to work today at the last minute. Since we have had only one meeting since the Fall Assembly there is not a lot to report at this time.

- We are working on getting a list of speakers for the local treatment centers.
- We have had a member step up to become the literature chair and the literature committee has met once to put an order together for distribution to those who have expressed interest in displaying AA literature.
- Our secretary, Cathy C., has resigned as of January 1, 2017. Cathy has been a dedicated member of our district committee and will be missed. We are grateful that Cathy was able to serve as secretary for the last two plus years. We will know at our next district meeting if we have a member to replace her. Thanks again Cathy for your service.
- It was our plan to present a workshop about Anonymity on December 10th but that has been moved to January 7th.
- Our county jail meetings for the men's and women's meetings are well attended and we have several volunteer members sharing running the meetings.
- We are blessed to have members from Fort Frances continue to participate in our district meetings to help carry the message of recovery. We continue to see firsthand that alcoholism has no borders.

Thanks to all those who serve at the District and Area and carry our message to the alcoholic that still suffers.

Yours in Service;
Paul E.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)
District 6 - Renell P. My name is Renell and I am an alcoholic. Greetings from District 6, nestled in the SE corner of Area 35.

Since Fall Assembly our district has met with Roger R. to prepare us for our part in the upcoming workshop in January. Our district put on a workshop on Oct 29th informing AA members of the Service Manual and the different levels and opportunities for service work.

We are planning a Grapevine workshop in the spring.

We continue to have active participation in our committees at the district level. All chair positions are filled. We still have a couple open opportunities at Isanti County jail. I try to keep our PI Chair up to date on meeting schedule changes, so that we have accurate information out in the community and in our groups.

I attended the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop in St. Cloud on 11/29. It was great to meet new friends and I look forward to seeing them again. I thank God for this wonderful program and the opportunity to grow in my service work.

Yours in service,
Renell P.

TREATMENT - Gayle R. Since the Fall Assembly I attended District 4's meeting, Bonnie does a terrific job and her district is well informed. Thank you Kathy, District 4 Treatment Chair, for inviting me to sit in. I have received several requests 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 18 hosted an Area 35 Correction/Treatment workshop with Servando and I. We had about 26 in attendance including those from District 4, 15, 13 & 18. Thank you District 18. I attended Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, we had 9 in our treatment group and I have notes from that session if anyone is interested.

From our committee meeting today, we had 9 present with Districts 12, 3, 18, 4, 15 & 8 represented, along with someone here for the very first time. Rich (temporary treatment chair) from district 12 reported that most treatment centers are covered, a couple that does not allow AA to come in due to reasons such as faith or political. Center for Drugs and Alcohol facilitates a meeting on their format, Step 1, Big Book, basic recovery things and personal stories told. Concern that some clients are in denial, believing that they don't need to be here. Liberalis facility rejected AA, then allowed, then rejected AA again. Teen Challenge in Duluth is Christian based and will not allow clients to go to AA; they are not using a 12 step program. Bethel facility continues to have great attendance at their Saturday night speaker night, over 100 persons at times. The halfway houses that are coming into outside facility AA meeting are welcomed and supported by AA groups. Gene from District 3 stated he is getting temporary contact forms, pamphlets and schedules to facilities. Fargo/Moorhead intergroup is lining up speakers one a month for Red River Recovery Center. More than half of the treatment centers have AA going inside, working on getting in contact with those AA does not go into. Scott from District 18 spoke at a treatment center. A couple of teen centers in Staples are getting AA literature and are showing a positive outside recovery. New Way facility in Long Prairie are looking for male and female speakers. Shared personal story with a small group of teens. Thanksgiving dinner meeting had 76 persons in attendance including 6 teens from treatment. Kathy from district 4 stated New Vision is an inpatient/outpatient center, where there is 7 AA meetings a month going in. Morris facility has 2 AA meeting a month, so a total of 9 AA meeting going into treatment centers a month. The temporary contact program & Bridging the Gap is just getting started. Sharing personal story at a center that has a 6 week program. BR, DCM District 18, reported that Bridging the Gap is great outreach to bring AA's in touch with those inside the treatment facility and its working. AA members are open to those coming from treatment centers and are not chasing them away, we are open and welcome. Pat from District 15 reported Still going in on Friday's to Paynesville facility, all though not much notice when they don't need AA, the facility is lining up own speakers. AA finally got into Sobriety First after working and asking for 1 ½ years, AA is going in the first Monday and will be asking for more times. Waiting on district 13 about our willingness to help at Passages in St Cloud, 3 groups of men going in 3 to 4 times a year. Sara from district 8 stated they have resolved issues with AA members not showing up for their commitments. AA is back in Arrowhead Treatment Center every 8 weeks. Working on getting new people to volunteer. Started the long process of a CPC luncheon for professionals. There is a recovery workshop this week and an Archives workshop next week.

