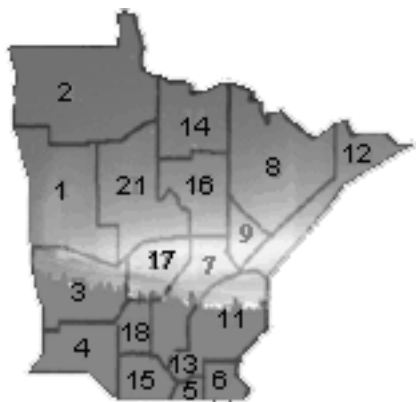
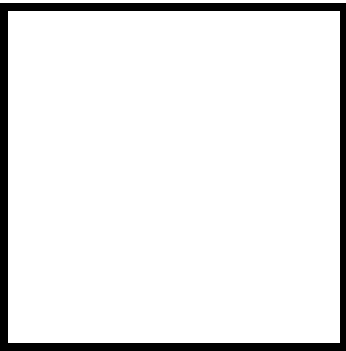


Change Service Requested



Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
May 1st, 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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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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Regular Articles</u>		<u>Guest Views</u>	
Page 2	2017 Area 35 Committee	Page 8	70 Years in Virginia, MN
Pages 3 – 8	Area Officers and Committee Chair Reports	Page 8	A Time to Step Down
Page 7	Area Committee Meeting Map	Page 9	A.A. Guide Lines Safety and A.A.
Page 10	District Map/District Zone Breakdown	Pages 17 - 19	41 st Area 35 Workshop Report
Page 10	District Meeting Location Information		
Pages 11 - 15	Area 35 Meeting Minutes		
Page 15	Inclement Weather Procedure		
Page 16	Upcoming Events in Area 35		
Page 16	Agenda Deadline Dates		
Page 20	Upcoming Events Fliers in Area 35		
Page 21	Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light		
Page 21	Northern Light Submissions		
Page 21	N.L. Editorial Position		
Page 21	N.L. Committee & Primary Purpose		
Page 22	Our Past Delegates		
Page 22	The Delegate’s Duties		
Page 23	Twelve Concepts for World Service		
Page 23	Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous		
Page 24	Area 35 Committee Meeting Agenda		

AREA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

As I am writing this I have just returned from our WCRAASC in Cheyenne, WY. What an amazing weekend it was with 340 in attendance, wow! I arrived Thursday evening at 5:30 pm after my flight into Denver and then my 2-hour ride on the shuttle. I then attended the Delegates only meeting at 7:00 pm. Tom A. our WCR Trustee had a full Agenda for us to discuss. Including our WCR existing projects and items that have occurred within our Region which consisted of a Finance presentation, updates to the WCR guidelines with a drop box setup for the Delegates, electronic contributions; assistance with CMP and indigenous Correction work. We also discussed the restart of the Regional Reporter (a past newsletter within our region) and a possible Regional Website. It was decided that those two topics would be discussed further the following day in the Delegates and Past Delegates meetings to get their thoughts on the subjects.

I then attended those meetings from 10-12:00 pm and again from 1:30-3:30 pm on Friday. What came out of the discussion about the newsletter and website is that it was something that we could look at doing but would need more details on who and how. There will be more information to follow on those subjects. Tom also gave us an update on the GSO and his assignments as Trustee. He has been a very busy man and has done some amazing work within his Committees! We ended our meeting with those that wish to share their experience when attending the GSC and any “advice” for us current Delegates. Some great experiences and stories were shared, thank you past Delegates!

We opened the weekend activities at 7:00 pm Friday evening with the introduction of us 8 Delegates along with the 4 incoming Panel 67 Delegates giving their two-minute highlights of their Areas. We then had our first presentation by Area 40 Montana on the topic “Growth.” It was a great presentation that left me with a lot to think about as I am sure it did others. We then started in with the 2017 Agenda Items and finished off the day with an ice cream social.

We started our day on Saturday morning. With another presentation from Area 24 Iowa on “Participation” another great presentation done by that Area. Then it was one to Agenda Items again. After lunch we had the breakout sessions on the Committees. Although I did not attend the PI/CPC session I was told that Mark our Area 35 PI Chair did a good job moderating that session. Thanks again Mark for taking on the task for our Area. I attended the Delegates/Trustees breakout session. We came up with a couple of questions for discussion, which did included experiences of individuals that had attended a GSC. It was nice to see other individuals from other Regions in this meeting too and added to the discussion. The third presentation on “Contributions” was then held after a break with Area 36 Southern Minnesota, another great presentation. We were then back to discussing Agenda Items again as a body until dinner. After dinner we held our Open Speaker Meeting and Ivan L. Class A Trustee (non-alcoholic) federal judge was our speaker. What a wonderful story from a man that truly loves Alcoholics Anonymous! There were tears and plenty of laughs shared by us all when he spoke. Although I was not able to attend Thursday morning he also did a talk in two different time slots to the professional community in the Cheyanne area, which included many professional individuals, I heard 70 in total. This was a planned event; the committee did a lot of work on in preparation to make it successful. There was a news right up the following morning on their front page in their local paper on this event. I did not get a chance to read it but I heard it was amazing and do plan on going to the internet to read it, I encourage everyone to do the same. We may even see a copy of that article floating around our Area because I do believe that individuals have a copy of it. We then finished the Agenda Items that evening which only took until 11:15 pm surprising with the volume we had to go over! The Agenda Items dealing with Social Media (Linkedin, Twitter, Google For Non-Profit and Facebook) proved to be important hot topics for our WCR to discuss. I encourage everyone to read all the background material on these topics and ask yourself this, will adding Alcoholics Anonymous on social media to any one of these be breaking any of our 12 Traditions? Are we willing to be safeguards of all of our Traditions?

Sunday morning arrived with the last presentation from Area 52 North Dakota on “Anonymity” another great presentation. Tom our WCR Trustee decided it would be “a great idea” if the current Delegates answered the ask-it-basket questions (we all know that our past Delegates do this in our Area). Although it may not have been too well received at first from some of us nervous Delegates (well for sure me) that wanted to just relax after a busy weekend, we graciously accepted and it went well with some great questions asked. Thanks Tom!

We finished up the conference by hearing their experiences from Gary K., Ken B., Carl B., (all past West Central Region Trustees), Bob M. past Trustee East Central Region and Dorothy past Trustee-At-Large, US/Canada East Central Region. It made for a great end to a great weekend of business and fellowship!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary and our host committee Area 76 Wyoming for all their hard work on putting this Conference together and wish Area 24 Iowa the best in their planning for our next one that will be held there in 2018. A special thank you to Ivan our guest speaker, Tom our WCR Trustee, all the presenters, speakers and the Delegates for their work on the Agenda Items. We are a part of a great region in Alcoholics Anonymous and I am grateful for everyone that serves past and present to make it just

that! Last I would like to wish all the Delegates the best of luck as they carry their Areas voice to our upcoming GSC in April.