As a group we discussed CPC/Treatment professionals want more information about AA, perhaps a luncheon?? District 8 suggested to District 12 help with Teen Challenge (Duluth) about mentorship requirements with Teen Challenge in Brainerd. We also talked about safety in AA, keeping ourselves safe and more than just physical safe.

Gayle R.

District 18 - BR B. My name is BR B., DCM, District 18. Great turn out from the district for the Area Corrections and Treatment Workshop. The chili and all food were appreciated. An activity Committee is being formed; all who are interested we are meeting 12/06/2016 at the Countryside Restaurant in Long Prairie at 5:30 PM. This is a new committee and we would appreciate all input. The Staples Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Gratitude meeting was a success despite the weather. The last event of the year is the Annual Eagle Bend Holiday Round Robin on 12/11/2016.

Thank you,
B.R. B.

District 12 - Steve E. Good morning Area 35. Rich G., Alt. DCM, and I attended the Area 35/36 joint workshop in St. Cloud. There were several committee chairs and GSR's from our district in attendance also. It was a good experience of sharing ideas and comparing notes as to how we can best reach and be available to the next suffering alcoholic. A big thank you to Chris L. and Rich G. for manning a table with pamphlets and directories at the 34th St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference, on Oct. 13th and 14th in Duluth. We hold our district meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. They rotate between Duluth, Superior, Cloquet and Silver Bay. We approved a motion to purchase 2 billboards for a month in well-traveled areas in Duluth, that will say, "If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help". It will have Duluth Intergroup phone number on it and the area35 website. Also, our PI/CPC committee chair, Rita L., is looking into manning tables at UMD Health Fair, Lake Superior College Health Fair and WITC Health Fair coming up in spring 2017. Temporary Treatment Committee Chair, Rich G., reported that all treatment meetings are covered, but we could use more volunteers for service in chairing 2 evening meetings at Duluth Bethel. Corrections Committee Chair, Frank K., reported that meetings at local jails, correction centers and prison camp are being covered, although more volunteers are always needed. Archives committee chair, Erik P., is looking into having an archive workshop or power point. Happy Holidays to all. Yours in service,

Steve E.

ARCHIVIST - Brad I. Since the Fall Assembly I brought the Archives display to the St. Cloud Round-Up. I had several conversations with attendees about Alcoholics Anonymous history and American history in general. I had an uneventful load out at the end of the evening. I was unable to attend the Joint Workshop due to a personal emergency. I was unable to attend Founders Day due to a bronchitis flare up. I am going to beautiful downtown Pike Sandy to record the District 8 Workshop on Saturday the 10th. I also am invited to bring the display and give a history talk at the Winter Warm-Up in Moorhead. I also am invited to the Thunder Bay Roundup to give a history talk and an Archives Display. As of Today I plan on attending the WCRAASC in Cheyenne.

In the unexpected budget item, the handheld cordless microphone has ceased to work. The only time we really use it is at the Area Committee meetings unless a presenter requests one. We have a cordless lavalier microphone that we could use for these instances. I will leave it up to you. A new one is about 100 dollars.

If your district would like the Area to be a backup to the District Archives please be sure I am on the mailing list for your minutes. I would prefer an electronic version but any version is better than none.

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

ARCHIVES - Steve D. No report

District 8 - Scott M. Greetings Area 35. Things have been picking up in district. Groups in our district have been busy putting on speaker meetings, carrying the message into facilities, and distributing literature. Planning for District workshop underway. We are in the midst of putting together a public information luncheon, albeit, right as we have had a change of leadership on the committee. We are still in need of a secretary as of yesterday. I'm praying that it will be filled this week at our District meeting. In other happenings, our Archives Committee is hosting a workshop in Pike Sandy to celebrate 70 years of AA in Virginia. Also, the Aurora group hosted a recovery workshop with topics presented by various groups in our district, it was well attended. Financially the district is solvent as group contributions have been consistent and generous this past year.

Yours in service,
Scott M.

District 4 - Deb S. Not present

CORRECTIONS - Servando M. November 1st I was invited to share at District 18 on corrections and my experiences. What an awesome turnout they had. I've also shared my experience, which talks a lot about services work, at several different treatment facilities.

This morning's meeting was attended by 10 people representative of districts 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 21. We discussed issues such as collecting information on carrying the message to Native American groups in correctional facilities, getting volunteers to bring meeting into facilities, cooperating with facilities and following their guidelines, and we also discussed information that was brought up at the joint workshop. We also discussed the temporary contact program and how we can utilize this system and communicating with neighboring districts about on district's needs.

Yours in Service,
Servando M.

District 2 - Myron H. Good Afternoon my name is Myron H. and I am an alcoholic, I am the DCM for District 2. We hold meetings on the second Sunday of odd numbered months in Middle River. Our financial situation is very good.

Currently we are working on a presentation for the January workshop. Our topic is 'Fellowship vs. Membership'.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)
This is a quiet time of year in our district with meeting numbers lower than average. We have funds available in a special account for use in supporting a Round-up type event if anyone is interested in spearheading the cause!