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

Alt. Delegate:

It was good to see Area Officers and Chairs, DCM’s and District Chairs at the February Area Committee Meeting. At that meeting Kelly D., our Delegate did a nice job getting conference background materials out to the Area. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Spring Assembly in early April. We are working on setting up a Zonal Forum in June is Zone 2. Due to family emergency, I was unable to attend the WCRAASC this year. I am working on reviewing all of the background materials in my role as backing up our Delegate.

In service,
Roger
Area 35 Alternate Delegate.

Area Chair:

Hi Everyone,

I want to thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, WY this past weekend. This is a fantastic event and if you have the chance to attend one, you will not regret attending. By the way, there is a Regional Forum this September in Sioux Falls, SD. Below are the notes I took from the various workshops and presentations I attended. I hope these notes are beneficial, as I have not expanded upon them, they are my thoughts as they happened.

From what I have watched over the day there are a number of items that created some passionate discussion. We would be well prepared to be ready for the same at the spring assembly. I am always amazed at the opinions and insights people have regarding these agenda items. Some are procedural and some are spiritual in nature. There is an item that will come up regarding a 60 day period of where committees can do business, as opposed to not be able to do business at any other time of the year, but some committees have a 60 day time period while others do not.

There is a tremendous amount of information and I hope you and your groups, districts etc. are setting aside plenty of time to go through these.

The discussion ended up being quite long, but not entirely as a result of the amount of discussion, but the moderator not keeping the conversation on track. I don't bring this up as a back handed way of criticizing them, but a result of an observation someone gave me in regards to the spring assembly. The observation was that the moderator likely is so wrapped up in the discussion they aren't able to pay attention to the amount of time being spent on the topic. So, it was brought up to me that at the spring assembly while Kelly is going through the items that another person pay attention to time and whether the conversation is getting a little long. This isn't about shutting down constructive conversation but being manageable with our time. We started out Friday night with Agenda, but CPC ended up taking the rest of the night and all but 10 minutes of Saturday morning. When we went into corrections, it seemed like people were just running through the items as they realized how time this could ended up taking. This isn't the path to spiritual consensus. It seems like everything we do must be done in moderation. So I will be coordinating with Kelly at the assembly about having someone helping with maintaining the flow of conversation.

It was apparent the fellowship is dead set on have some sort of social media representation as we discussed items dealing with Twitter and Google again. Most of the negatives against these items surrounded around the inability to protect anonymity. Social media is all about marketing and marketing is the opposite of anonymity. If there ever comes a day where anonymity is something these platforms could off, I would be in favor of them. Until that time comes, my opinion is interested, but not now.

As always this was a great experience. I met with the new Area Chair of 36 and we are looking at the same time frame for the Joint Workshop as last year, Nov 18th. We will be looking at the Tuscan Center in ST Cloud again. I will be getting in contact with them within a week or so when I am back in Moorhead. Hopefully we can have fliers within a month or so up and ready.

Growth -

social media is the new pamphlet in jest, referring to the twitter item. Growth and change are not the same thing. Service manual - what did bill and bob do to reach out- AA started out with two people and look at where we are now. Change involves risks, which leads to change. Then came literature and now social media. Something like the presenter would like to suggest is reading AA comes of age. By reading about the mistakes we made we can learn better were we need to go. Change does not always mean progress. Declaration of unity- this we owe to AA future.... service manual

(Continued from page 3)
Difficulties with growth in AA. Dealing with disruptions in the meeting. She referred to the safety in AA literature the GSO came out with. Dealing with 13th steppers and people with sticky fingers. Challenging what my perspective - can I accept change may need to happen for. One guy thought the only way to achieve growth is to embrace social media since the young people don't know anything different. AA is full of people who are in recovery and people who are not in recovery.

Participation -

One way to get people involved was to invite them and ask them to come along. Important to have them come to events outside the meetings where they can have some enjoyment. By getting involved you get to meet people and make new friendships. These relationships are a way to create of foundation within AA. It important that if we stand for a position and don't get elected that we don't quit or get mad, but stay in there and wait for the next opportunity to be of service.

Why did I get sober? I had a feeling of useless, inside I was dying, you can't give away what you don't have, but you can give away what you have. Like in AA, we must participate in life. To stay active is how I stay sober.

I have to be able to speak as well as listen.
We can never really give back enough to repay what AA has given me.

Literature/grapevine breakout -

What is meant by safety in our literature. - new literature, not guidelines or policy that came out sets out some ideas. For instance, we have certain policies at the board level makes AA as a whole more liable then now. One person thought that the traditions were used only in part, but that the traditions should be looked at as a whole when determining whether a person is a disruption or not. And we are not kicking them out of AA, we are simply saying this meeting isn't for you and you should check out another meeting. Having several males or females approach the individual when confronting them to help avoid bad situations. One member cautioned that people can be accused when there is no reason and the AA rumor mill can ruin the reputation of a member needlessly.

How to write a Grapevine story.....

One district is going to have a workshop on how to write an article for the grapevine. Another idea is could the grapevine feature certain states and specifically request stories from that state. Area 36 had a grapevine writing workshop. How many articles is the grapevine actually sitting on? Could it be that they have so many articles they just don't have enough space for them all. 12 traditions put out by the grapevine is a good book.

Is the grapevine something that should be less anonymous?

Is the grapevine even supposed to be anonymous? It is a publication although it is nicknamed our meeting in print. One district brings it into the library and when asked if they wanted it coded, they said no, they wanted it to walk out the door.

Corrections/treatment breakout -

How do you get people involved in treatment and keep them?
We have a treatment center coordinator who makes a schedule of who will go to what treatment center and then publishes them. Make sure to get meeting schedules into the centers. We are here to keep people sober once they are out of the treatment center. Make sure you get the treatment workbook from GSO. There are plenty of do' and don'ts in there. It's important to discuss with the treatment center what AA is and isn't so there isn't any concern of affiliation.

How does bridging the gap work?

South Dakota had a form letter that the inmate could complete and mail it to their corrections chair and then mailed to appropriate locations. In area 36, they have a form they complete with contact info for prisoners getting out can get in contact with. The return address goes to the area so no one person's personal info is a risk.

How do you work with sex offenders who need AA?

It is difficult to get meetings in those types of facilities in NE. The biggest thing to overcome when working with these guys is fear. There are some steps to become speakers at these meetings. One person mentioned they do not ask what inmates are in for when they bring meetings into the jails/prisons. Not everyone is meant to work with corrections or treatment. Goes back to if you can't teach what you don't know.

How do you keep people involved?

The best results are always talked to directly. In South Dakota they have one person per facility to coordinate speakers to go into that facility. In does take a special person to go into a facility. it isn't just for anyone. Try to get a group to go into a facility instead of just one, it is too intimidating for one or two people.

Contributions Workshop -

Contributing is a learned behavior. If you are not teaching your sponsee to contribute how will they learn, if your sponsor isn't teaching you to contribute how will you learn. Contributions can't only be monetary, but of time.

Service is contributing. One group is going to try out paypal.me for a quarter and see if it makes a difference. Contribute in Latin means we bestow together. One person's opinion, if everyone upgraded the dollar they give to \$2, we could erase the red ink at the GSC.

In Service,
Jim S. Area 35 Chair

Secretary:

I attended the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming on March 3-5. This was the second WCRAASC that I have participated in and it felt like I was at home when I entered the conference room. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces as Areas 35 and 36 were well represented. I also recognized several people from other areas in our region as having attended the conference last year as well. It felt comforting to be surrounded by over 300 sober alcoholics that share a passion for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It would be difficult and time consuming the report on each Agenda Item so I'm going to list things I heard regarding a few of the items that I found important or interesting.

Agenda: B. 2 Consider request that for 2018, presentation/discussion topics not be placed on the Conference Week schedule. Comments ranged from the presentations/discussions are a waste of time to they offer a break from the business aspect of the conference and serve to provide new and/or useful information.

Agenda: E Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. *This item is about getting the delegates more involved in the process of selecting agenda items. It was thought this would increase communication and feedback between the board and the delegates.*

CPC: A. Consider retiring the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” *Those that opposed retiring the pamphlet felt it should be kept because it was written by Bill W.; it is a part of our history. Reasons for retiring the pamphlet included the language it out of date and the pamphlet is too long (about 45 pages) for busy professional to sit down and read. A medical professional in the group stated she would not read it because of its length and outdated information.*

CPC: B. Consider adding a footnote to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol.” *The foot note would explain that while some language in the 1958 pamphlet is dated, the issues are prevalent today.*

CPC: C. Consider development of a LinkedIn page for C.P.C. committees. *There was a lot of discussion on this topic and many questions asked. Members felt anonymity might be jeopardized. Is this promotion rather than attraction? Do we need this, who would use it? Would we be able to determine the terms and conditions? Young people use social media so would this help in reaching them.*

Corrections: B. Discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People. *Someone asked if we would be creating a special interest group? We all suffered from the same disease. Native people have different cultural experiences.*

Grapevine: E. Discuss AA Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page. *Agenda Item Grapevine D is similar in that it talks about exploration of an Instagram account. Concerns about confidently/anonymity issues were raised. We can get grapevine on line. Would we be creating a platform for people to break their anonymity? Same issues that apply to Instagram apply to Facebook. Will it create more positions within AA?*

Grapevine: G. Discuss ways groups can be kept informed about Grapevine and La Viña when they don't have a GVR or RLV. *Elect a Grapevine Rep or LaVina Rep in your group. Encourage use of the GV and LV as a way to carry our message at Assemblies, Workshops, and ACM. Use GV or LV stories as a meeting topic. Have Grapevines available at meetings for people to see. Read 12 steps, preamble, and responsibility statement out of the Grapevine at meetings.*

Literature: B. Consider request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young.” *Some people felt the cartoon pamphlet was insulting to young people; it was explained the cartoon pamphlets were designed for people with low reading levels. A lot of these pamphlets are taken at our State Fair booth.*

Literature: F. Review revised draft pamphlet “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly titled “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”). *The title was changed to be more inclusive. "Finding Acceptance" is confusing, does it mean acceptance of alcoholism or gender identity.*

Literature: J. Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety. *A comment was made that men are not the only predators in AA. Concerns about situation where we would enforce a policy. A suggestion was made to have members go to groups and talk about safety. AA.org is a resource for info regarding safety.*

Policy/Admissions: H. Consider a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the General Service Conference. *Conversation about the idea of having the General Service Conference in NYC may not be necessary. Rye is somewhat of a rural area. Why not it Ohio, birth place of AA? Each region would be able to bid for conference. Bill wanted it in NY*

(Continued on page 5)

Slogans

Think, Think, Think — Easy Does It — K.I.S.S. — Live and Let Live— H.A.L.T — But For The Grace of God — This to Shall Pass — One Day at a Time

(Continued from page 4)
so members would feel connected with the General Service Office.

Policy/Admissions: J. Consider a request to add a “YPAA Subcommittee” to the service structure. *Several negative comments were made about YPAA such as they talk about drug addiction in AA. Some members have heard disrespectful-vulgar speech, distasteful actions, chanting in meeting. They use AA in their conference name. YPAA is a registered group and they are already participating in the service structure. They are often told they are not AA, giving them a subcommittee would support that they are AA.*

Public Information: F. Review report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on the Implementation of a Twitter account. *Ivan a non-alcoholic trustee stated that collectively, as a group, could we negotiate terms. We need to assure and protect our traditions. He believes it could help carry the message and has been successful with other 12 step groups like Alanon. NA was not ready for its Facebook page. No guarantee there would not be anonymity breaks. Tom A, our West Central Regional Trustee is on the committee to look at this plan. He has a legal responsibility to ensure traditions are not violated. Twitter “pushes” messages which violates our traditions. Public controversy. Public versus private, public is the only option. A Tweet is a mini PSA. Would be reviewed in real time.*

Report and Charter: C. Consider request that changes to *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be made available to the Fellowship in years that a revised edition is not published. *Will delegates get copies of changes made in service manual?*

Treatment and Accessibilities: A. Review the revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs.” *The term "special needs" will be removed. Service Manual is not available in braille. Stories will be updated and some removed.*

Archives B. Consider request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. This proposal gives each committee the option of communicating with each other 60 days prior to the conference but not able to do anything at that time. A comment was made that delegates should be able to meet 365 days/year.

International Conventions/Regional Forums: A. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees. This is when *GSO and GSB come to visit members in different regions and are available to us. Suggested to have ALS signers on hand as well as interpreters. Regional Service Assembly are suggested every other year to discuss service work.*

Thank you for allowing me to attend this conference. If you have questions regarding the agenda items I would be happy to talk with you about them either in person, on the phone or email. I plan to be at the Spring Assembly where we will let Kelly know our groups conscious on each of the agenda items.

Yours in Service,
Rillis E.

Treasurer:

Greeting Area 35,

It has been one week since my last report that was given at the ACM on February 26th. I do not have any new financial information to report. I will have updated information at the Spring Assembly and I look forward to seeing you all there.

I attended the West Central Reginal Service Conference in Wyoming March 3-5th. It was a great experience and there is so much passion for preserving AA at these conferences. I would encourage you to attend one if you ever get the opportunity. We get to hear about all the agenda items that are of concern to the fellowship this year. We get to hear about how other areas in the region apply the traditions and concepts to these items and their conscience on how they view these items. I got to learn about these items and carry the message back to District 15 at their agenda items meeting on the 6th of March. This is a way that I can give back for the area sending me to Wyoming. I am willing to help out any group or district in any way that I can. Please ask if you would like me to visit and support you.

Our new Trustee, Tom A., gave his first report to the region and he has been very busy. Some of the things that Tom reported:

- Group contributions are supporting 80% of all services at GSO without accounting literature sales. Of that 80% of contributions, they are coming from 60% of the groups.
- Individual electronic contributions can be made at aa.org for GSO recurring contributions it costs approximately \$1 million to process contributions, this will help cut down that cost. Cutting expenses is as good as increasing contribution.
- These conferences and area meetings are a great example of collaboration and sharing of experiences so we can learn from what people are doing in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Another highlight of the conference was getting to listen to different areas share their experience during general sharing sessions. These are topics that coincide with the General Service Conference. It gives thoughts and ideas about how others handle some of the same topics the we face. It gives us another tool to put in our tool kit of recovery, unity and service. The topics that were covered were *Growth, Contributions, Participation and Anonymity.*

What stood out to me while listening to the presentation on *Growth* is the different ways we grow in our recovery, different ways our groups grow and how AA grows. There are so many ways to look at the meaning of growth. By taking the time and energy to learn the history, traditions and concepts, we will learn the mistakes that have been made. We will make mistakes but we don’t have to make the ones that were already made.