Yours in service,
Myron H.

District 13 - Al K. Not present

District 15 - Melissa A. Greetings from District 15,

We have our District meeting the first Monday of every month, located at the Albany Senior Center at 8pm. Our District would like to thank Roger Rudolph for attending our last District meeting in November 1st, I which we discussed certain ideas for the topic we are presenting at the January Workshop. Thank you Roger! We have a new GSR, which is really exciting. I attended the Area 35/36 joint workshop and sat in on the PI/CPC breakout, which was informative, and a lot of fun. Our New Comer packets are complete and our meeting cards can finally be updated and printed. I have been doing my best to keep our Group Records updated. I had the privilege of speaking at Hazelten, which is always an amazing experience. Our Treatment Chair Pat M. is continuing to work with District 4 and District 13’s Treatment Centers. Our District will be discussing holding a workshop this year. I have been slowly traveling to meetings in our District and plan on attending the West Central in Wyoming. Thank you all for continuing to work hard throughout Area 35.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.
Melissa A.

PI-Mark N. We had 3 in attendance at the CPC/PI break out session. The CPC chair and the PI chair and the new district 8 PI chair Sally.

We discussed anonymity at the level of the press with reoccurring anonymity breaks in the Brainerd paper and a local Alano club and a front page obituary of a long standing and influential AA member.

I went over some of the things I will be working on in the near future, meeting with the Brainerd newspaper and putting on presentations on AA 12 traditions at the local Alano clubs. Getting PSA’s to the radio stations.

The report from District 8 was the newly elected PI Chair, Sally is working on updating meeting schedules, updating beginners meeting financial report and ordering literature, planning a PI luncheon, asking groups to adopt a library and schools, attending the upcoming Area 35 winter workshop in Bemidji, MN and maintain the Districts phone line which rotates to a new person every 2 months.

Things I am and have been working on are, covering 2 shifts on the AA Central Lakes help line, attending the local District 7 committee meetings getting out to the Area 35 District committee meetings. I was able to attend District 18’s committee meeting on Dec. 6th in Long Prairie MN, Tim C. our past delegate went along and we were able to get two people from the Little Falls Alano to attend as well. I finally set up an Area 35 Public Information’s group mailing list of which this will be the first mailing, if you know of someone who should be added to this list or want to be taken off let me know. Thank you for your time.

Yours in Service,
Mark N.

Post Script: If anyone has something in their districts or anywhere in Area 35 Northern MN that thinks I can be of assistance please contact me at this e-mail charboymark@gmail.com , I am at your service.
When anyone anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible

District 9 - Kathy R. Not present

District 5 - Jon S. Not present

GRAPEVINE – Paul M. We had seven districts represented this morning with 13 people in attendance. Some districts elected new Grapevine reps for their groups and sold some subscriptions. I have a lot of books for sale for stocking stuffers here today. Also, calendars and pocket planners. If any round up or open meeting wants Grapevine Literature there please contact me. Also please send in your order cards. I placed an order for \$594.62 and sold about \$160.75 this morning. Please let me know your needs.

Thank you.
Paul M.

District 3 – Brian P. District 3 meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Alano Club in Detroit Lakes. 3 Round Robins since we met last. Attended a Round Robin in Moorhead, Wadena, and Ottertail. Plenty of food and fellowship. Attendance has been good at all the Round Robins averaging about 60 people.

We have had lots of discussion about our District 3 Roundup scheduled for Aug 19th. Trying to get better attendance from the District. We have decided to go to a rotating location and having the groups get involved in the planning and helping with the day’s events. We still have two positions open, CPC/PI and Corrections. The other committee members are doing a great job

at their positions. We have a Round up in March in Moorhead on the 10, 11, and 12th.

Yours in Service
Brian P.

District 16 – Mike F. No report

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Guide-Bob B. reported that at the last assembly a proposal was made for a 6 month trial of AA Meeting Guide which several states and areas are using. To get the app go the either the Apple or Android app store. Bob used a power point to demonstrate the app and also provided a flyer. Meetings need to be registered to be listed in the app and it updates within 24 hours. Area 36 voted yesterday to use this tool. There is no software the area would need to maintain.

OLD BUSINESS

FOC Report-Jim K. asked for applause for the excellent job Christine is doing as our treasure. All monies are present and accounted for.

Web Master and Group Records-addressed in new business

District 5 Proposal-Kelly D. read a letter from Rick W., the communications person at the GSO, regarding the research he has done and the technical challenges regarding the online meeting finder and will send the information to Greg T. for his review.

WCRARASC-Kelly D. has sent an updated directory to Mary. Registration can be done on line, the dead line in February 16, 2017. Kelly will need to be there one day earlier than the rest of us. Kelly will email the preliminary agenda items as they become available to her.