The next presentation on *Contributions* looked at all the different ways we contribute and carry the message in AA. They ways we contribute are by using our **Time, Talent and Treasures**. We take time to do service work, carry the message and sponsor. Some people have special talents that they contribute by speaking and doing presentations. Then there is our 7th Tradition that we put into the basket to help support carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic all over the world. We have to remember that AA does not happen in our own town or area. We want AA to be available where ever it may be needed.

The presentation on *Participation* made me think about how I participate in my recovery and what I do to give back to the program. By participating in AA, whether it is at the group, district or area levels, it keeps me in the middle of the program. Participation keeps me humble and accountable. I learn that my best ideas are not always the best for AA, as a whole. I have learned to have an open-mind and listen. Participation is the ACTION we take in our recovery.

The final presentation was on *Anonymity*. Some good pints were brought out regarding anonymity. We keep our anonymity for the people around us. When we link ourselves to AA on social media or in the newspaper, it could break the anonymity of one of our fellow AAs. When we link ourselves to AA at the public level it can be a disservice to AA. I have to remember Tradition 11, “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.” This means that I have no business using my picture, first and last name in link with AA on Facebook, in the newspaper or on TV.

The conference was a great experience and I am very grateful that I could attend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your area treasurer.

In Service,
Christine G.

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

Archives:

Good morning to all from Area 35. We had an exciting committee meeting. We had 9 people present. Brad Iverson shared some valuable information regarding the history of AA. In addition, how we as Archives Chairs from our districts can help perpetuate the history and continuity of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We asked that each district represented share what has been done in their districts and asked if there were questions. This was our first meeting so it was more of getting to know each other and developing an action plan for the next two years.

Here are some of the ideas that were generated:

- Have each district put together a time line of their district history.
- Have a history moment at each District meeting on a group or district event in the past
- Develop district archives presentations that could be given at Area functions such as the Winter Workshop.
- Ensure each district archives chair has the Archives workbook.
- Provide groups with group history form
- Remind groups that Brad collects our archival material.
- Begin the process of identifying old-timers for either history interviews or oral history interviews.

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

Yours in service
Steve Dixon
Area 35 Archives Chair

Archivist:

Greetings from the big city. I could not attend the WCRAASC due to not being able to take the time off from work. This is the first one I have missed since 1994. This weekend I am driving 500 miles round trip to give a history talk and set up a display. I am doing this for two reasons. One: I will be right on the North Dakota border and cigarettes are 30 dollars a carton cheaper there. Just kidding I am doing it because I can share the history of Alcoholics Anonymous with those that may not be familiar. You can’t appreciate what we have if you don’t know where we came from. The topic of my talk is early women in Alcoholics Anonymous and I am going to try to

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)
dispel some myths about these pioneers. I am going to cover six women in 1 hour so I can only scratch the surface.

As far as GSC Agenda Items, I am looking forward to hearing the discussion on the Archives item about collecting Bill’s talks at the GSC. In I think 2003 we discussed making more Archives material available to the fellowship. The original item was vaguely worded. I know the intent at that time was not to find revenue-producing items in the Archives. I feel that this has morphed into just that. We had the reproduction 1939 Big Book and now this. Neither item came from the fellowship but from a staff member. If the intent was solely to make these talks available to the fellowship, we could just post them on the web page. Why do we need to produce a book and sell it? Kick this position around in your district meetings. One of the biggest lessons I learned from my late sponsor was to question my motives.

I will get off my soapbox now.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

“I soon found that when all other measures failed, work with another alcoholic would save the day.” Bill W.

As true as that is for all of us in recovery from alcoholism, practical application of it sometimes has taken a back seat in my life to other self-determined priorities: Making a living. Spending time with family. Coaching my son’s basketball team. Fishing.

Soon into recovery I was tempted to forget Bill W.’s advice. In those early days and months of attendance of meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous there were people who, not understanding the importance of “giving away what we’ve been given”, suggested and pleaded that AA meetings could take a second seat to other aspects of life.

The pressures of conforming to norms and obligations of everyday society, once we’ve stayed sober for just a few days and weeks, aided by friends and family members who see a different person in front of them and believe in our miracle, still don’t and perhaps can’t understand the need to share what we’ve been given. “Now it’s time to live normally!” And so the balancing act begins and continues. One step at a time. Remembering that without sobriety we have no living...we don’t spend time with the family...my son doesn’t see me at basketball. And if I fish, it’s in a state of oblivion.

This is not easy. But it is simple. Don’t drink. Talk to your sponsor. Read the Big Book. Go to meetings.

As your CPC Chair, I continue to follow the theme of “Take Our Information to Them.” On February 25 PI Chair Mark N. and I attended the District 8 Workshop “Service is Action” along with at least 35 others. Presentations included a great skit by “Ladies of the Lake” group members on “Anonymity.” The CPC presentation included distribution of a packet for local CPC workers to distribute personally to doctors, clergy, and other professionals one-on-one. Any member of AA can do the same: Grab the pamphlet “If You are a Professional...” and share it with your doctor. Get a copy of “This is A.A. An introduction to the A.A. recovery program” and share one with your dentist. Or meet with your minister or priest and give them “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous”. One on one works. But do it.

A regional meeting of Social Workers in Brainerd on March 14th provides another opportunity for us to share the message of working with the professional community. At least one other CPC committee member and I will share our pamphlets and stories so that workers within the human services agencies can learn more about our recovery program.

I am working to plan CPC presentations in Northwest and Western parts of Area 35. Please contact me with requests for presentations at the e-mail address at the front of the Northern Light.

Yours in Service
Jim T.
Area CPC Chair

Corrections:

Well folks another wonderful weekend of AA service has come and gone. The west central regional AA service conference was very enjoyable, and educational. I am still surprised sometimes at how much happiness and gratitude that these events supply me with. I have been fortunate enough to participate in service for most of my sobriety and believe with all my heart that it's a key factor. Being able to give of ourselves is a great experience especially since I've spent so much of my life only concerned with my wants and desires. However, there is so much more involved with these events.

The travel companions are some of the greatest people I've ever met. We are given the opportunity to learn about each other and share time and stories. To build bonds we might not have an opportunity for any other way. These bonds even if only shortly lived are some of my fondest memories. These people that walk shoulder to shoulder on this path hold a special place for me.

To see the number of people who cared so much for AA this past weekend was wonderful. In listening to others points of view, I was able to understand their opinions, and be more open. There was quite a lot of information

discussed, and I look forward to sharing this information with any districts that ask.

I hope that everyone has the chance to experience the joy provided by service and make the types of connections that I've been able to make.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the spring assembly.

Yours in service

Servando M.
Area 35 Corrections

Grapevine:

Greetings From your area 35 Grapevine chair! We had approximately 11 in attendance at the area committee meeting. We went around and discussed what's going on with grapevine and literature in our area. I ordered a \$670 order and got over \$100 discount because of a large order so I'm sitting fine with GV literature right now! I have several of the new books available. I would ask that all members bring old GV or literature to committee meetings or assemblies. They are very useful tools for TF or corrections. I would like to thank Brian for sitting in for me at the West Central regional AA conference in Cheyenne Wyoming! Please select a grapevine representative for your groups! And also buy a gift subscription for somebody new! Because I know you all have, your grapevine brought you in the mail! Thanks, any questions or concerns please get a hold of me!

Yours in service

Paul M.
Area 35 Grapevine

Group Records:

Northern Light Mailing List: All our trusted servants that are registered with GSO and are in the GSO database were sent a Northern Light as of the last mailing. All trusted servants had their information in the GSO database updated to receive mail.

I continue find shortcomings in our GSO records database.

I spent a weekend updating 380 Area 35 records to set the receives mail bit to yes for all area35 registered trusted servants. By default this bit is set to no and this question is not on the GSO registration forms.

When I process our area data to update aaMeetingLocator I look at the generated data -- looking for something that may have gone wrong. Today I found a big hole. Zip codes were missing from a number of meetings. I looked at the FNV GSO database dump. Area36 had 207 missing group zip codes and area 35 had 120 missing group zip codes. I went back over a year and this missing data is not a new weakness in our GSO database.

After 5 1/2 years I have come to the conclusion that our FNV database is not reliable source of data for a meeting locator.

At the end of this year I will be rotating out of group records and aaMeetingLocator support. We need to start looking at a supportable replacement for aaMeetingLocator. We also need to decide how we manage a reliable data source

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

Bob B.
Group Records
grouprecords@area35.org

Literature:

Good day all,

I do owe you an apology, for I was unable to attend the Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin on February 26th 2017. I came down with flu like symptoms (fever, upset stomach) that is why I have no Committee report. I did receive the literature that was ordered for the Committee meeting, and will have it at the Spring Assembly on April 1st 2017.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Cheyenne, Wyoming on March 3rd through the 5th

The person I was to share the weekend with ended up not being able to attend due to work obligations. But lucky me, on Tuesday and Wednesday I was able to find two people to ride share with. Thank you Gail from Minneapolis Intergroup for your help, I was not looking forward to the drive on my own. I do have to say, it was well worth the effort. On the ride I was able to get to know someone I have never met, and someone I thought I knew. I do still believe that the conference is something everyone should try to attend, for the information and the passion you get from the people on the Agenda Items is just amazing. I was able to find the courage to go to the mic. (hope I didn't embarrass the Area) to go over some background and ask questions. I do hope all groups get and take the time to go through the Agenda Items so they are able to see how others view these important decisions that are made on a yearly basis. My home group is going to start going through the Agenda Items on Saturday March 11th 2017, if anyone would like any help I am sure anyone

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
from our group would be glad to help.

I would like to take this time to say, Thank You All for the opportunities you have given me to grow in this wonderful program.

In service,
Skip D.
Area 35 Literature Chair

Northern Light:

Howdy,

There is a lot of information in this Northern Light for reference. Great stuff on the agenda items from the people that made it to the WCRAASC. Where full discussion will take place at the Spring Assembly. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year’s WCRAASC life had other plans for me. Be sure to read the detailed report on the Area Workshop.

I see one of the Area events on April 8th at the Isanti Alano Club, 790 Heritage Blvd., Isanti, MN is on writing an article for the Grapevine. You can use the lessons learned there on how to write articles for the Northern Light. You have a higher probability of having your article published.

There were two articles submitted for publishing and I published both. One is a little controversial, then again, I like that. It is about a topic that has had a lot of interest lately. I also included the new A.A. Guidelines for reference. Keep more articles coming; I believe it makes a better paper when we all participate. Everyone did a great job getting his or her reports to me on time.

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:

So here, we are between the West Central Regional AA Service Conference and the Spring Assembly six weeks to study up on the Conference Agenda and enjoy good discussion that will get our delegate to the General Service conference with a head and heart full of group conscience.

I was able to attend the WSRAASC in Cheyenne Wyoming this past weekend. We were able to finish the agenda items by 11:30 Saturday night giving us ample time for a Sunday morning meeting, a presentation on anonymity, the ask it basket and a nice commentary about the West Central Region from 5 past trustee’s from in and out of the region. I was tasked with facilitating the break out session on Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community and was lucky enough to have our acting Regional Trustee as well as a Class A trustee from the General service office in attendance. The bulk of the discussion centered on the how to of putting on PI and CPC luncheons and presentations the where and when’s, who to invite and how we go about inviting people. One area used regular mail, an email blast and personal contact. The e-mail blast proved ineffective while other forms worked better.

The Area 76 of Wyoming took advantage of having a Class A trustee in town. They put on a presentation in the same hotel as the Conference, it was held on Thursday March 2, 17 they put a lot of effort into it and with the trustee being a federal judge they were able to generate interest from the professionals in the community and had quite a good turnout. The Class A trustee added a different angle to the discussion, being a non-alcoholic, he was able to speak in terms, more in line with the thinking of the people he was addressing, being most of them were non-alcoholic and look at the problems of alcoholic behavior from a professional point of view and how it relates to their work.

We might want to think about something like this the next time the WCRAASC comes to Northern Minnesota.

Other things I have been up to are I am still working on the formation of a PI committee in my own area to get some long term Public Information activity going with the hopes it can have some staying power once it gets established that it doesn’t end with rotation of individuals.

I am available to help in your districts with any public information activity you might be working on.

I am also available for attending your groups and or Districts meeting to go over the agenda items.

I also am staffing the AA central lakes help line on Thursdays 7-3.

Finally, I have sent in my information to correspond with inmates so hopefully I will be getting a reply back from the GSO shortly.

That’s it for now, Be at peace and God Bless

Yours in service,
Mark N.
Area 35 Public Information Chair

Treatment:

The ride to Cheyenne was beautiful, I got to kick back and relax. Discussing the agenda items along the way. Upon arriving at the hotel, we had a long wait for our room to be ready, we arrived before actual check in.

After openings and welcomes from Area 76, met the 4 Panel 67 Delegates from Areas 24, 36, 40 & 52. Each new delegate gave a short report of his or her area. Our West Central Regional Trustee, Tom A, gave a report of what’s been happening since last general service conference, and his coming aboard as WCR Trustee.

General Sessions we about “Growth”, “Participation”, “Contributions” & “Anonymity”. General Session 5 was a greeting from our past Trustees.

“Growth”, (Area40) not just in members, but discussion with Safety in AA (13th stepping- disrupted persons), social media, “growth and change are not the same thing”, “Look at where we came from to help guide us where we are going.”

“Participation”, (Area24) besides meetings, steps, sponsor volun-told. Service at the group level, district and area helps us to feel apart of. “Are you in the center of AA or are you standing on the edge?” & “If I’m not participating who am I helping”.