Fall Assembly Evaluations-addressed by Jim S. in Chair report

Statewide Joint Corrections Committee-Heidi reported she and Doreen attended the Joint Corrections meeting at the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop. 86% of all felons convicted in Minnesota are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, 68% are alcohol related. Discussed draft guidelines for the Statewide Corrections Committee as well as the Transition Coalition and ways to improve communication. New corrections video was discussed, is currently streaming on AA.org. Other topics discussed correspondence program, Bridging the Gap conference, and the Pink Can. Area 36 stated they currently covers all the literature going into facilities. They proposed Area 35 pay 25% of the cost but the cost in unknown; Heidi has asked for more information.

Northern Light-Jim S. reported the Area Actions Guideline in 1985 states we are to produce 1000 copies of the Northern Light every 2 months and distribute them to GSRs, DCMs, Delegate, Past Delegates, Area Committee chairs and Area Officers. A discussion followed as to how many copies we should print. Bob B. has reduced the mailing list from the 600s down to the 300’s and 350 copies are brought to the Aitkin Committee Meeting and other events. Bob uses the GSO data base for Northern Light mail list for GSRs. If the box “receives mail” on the GSO form is not checked ‘yes” you won’t be on the list to receive a Northern Light. We have approximately 600 groups in our area. Comments were made supporting the idea of reducing the amount of copies printed especially since it is available online. One person was cut from the list and wants to get back on. A motion was made to print 500 copies of the Northern Light every 2 months and it was seconded. Discussion on the motion followed: The online version does not have phone numbers or addresses. Same issue came up a few years ago and price to print 1000 was the same as to print 500. This is a tool for groups to have an informed group conscience and it also carries the AA message. Voting took place and the motion failed. No changes made to the number of Northern Lights to be printed. Suggestions made to update group records or use a different data base for mailing list.

Calendar of Events-See Northern Light and Area 35 website
Adjourn-

Volunteer

I have been sober sixteen years & eleven months by the grace of God; and I say this to be an encouragement that even older-timers can get involved in service. When my meeting was lacking a GSR for a few months, I heard myself volunteer. When my district was going to do a presentation at this workshop, again I heard myself volunteer.

Sitting in front of the workshop audience, my heart relaxed as it became very apparent that these people are like me and I belong. There is a fellowship and goodness among us. Meeting others from our area was enriching and I am grateful for this experience. I gained the most from members sharing their experiences and solutions from their groups.

Thank you for the effort of putting this workshop together. It fed my heart and soul!

Thank you,
Phyllis K
Sat Am Group Hibbing, MN

GSR Reports

Our GSR reports are great, but they are aimed at the wrong audience. Telling an audience that you celebrate varying lengths of sobriety, you serve the best coffee, and you talk about the steps and traditions is great information for the newcomer, but it is not what a room full of GSRs need to hear. This is the type of report that you would give to an audience at a non-AA meeting.

For example, if you were speaking to patients in a treatment program, or a group of professionals, you would want to share information about your home-group. Thus, your talk might go something like this...

"To tell you a little bit about my home-group - The Late to Life Group is made up of members with just a few days to 20 plus years of sobriety. We average 15 to 20 people weekly. Our topics of discussion are on the steps and traditions and we have two open topics each month. We are an open meeting of AA and all are welcome.

This type of information would be useful to the newcomer or the professional who is looking for a group to refer his/her patient. However, a GSR report to an audience of other GSRs and District Chairs is something a little different. A GSR report might go something like this:

Hi, I'm Jim the GSR for the Way Too Early Monday Morning Group. Currently, my group is involved with service work by bringing a meeting into Journey Home on Monday night and Clara's House on Tuesday night. Additionally, members of the group bring a meeting into the Stearns County Jail on Thursday night.

This type of information is vital to the district because it tells us where we have coverage in those areas/institutions where we “carry the message” (Fifth Tradition). Moreover, it also helps us identify the gaps in our coverage.

To illustrate, there was a group that was putting on a meeting at Detox on Thursday nights for years, but their GSR had never mentioned it at the District meeting. One year the District voted in a new Treatment Chair. This treatment chair wanted to make sure we were carrying the message to Detox and thus set-up a meeting in Detox for Thursday night. Imagine the awkwardness when the facilitators showed up on the same evening at the same time. It was a classic case of the left-hand not knowing what the right was doing.

To further illustrate, the Veterans Stand Down will take place this April. I have reached out to the Stand Down planning committee on several occasions to see if they wanted AA information made available at the Stand Down. They said they had a representative from AA who staffed a booth for them, but in respect to the Anonymity tradition, they couldn't tell me who that person was.

Recently the PI Committee found out who that person is. We were able to offer that person the use of a literature rack for the AA booth during the Stand Down. Now, not only will we have coverage at the Stand Down, but the veterans who attend the Stand Down will have access to AA literature.

On the other end of the spectrum, the GSR report might sound something like this...

"Hi, my name is Sally and I'm the GSR for the XXX AA Group. My group isn't involved in service work, we are losing home-group members and we haven't had a newcomer in weeks".

Now the District has an opportunity to respond and to help the GSR. Although there is no requirement for a group to "carry the message", our experience has shown us that those groups that are active in service work usually have a lively and vibrant corps of home-group members. Furthermore, our experience has shown us that groups who do "carry the message" usually have a steady flow of new members into the group.

Thus, the District's response to Sally might sound something like this.

DCM: "Sally, thanks for sharing that. There are a few of us here who have been in similar situations. If you could stay after the meeting for a few minutes, we can share experiences with you of how we dealt with similar circumstances.”

Other reports a GSR might give to the District meeting:
“Hi, I'm Jim the GSR for The Late Tuesday Group. My group is putting on an Open Meeting Potluck Supper on the last Tuesday of this month. All are invited to bring a dish and come here our speaker Jeff X from Wherever, USA. That’s all I got for this month”.

This is important information especially for the PI and the CPC chair. Open meetings are great ways to “carry the message”. When the PI and CPC chair learn of speaker meetings they can extend an invitation to professionals who cooperate with AA. Those professionals in turn can extend the invitation to their patients/clients who might be interested in AA, but don't have a “desire to stop drinking” (Third Tradition).

So, why all this insistence and talk on “carrying the message”?

Any solid organization that will stand the test of time has a mission state-
(Continued on page 15)

Being Afraid.....

I remember when I came into AA, I was so scared and afraid that I couldn't go through a drive thru window at a fast food place. Actually, I was pretty much afraid of everything. But my sponsor kept telling me it would get better. Better then I ever imagined. So I kept trying, I would go to meetings and meeting new people. Trying as best I could to make friends. By the time I became DCM for District 3 I had some time under my belt and had a good group of friends. I felt secure and happy with them. But, I also felt like there was more.

So, when I became DCM I had to chair these district meetings. People I had never met before were now looking at me to lead these meetings. OMG, I remember the first DCM report I gave in Aitkin. I had just found out the day before that our current DCM couldn't make it and as the newly elected Alt DCM it was my job to go. Well, I really wasn't going to go, but the member of the district that told me about going said to pick him up in Perham on my way to Aitkin. So, as you can imagine I couldn't get out of this. I have no idea what I said in my report but I do remember hardly being able to read my report as my hand was shaking so terribly I couldn't read what I wrote. But, I made it through. I didn't die, people didn't laugh, I even met a few people. So, 12 short months later District 3 had it's first Roundup. I had come to Area committee meetings and Assemblies, as I should, I had fallen into a rhythm with chairing the district meeting. I had been able to get out to different meetings throughout the district trying to round up some interest in participating in district. Sidebar, I remember going to a meeting in Deerwood I think, and after the meeting I asked if I could have a few moments to talk about district. So I did my dog and pony act about how the district could help, what the meeting could do to help out at the district so on and so forth only to be told afterwards that their new GSR was sitting pretty much right next to me and basically I wasted their time. Point being, always make your mistakes in front of people so they can have a good laugh, even if you can't about it.

So back to the first Round Up, I was standing with the main speaker who was kind of a rock star in Fargo/Moorhead. As we talked people would walk by and say Hi to me, chat a little bit and move on. After a bit the speaker turned to me and asked, “Who don't you know here?” I thought for a second and realized I knew everyone. I still get emotional thinking about that. Here I was in Ottertail Lake, with a bunch of people I have never seen before until a short year ago and I knew them all. I was so grateful to have all these people in my life. I felt so at home like I had never felt before. Then my opportunity to serve Area 35 came and I met another whole new group people and my circle of friends grew even more. I'm still afraid, I'm still scared, but with the group of friends I have developed I know that I am never alone.

Willing to Donate

To my Fellowship brothers and sisters,

As I was leaving Bemidji and the January 2017 Area 35 Workshop I wrote down a few thoughts before heading back to Hallock.

Nearly 100 people were at this event. It was another experience in my journey to a better life. Many people attending, I had met before. I also met some new people. I seem to easily forget how much I get out of these events. Honestly, I wasn't looking forward to another weekend away from home. But of course, I went.

Seeing nearly 100 others willing to donate a weekend of time to come to Bemidji, not to fish, not to play, not to vacation, but to help AA and its members carry the message of Hope to other alcoholics, reminds me that there is much love and dedication in our Fellowship.

During the meeting I met someone who needed information I have, because of where I live and people I know. This information will help her clear the wreckage of her past and move forward. A very small thing on my part but a big deal for her! I was exactly where I was suppose to be at this time.

Anyone who turns up his or her nose to service work is missing out on a huge spiritual gift! Thank you AA for the midwinter morale boost.

Yours in service,
Myron H.

P.S.
Days before the workshop,bitter cold and nasty
First day of the meetings,sunny and much milder
Coincidence?