“Contributions”, (Area36) is a learned behavior, is not just dollars but time and talents as well. The word contributions in Latin means, “to bestow together”, areas can only be as strong as districts are; districts can only be as strong as groups are. Time, Talent and Treasury. Lastly,

“Anonymity” (Area52) Sacrificing ego’s, anonymity as a meeting topic, are we to anonymous within us; we do not use last names, breaking anonymity with those in the fellowship.

Agenda items were discussed at length in some parts. Treatment agenda items are:

A. Revised draft of pamphlet to remove the “special needs” wording to replace with accessibilities. One gal commented we need basic literature, requesting a braille service manual.

B. Accessibility of the message to our service veterans. Request in 3 parts- reaching the professionals who help the veteran- getting meetings to the veterans & helping active military find meeting worldwide. An active military guy stated he had to skype to speak with sponsor.

Christine and I went to District 15 to help with agenda item discussion. Thanks you Melissa and District 15 for inviting us.

Where is my hand when someone is asking for help?

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Gayle R.
Area 35 Treatment Chair

(Continued on page 8)

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.

(Continued from page 7)

Webmaster:

Greetings Area 35,

The bulk of this report will be focused on the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I made the trip with corrections chair, Servando M. and secretary, Rillis E. Though long and tiresome, our trip there was uneventful—with our crazy moments that’s a good thing.

I enjoyed the Friday night and Saturday morning presentations on growth and participation, which were thought provoking and inspirational as they paralleled the listener’s personal experience with that of the fellowship. We must be careful, however, when using these types of comparisons, because the stakes are higher for the fellowship. For instance, I have put myself in harm’s way many times throughout my personal journey. For taking those risks I was rewarded immensely with defining moments, turning points in life, and phenomenal growth spurts. To make a comparison of my own “leaps of faith” with A.A.’s involvement in such things as pages or platforms on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, or using tools provided by google for non-profits, is absurd, and a total disregard of caution. An anonymity break on the internet would not be a one-time occurrence, but instead, a perpetual irritant of the initial wound, experienced over and over again.

As if involved in a game of devil’s advocate, the presenters for Saturday morning and afternoon did an equally good job with the topics of contributions and participation. In the same way that striving to remain self-supportive in my personal life keeps me focused on all the traditions, so it is with the entire fellowship. Participation was branded into me early on in sobriety so it is not surprising that I would find the need to participate just as important now as ever; being active in service while learning more about the concepts and traditions as I make my journey through life gives me a deeper sense of purpose and usefulness.

The background material for quite a few of the agenda items, along with those who support them, take on the air of businesses, and/or speak of promotional techniques that are contradictory to our principles. They say we need to have an on-line presence and a platform, and that we have to meet the alcoholics of today’s generation where they are. We already have an on-line presence in the GSO website, area websites, and district websites. Yes—we’ve always had to meet the practicing alcoholic where he is, but we have also been raising the bottom. Is that bottom so high that we’re now considering conforming to the suffering alcoholic’s wishes to the extent that it is endangering his chances for the gift of sobriety and peace—all in the name of growth? Whatever happened to, “I don’t have the right to take away another alcoholic’s misery,” when it is necessary for their recovery?

I can’t think of a more pertinent time for Carl B. to share more on anonymity and A.A.’s need to get back to letting our traditions guide our fellowship than on the closing morning of the conference. I would definitely say his view seems to be that to even discuss some of the propositions we have throughout the agenda talks requires complete ignorance of our traditions, let alone to consider them for future actions. I agree with this sentiment. As stated in *A.A. Comes of Age*, the Traditions show us how to relate to each other and the outside world, and how we can function together as a great whole. The world today is one large market and most organizations are looking to see what may be obtained from it; they operate as a business. Alcoholics Anonymous, by tradition, is not an organization but rather it is a fellowship.

I have had a busy and tiresome week—a busy month, so far—and what with being asked to participate in the agenda items discussion at the upcoming District 12 Meeting, the Spring Assembly, and several personal events and deadlines; I look to be even busier. I cannot imagine attempting any of it without the guidance and direction I receive from this fellowship, its principles and traditions, and the experiences shared with others.

Thanks once more for these opportunities; see you all in April—if not sooner,

Thanks for all your support,

In Service,
Rodney S.
Area 35 Webmaster



"If I were an alcoholic I'd be drinking with a pink elephant!"

A Time to Step Down

An ancient author once wrote, “There is a time for everything”. To those within our Area who opposed the “Safety in A.A.” suggestions – perhaps it is time for you to step down from service. You have demonstrated through your voice and actions that you are out-of-touch with the mainstream thought of Alcoholics Anonymous.

What I’m referring to is the new **Service Material from the General Service Office entitled: Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare**. This paper printed on January 25, 2017 lays out the A.A. philosophy and suggestions for keeping our groups safe. It is exactly what the Thursday Night Young Peoples’ AA (TNYPA) group, in District 13, almost two-years ago, asked Area 35 to bring forward to GSO. It is exactly what Area 35 voted down.

There were some notable individuals who were involved in the quashing of this motion by TNYPA. Some of whom are held in high esteem in our Area. I respectfully ask you now to step-down and step aside from your service positions. **Not only were you on the wrong side of this issue, but you were on the wrong side of history.** One of the most important issues to confront our fellowship in decades has been the “Safety in AA” issue and you opposed doing anything about it. You were like the by-stander who could have done something to prevent the accident occurring, but you stood on the sidewalk with your arms folded and did nothing. In fact, the position you took put our fellowship in danger. The position you took is contrary to our First Tradition which in its long form states: “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...”

One “Trusted Servant” from our fellowship even went as far as writing a letter to the Northern Light in Volume LX Issue 3 to encourage this non-interventionist and enabling attitude. In this article, the author confused the issue of “safety” with a demand for personal security. The author went on to say, “So, essentially, our traditions bring this situation on us! We are obligated to help, and we can’t keep any alcoholics out!”

Unfortunately, this is a gross and grave misunderstanding of our traditions. As this new material from GSO points out the group’s welfare comes first. The paper states, “In any situation, if a person’s safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved can take appropriate action to ensure their safety. Calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior”. The paper adds, “As individuals, A.A. members are also “citizens of the world,” and as citizens we are not above the law”.

In a letter from 1969 Bill W. wrote this about disruptive behavior within an A.A. group, “This amount of charity does not mean that we cannot exclude those who disturb meetings or seriously interfere with the functioning of the group. Such people can be asked to quiet down or go elsewhere, or, to come back when they are better able to participate.”

Lastly the paper adds, “No A.A. group has to tolerate illegal behavior and any activity within an A.A. meeting is subject to the same laws that apply outside the meeting. The nature of illegal acts that groups have faced includes violence, embezzlement, theft of property, drug sales at a meeting, and more.” This means we are empowered to keep the safety of the group first and foremost within our mind, hearts and actions.

“There is a time for everything” and it appears time for those who opposed this material from GSO to stand aside and let others take up the responsibility of carrying the message.