AA Tomorrow

Clearly our first duty to AA's future is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this. Never should we be lulled into complacent self-satisfaction by the wide acclaim and success that is everywhere ours. This is the subtle temptation which could stagnate us today, perchance disintegrate us tomorrow. We have always rallied to meet and transcend failure and crisis. Problems have been our stimulants. How well, though, shall we be able to meet the problems of success?

Bill W.

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.

Anonymity on the Internet

I have been very down about a very important aspect of our Fellowship. It really saddens me to see how little our Traditions mean to some people anymore. I am speaking of anonymity breaks on the internet, in blogs, articles, and on Facebook in particular. Facebook is not anonymous. The closest thing there is to anonymity on Facebook is a secret, closed, invitation-only group, according to the Internet Guidelines published by AAWS. Our Traditions are about protecting our fellowship from ourselves and our egos. Posting AA anniversaries and photos is breaking anonymity and may be preventing someone from seeking help, or may chase some newcomer away from our program. Posting something alluding to a person's sobriety birthday and not mentioning AA, while not breaking the letter of Tradition 11, I believe breaks it in spirit. The poster is likely to receive congratulatory comments from people who say things like, "Congratulations! I am so glad you had recovery in AA and were able to share it with me. I don't know what I would have done without you as my sponsor!" or "Happy Anniversary! Congratulations on 15 years of sobriety." I have seen this happen. All of the Facebook friends of the poster can see the comments and may just assume that the commenters are in recovery. Maybe they will think that anonymity no longer applies. There might be a friend of the poster who is not in recovery and may someday need our help, but who will not seek it for fear of people finding out.

Our Traditions were developed through experience. The early AA's learned the hard way that we could harm AA by letting our egos get too big. I know that for myself, getting kudos can lead to feelings of self-importance, grandiosity, etc. For this reason, I only celebrate my AA birthdays at my home group, and then only to show others that this program works, a fact I need to keep foremost in my thoughts as I get birthday hugs. I do not even use AA jargon online because people outside the Fellowship are getting to know our lingo. If I want to congratulate someone, I send them a private message.

Human Resources personnel look online before hiring new staff. They may check out a potential hire's Friends list, visit some of the Friends' pages, and see the AA references. Maybe they will pass on hiring that person because they think maybe they are a risk with a drinking problem, or maybe they have a problem themselves and won't seek help. There might be employees in their organization and be reluctant to refer them to AA because of the lack of anonymity. Who knows what the ramifications could be? We need to think before we post.

Facebook is not anonymous. A good criteria for deciding whether to post something is to ask, "Would I put this in a newspaper, on the radio, or on television?" The internet is no different. While it is good to not be ashamed anymore, keeping our anonymity at the public level is vital to the survival of our Fellowship and to the future members who may need us someday, including our kids and grandkids.

Tradition 11 in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions states, " This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in AA. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship."

Sally L.
Embarrass, MN

Experience with Service Work

At December committee meeting in Aitkin and again at the Service Workshop, Steve L. asked members to write articles for the Northern Light. Jim S. and I made an agreement to each write an article for this addition of our newsletter. Therefore, I'd like to share a little about my experience with service work.

When I first came to AA and heard about service work I thought it was reserved for people with years and years of sobriety, people with vast amounts of experience, strength, and hope. But when I started working with a sponsor one of her requirements was that I have job at my home group. At the time, my home group was a woman's meeting in the church next to Marty Mann, the half-way house I was living in at the time. I volunteered to make coffee for the group and then wondered what I had gotten myself into! What if the coffee wasn't done on time, what if it was too strong or worse what if it was too weak? When I told my sponsor about my new commitment, she thought it was great and told me it would be a good way to meet new people. I hadn't thought about that, I would have to socialize too!! My fear of people and making bad coffee lessen over the next several weeks and I even started to enjoy experience. I felt a sense of purpose, I was responsible, and I was doing something for other people-all things I was not too familiar with in those days. I got to know other women at the meeting and they got to know. All these things help me to stay sober. One time I had a conversation with a woman who was attending her first AA meeting. She was amazed I had been sober for nearly 3 months and asked how I did it. I outlined the program I was working and she thought she might be able to do that too. I had shared the AA message of hope and recovery even though I didn't realize it at the time. Eventually I had to rotate out of that position which was tough because now I would have to find a new job, which meant I was going to feel uncomfortable again. Change was extremely difficult back then (and sometimes even now) but my sponsor pointed out that getting out of my comfort zone was just what I needed to do if I was going to grow spiritually. Today I understand the importance of rotating out of service positions. If I don't rotate

(Continued on page 15)

Faith Based PI Report

Background: AA has lost touch with one of its original referral bases – namely the *Faith Based Community. Our co-founder Bill W. got in touch with Dr. Bob as a result of reaching out to a faith organization. After her work with Dr. Bob, Sister Ignatia Gavin is estimated to have worked with over 10,000 alcoholics in the fledgling days of our fellowship. However, according to AA's 2014 membership survey only 1% of people attending AA say they came to the program through the suggestion of someone in the Faith Based Community.