JD
Big Lake, MN

70 YEARS OF AA IN VIRGINIA, MN!

This past December District 8 Archives committee celebrated 70 years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Virginia by putting on an Archives Workshop. Our Area 35 Archivist Brad was on hand to record a couple of the old timers that were on hand to lend their insight into what AA was like in our district.

Tom L., Carol J., and Darin M., a BIG THANK YOU for sharing!

After a short intermission, we resumed our afternoon with a History presentation by Scott J., past Area 35 Archivist.

The presentation focused on how the AA message made it to Minnesota and eventually to Northern Minnesota, with the Virginia Tuesday group starting in 1946.

To hear the stories of the different meeting places and all of the original AA members in our local area really left me with a feeling of gratitude for all of the work these people did to help our fellowship grow. In an era where meetings were not as easily accessible, the cars were not as reliable, and the comforts that we know today were not available. It has also left me with the question, what have I done today to help carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers? It is my hope that 70 years from now, by continuing to practice the principles of Recovery, Unity and Service, AA will continue to be celebrated across the globe and we ourselves will be a small part of that history.

Yours in service,
Scott M.
District 8 DCM
Area 35 Archives Committee

Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare

Safety is an important issue within A.A. — one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

“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.” — Tradition One (Long Form)

A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose — to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.

Autonomy and Group Action

Because A.A., as such, ought never be organized, as indicated in Tradition Nine, it is individual members and groups who ensure that all members feel as safe as possible in A.A.

There is no government within A.A. and no central authority, legal or otherwise, to control or direct the behavior of A.A. members. As embodied in the Fourth Tradition, the formation and operation of an A.A. Group resides with the group conscience of its members. A.A. groups and service entities such as areas, districts, intergroup/central offices are autonomous.

Recognizing that safety is an issue of importance to its members, many groups have taken actions to keep distractions and disruptions to a minimum within the context of the group.

A.A. Membership

A.A. membership has never been contingent on any set of behavioral or moral standards — beyond those founded on common sense, courtesy, and the timeless values of kindness, tolerance and love.

A.A.’s Third Tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. This brings an openness that helps to define our character as a diverse Fellowship; yet it also requires us to be mindful of our group and individual safety.

Some people, however, come into A.A. without an understanding of the type of behavior that is appropriate in meetings or in the company of other members. A person can be sober in A.A., yet still not understand what is acceptable.

Dealing with Disruptions

While most groups operate with a healthy balance of spontaneity and structure, there are a number of situations that can threaten group unity and challenge the safety of the group and its members. Often this can center on disruptive individuals, those who are confrontational, aggressive, or those who are simply unwilling to put the needs of the group first. Such behavior can hijack the focus of a meeting and frighten members, new and old.

Some groups have developed plans for addressing disruptive behavior and have established procedures through their group conscience to ensure that the group’s welfare is protected. In many cases, disruptive behavior is preempted by having the chairperson state the expectations for behavior in the meeting.

Some groups include in their opening announcements that illegal and disruptive behavior is not tolerated. Still other groups have asked disruptive members to leave the meeting. Additionally, groups and members always have the option to call the appropriate authorities if disruptive behavior continues or anyone’s safety is at risk.

Group Safety and Unity

Situations that groups have addressed through their group conscience include, sexual harassment or stalking; threats of violence; bullying; financial coercion; racial or lifestyle intolerance; pressuring A.A. members into a particular point of view or belief relating to medical treatments and/or medications, politics, religion, or other outside issues. In addition, there may be other behaviors that go on outside of typical meeting times that may affect whether someone feels safe to return to the group.

Some groups have their own guidelines or procedures to help keep the meeting safe. A.A. members can speak to those who are acting inappropriately. Situations can be discussed at business meetings to come to a group conscience about how to handle a situation. As a last resort, the disruptive member may be asked to stop attending the meeting for a specific period of time. Groups that take this drastic action do it in order to preserve the common welfare of the group and to maintain A.A. unity.

In any situation, if a person’s safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved can take appropriate action to ensure their safety. Calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. *Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior.*

Inappropriate or predatory behavior, such as unwanted sexual attention or targeting vulnerable members can be especially troublesome. These behaviors may go on outside of typical meeting times. While A.A. members can be

caring and supportive to those affected, we are not professionals trained to handle such situations. Law enforcement or other professional help may be necessary.

Victims of inappropriate behavior, harassment or predators can let the group know about such situations, often through a sponsor or trusted friend. This way the group is informed, and members can help address the situation and curtail further problems. Group discussion should be focused on creating an environment where all alcoholics can find and maintain sobriety.

A.A. and the Law

Common sense and experience suggest that A.A. membership does not grant immunity from local regulations and being at an A.A. meeting does not put anyone beyond the jurisdiction of law enforcement officers. As individuals, A.A. members are also “citizens of the world,” and as citizens we are not above the law.

Through the group conscience process, many groups have established guidelines regarding when it may be appropriate to call authorities and handle a given situation within the legal system. No A.A. group has to tolerate illegal behavior and any activity within an A.A. meeting is subject to the same laws that apply outside the meeting. The nature of illegal acts that groups have faced include violence, embezzlement, theft of property, drug sales at a meeting, and more.

Emergencies

Injuries, accidents, fires, etc., sometimes do occur during meetings. To accommodate these situations, groups can also develop plans and procedures, often in consultation with their landlord or local authorities. Addressing an emergency situation is more important than continuing the meeting, and members should not hesitate to call emergency personnel in critical situations.

Keeping the Focus on Our Primary Purpose

It is hoped that our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. would transcend most issues and curtail negative behaviors. As noted in the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, “Love and tolerance of others is our code.”

Safety, however, is important to the functioning of the group. By maintaining order and safety in meetings, the group as a whole will benefit and members will be able to focus on recovery from alcoholism and a life of sobriety.

Ultimately, the experience of how these situations are handled can be as varied as our Fellowship. Good judgment and common sense, informed by the Twelve Traditions, seem to provide the best guide

What Can Groups and Members Do?

Groups and members can discuss the topic of safety, to raise awareness in the Fellowship and seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible for the newcomer, and other members or potential members. This can be the subject of sharing among groups at the district or area level.

Here are some helpful suggestions and reminders:

- Talk about issues of safety before they arise.
- Safety is something each member attending an A.A. meeting can be mindful of.
- Communicate clearly what A.A. is and what it is not.
- Sponsorship plays an important role and sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signs or unhealthy situations to sponsees and newcomers.
- A.A. members who are concerned about the words or actions of a sponsor or other member, may find it helpful to speak to someone they trust, their A.A. group, or a professional, as needed.
- Include Safety and the A.A. Meeting Environment as topics for a group inventory.
- Consider developing group guidelines and procedures on safety. Recommend that no one walk to a car alone but be accompanied by a trusted fellow or travel in a group.
- In all discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and place principles before personalities.