Premise: We have become too dependent on the mental health community for referrals to AA and we have forgotten the importance of keeping in contact with our Faith Based Leaders and Communities.

Summary: On January 9, 2017 three members of the Dist. 13 PI Committee traveled to NE Minneapolis to conduct a PI workshop for 17 Chaplains of the Minnesota National Guard. The workshop consisted of information about AA, the AA video "Hope", and an opportunity for the Faith Based Leaders assembled to discuss how they could work with AA and how AA can better cooperate with Faith Based organizations. Here are the suggestions from the Chaplains on how AA could better cooperate with the Faith Based Community:

Recommend AA members meet with their Faith Leaders and let them know about AA.

- a) Place AA literature in the places where they worship.
- b) Give AA talks at Faith Based Organizations before, during, or after worship.
- c) Provide AA literature to Faith Based Leaders

Since Chaplains are also members of the military, they also had these following suggestions of how AA can better cooperate with the military community:

- a) Place notices of AA meetings in Armories.
- b) Provide information to local military leaders on how to get in touch with AA.
- c) Military members have mandatory briefings on alcoholism and substance abuse; speak to local military leaders about presenting information about AA during those mandatory briefings.
- d) Make AA information available to military leaders and their subordinates.
- e) Have an AA table at reintegration events (i.e. when Service-Members are returning from home deployments or have AA literature available during Veteran Stand-Down events).
- f) Have AA information available at the military sponsored marriage retreat weekends.
- g) Make and distribute posters that have information on how to get in contact with AA; e.g., a poster that has AA.org, AA meeting locator website, and the AA hotline number on it.

In conclusion, the entire workshop lasted 75 minutes. The Chaplains were very enthusiastic about working with AA and were very grateful for the information that was presented to them.

Yours in Service,

JD, Dist. 13 PI Chair.

*Note: Faith Based Community is a non-denominational term to describe any spiritually oriented organization.

AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

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

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 for printable flyers

| | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| March : | 3rd– 5th : WCRAASC Radisson Hotel 204 West Fox Farm Road Cheyenne, Wyoming | April : | 1st & 2nd : Area 35 Spring Assembly * Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge 25039 Tame Fish Road Deerwood, MN |
| | 11th-13th : 36th Annual Winter Warm-Up * Comstock Memorial Union 615 14th St S, Moorhead, MN (14th Street & 6th Avenue South) | | 21st & 23nd : Area 35 Spring Assembly Holiday Inn 1201 Torgerson Dr, Fairmont, MN |
| | 17th - 19th : Big Ole Round-Up* Holiday Inn 5637 Hwy. 29 S Alexandria, MN | May: | 5th - 7th : Iron Range Get-Together Sawmill Inn 2301 S Pokegama Ave Grand Rapids, MN |
| | 24th & 25th : 38th Winter Rap-Up* Mt. Iron Community Center 8586 Enterprise Dr. S. (just off Hwy 169) | | 5th & 6th : Alcoholics Anonymous SYMPOSIUM FargoDome 1800 N University Drive, Fargo ND |
| | 30^t^h : TNYPAA Open Speaker Meeting And Potluck St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7th Ave NE St. Cloud, MN | | |

(Continued from page 13)
ment. It is what keeps the organization focused and on path. A good mission statement helps the organization from going off on tangents and prevents mission creep. Carrying the message (Fifth Tradition) is AA’s mission statement.

But in our case it is not only about the longevity and welfare of the organization, it also goes to individual survival. Note this quote at the start of chapter seven of our Big Book:

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics!”

And so not only does our fifth tradition remind us that each group has but one primary purpose, but our twelfth step reminds us that the best way to stay sober is by giving away that which was “freely given to us”.

JD, PI Chair
District 13

(Continued from page 14)
out I am denying someone else the experience of service work and I prevent myself from finding out what God have planned for me next.

That was my first service position and since then I have done a variety of service work at the group level as well as the district and area levels. Service work is anything we do to reach the still suffering alcoholic: providing literature at health fair, sponsorship, giving rides, answering phones, involvement in general service, speaking at treatment or correctional facilities, working with professionals, greeting the newcomer just to name of few. There are several reasons why I do service work. One of the reasons is because I am grateful AA was available to me when I finally accepted I could not get sober on my own. It’s one of the ways I pass on what was so freely given to me. I also feel it’s my responsibility to do what I can to insure AA is available to future generations of alcoholics. Things I have received from doing service are increased patience and humility. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with people that share the same passion for helping others to recovery from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

Rillis E.



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

December 15, 2016

Deadline to receive proposed Agenda Items from Area 35 to Delegate

February 15, 2017 (week of)

Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office

February 26, 2017

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

March 3-5, 2017

Agenda Items are discussed at the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne, WY

April 1-2, 2017

Agenda Items are discussed at the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Deerwood, MN

April 23-29, 2017

Delegate attends the General Service Conference in Rye, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Kelly D.
Area 35 Panel 66 Delegate
kellydempski35@hotmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

Fargo-Moorhead Intergroup Presents:
1ST ANNUAL 2017

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SYMPOSIUM



MAY 5TH & 6TH
FARGODOME

1800 N University Drive
Fargo, ND 58102

The Fargo-Moorhead Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous welcomes you to attend our 1st Annual Alcoholics Anonymous Symposium! This two-day event will provide a comprehensive view of Alcoholics Anonymous for professionals and the public, as well as provide further insight to members of AA: how to get involved and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in the F-M area.

For more information email:
fargomoorhead.intergroup@gmail.com

FRIDAY

1-4PM

INFORMATION FOR
PROFESSIONALS
Including sharing from our
General Service Office General
Manager

7PM

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING
Dustin L. (Bismarck, ND)

SATURDAY

10 AM

AA SERVICE STRUCTURE

1 PM

CARRYING THE MESSAGE:
INSTITUTIONS

3PM

LOCAL SERVICE:
PI/CPC

5PM

DINNER BREAK

7PM

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING
Greg T. (New York, NY)

TICKETS: \$10
(AT THE DOOR)

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 or call 970-226-5533 to arrange for **Gold Line Shuttle**. DIA pick-up located at east side of terminal, Door 507, Island 5.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Friday, March 3rd | 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 | 8:45p Break |
| 3:30p Early Bird Meeting | 10:00a GSC Agenda Items II | 9:00p GSC Agenda Items IV |
| 7:00p Opening and Welcome | 11:30a Lunch (on your own) | |
| Meet the Delegates/Area Highlights | 12:45p Breakout Sessions | |
| Meet the Trustee/Report | 1:45p Break | |
| 8:00p General Session 1--"Growth" | 2:00p Breakout Sessions | Sunday, March 5th |
| 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 |
| | 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 _____



The Twenty-Third Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend

April 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, 2017

Holiday Inn
Fairmont, Minnesota
Email: sotsweekend@gmail.com

Becoming a Part of the Common Solution

Our Primary Purpose

We, of the Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend, hope to carry the message that recovery, unity, and service are life essential elements of any spiritual program.

It is our goal that as our guests leave the weekend's events, each will better understand the potential for applying the principles, found in both the AA and AI-Anon programs, in their home, community, and the world around them.

Hampton Inn
507-235-2626

Comfort Inn
507-238-5444

Holiday Inn
507-238-4771

Super 8
507-238-9444

Special Room Rate — Up to 4 persons per room

Please call the hotel directly and identify yourself as being with the Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend when calling for reservations.

Register online at: www.sotsweekend.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
Name wanted on badge _____
Home Group _____

☐ AA ☐ AI-Anon ☐ Alateen ☐ Friend
\$16 Pre-registration (before April 1, 2017)
\$19 at the door

Mail to: Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend
P.O. Box 748, Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-0748
Your cancelled check is your receipt

Friday, April 21st

5:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. Marilu T., Palmyra, VA - AFG
9:00 p.m. Mike M., Cedar Rapids, IA - AA
Ice Cream/Pie Social**

Saturday, April 22nd

8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet** - Meet the Speakers
10:00 a.m. Nancy B., Denton, TX - AFG
2:00 p.m. Speakers Sponsorship Panel
4:00 p.m. Open Big Book Meeting
7:00 p.m. Doug M., Atlanta, GA - AA
9:00 p.m. Andrea C., Larkspur, CO - AA
Ice Cream/Pie Social**

Sunday, April 23rd

9:00 a.m. Traci M., Atlanta, GA - AA

**At your own expense

REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone _____
Name wanted on badge _____
Home Group _____

☐ AA ☐ AI-Anon ☐ Alateen ☐ Friend
\$16 Pre-registration (before April 1, 2017)
\$19 at the door

Mail to: Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend
P.O. Box 748, Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-0748
Your cancelled check is your receipt

FPF 2006S

Thursday Night Young People in AA (TNYPAA) Announces an: Open Speaker Meeting and Potluck

Come join TNYPAA for food, fun and
fellowship – March 30, 2017.



St. Cloud, MN

Speaker: Paul S.

Potluck: 5:30 pm

Meeting: 6:30 pm.



"Nothing improves if you drink."

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. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

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

Northern Light Editor,
Steven L.

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

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

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

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

4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). 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 30th : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
 - ◆ March 6th : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
 - ◆ May 1st : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
 - ◆ July 10th : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
 - ◆ September 5th : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
 - ◆ November 6th : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

OUR PAST DELEGATES

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

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">Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems. |

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

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 sep-

arately 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 dis-

- putes 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
Sunday February 26th

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| <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>_____ Dec ACM Minutes</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 –</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 – Kathy R.</div><div>_____ District 5 – Jon S.</div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Paul M.</div></div> | <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>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ FOC Report</div><div>_____ Annual Workshop</div><div>_____ Joint Workshop Evaluations</div><div>_____ Spring Assembly</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</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