Helpful Resources for A.A. Members and Groups

- *Box 459 October 2010 edition*, articles on “Disruptive Members at A.A. Meetings” and “A.A. and the Law” (available on the newsletters page at www.aa.org).
- A report from the 62nd General Service Conference Workshop: “*Safety in A.A. Our Common Welfare.*” *
- Final Report of the “*Ad Hoc Committee on Group Safety of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, U.S. and Canada.*”*
- A.A. pamphlet, “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship.”
- A.A. pamphlet, “The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins.”
- Contact your District Committee Member or Area Delegate for local shared experience.

*Available upon request by contacting G.S.O.

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station
New York, NY 1016
Phone: (212) 870-3400
G.S.O.’s A.A. website: www.aa.org



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

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

AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

**Area 35 February Area Committee Meeting
Aitkin, MN
February 26, 2017
Minutes**

- Jim S. called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer
- Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Susie A. Panel 44 and Bruce B. Panel 48. Also present was Tom A. past delegate, Panel 50 and current West Central Regional Trustee.

Minutes from the December Area Committee Meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate-Kelly D. Greetings Area 35. Well here we are at the start of a new year and busy few months in Area 35 with our focus on the 2017 Agenda Items which consist of 1,283 pages. I had 16 hard copies that were requested done at the printer with a total cost to the Area of \$750.06. This included a cost of only 3 cents per copy along with a 20% off coupon I had. This had to be one of the largest I can remember in years and unfortunately I under budgeted \$250.00 for printing costs. Hopefully my budgeting cost for printing in 2017 will average out like it did last year. We did not receive a hard copy in the mail like last year from GSO (they were only posted to the Delegates Dashboard) and I knew my printer could not handle printing that many copies. Therefore, I would like to thank Tom and Susie for printing it for me so I could get it to the printer. I enjoyed my trip to St. Cloud that included lunch with them both and much good discussion on Alcoholics Anonymous as always. I also made 30 CD copies, which did take some time and almost put my computer in to go over them. I would also like to thank Rodney our Webmaster for diligently working hard to get them posted to the web, also District 6 for inviting me again this year to go over them with their District on March 18th. I encourage all Districts to ask/invite an Area Officer or Committee Chair to help them out too.

I attended our Area 35 Service Workshop January 14-15, 2017 in Bemidji and felt the Districts that presented did a wonderful job that created much discussion. Tank you to those Districts for their research and input on those assigned topics. A special thank you to our guest Howard L. from the Southeast Region who shared his story and his experience with Alcoholics Anonymous also Roger our Area 35 Alternate Delegate for setting up the Workshop. There is a lot of work and planning that goes in setting this up and it appeared to be an enjoyable weekend for all that attended.

Last Sunday we West Central Regional Delegates had our quarterly phone conference meeting with Tom A. our Trustee. We discussed the minutes from the last board meeting in January (which I will email out to all of you when I receive them), some of the Agenda Items and of course our upcoming WCRAASC that will be held next weekend in Cheyenne. One of the great highlights of our meeting I felt was the discussion on finances. We had an increase from 72 % to 80% in contributions for services, which brought in a net profit of 1.4 million dollars to AAWS. What a positive thing to see after our projected budget for the 2016 year sat at a loss! We are all working towards becoming self-supporting in Alcoholics Anonymous and my hope is that this trend continues to climb. The Grapevine also reported a net profit of \$144k verses a budget loss of \$146k (because of decrease in subscriptions) but did received a 230 increase in subscriptions. Again, this is great news for our fellowship! The LaVina had a \$152k loss for 2016, which the fellowship supports as a service.

I have been busy reading and going over the Agenda Items and look forward to next weekend when we take a first look at them with our WCR friends. I have been asked to also present the Items for CPC along with my Committee of Finance since as you know we only have 8 delegates in our region and 13 Committees to go over them. I would like to thank Mark N. our Area 35 PI Chair for accepting my invitation to moderate the CPC/PI breakout session at this Conference too. I hope to see many of you there!

My travel and arrangements are also complete for the GSC April 23-29, 2017 and I look forward to attending that Conference which is held in Rye, New York a big change from Manhattan last year!

Our Spring Assembly is right around the corner and I do anticipate that it could turn out to be one of our more lengthy Assemblies due to the volume of Agenda Items. I look forward to seeing you all there and hearing your voice in Area 35 that I will be bringing to the Conference. As always thank you all for your service and if you have questions/concerns please let me know.

Let’s all Think Spring!

In love and service,
Kelly D.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Roger R. As we move into 2017, I continue to be 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.

I will be reporting later today, on the 41st Area 35 Service Workshop that took

place on January 14 and 15 in Bemidji MN.

I am directed by an 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 would like to meet with DCM’s from Zone 2, that is District 3 (Brian), District 4 (Bonnie) and District 15 (Melissa) today over lunch to see if you have an interest in hosting a Zonal Forum in the first 6 months of 2017.

My attention is now 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. It looks like there are a number of items with background information at around 1300 pages.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity you all have given me to serve as your Alternate Delegate and look forward to seeing you all at our Spring Assembly in April.

In service,
Roger

AREA CHAIR–Jim S. 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 you presented. I found the speaker quite interesting, good pick. Roger, you did a great job putting this all together and I’m 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, please see me between breaks. The format for the Assembly will remain as it has for the past several years with all agenda items being discussed in a general assembly. 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, 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-Rillis E. Good morning. I’m grateful to be here this morning serving as your Area 35 secretary. Thank you for this opportunity to grow in Alcoholics Anonymous. I attended the Area 35 workshop in Bemidji. I enjoyed listening to our guest speaker and appreciate the work the districts put into their excellent presentations. I completed the minutes from the December Area Committee and they can be found in the Northern Light. I also wrote an article about some of my experiences in service work. I am looking forward to attending the WCRAASC in Wyoming next weekend. I will be available to go to districts and share information regarding the agenda items. Flyers are on the back table for WCRAASC and the Spring Assembly. Please send me your reports before next Friday, March 3.

In Service,
Rillis

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

TREASURER-Christine G. Greetings Area 35. I will be attending the West Central Regional Conference this upcoming weekend. I look forward to getting together with the other Areas to learn more about the agenda items that we will be voting on at the Spring Assembly. It's going to a busy time but it's always a great experience to learn more about AA. Remember that if you need any help with going over the agenda items in your groups or districts don't hesitate to contact an Area Officer or Committee Chair. We are here to help you with the process.

For Period 7, the Area checkbook ended with a balance of \$29,374.24. You sent in \$2,156.27 in contributions and we had \$1,319.63 in expenses. For the 2016, we had \$36,252.71 in income and \$34,130.33 in expenses.

Starting off the year, for Period 1, your checkbook has an ending balance of \$24,687.82 and this is through February 19th. There is a retained earnings line showing on the Balance Sheet that I will be working on to adjust off. That is last year's difference between total income and expenses. We received \$3,005.18 in contributions and we had \$9,029.77 in expenses. The first quarter of the year is a time when we have a lot of expenses to pay. We had the Winter Workshop, chair expenses and the Delegate's expense for the General Service Conference. We will also have upcoming expenses for the West Central Conference and the Spring Assembly. All your contributions are appreciated. If you have any questions about these reports please contact me.

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

In Service,
Christine G.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

CPC- Jim T. Most meetings feature the reading of "How it Works". One Key phrase found on page 58: "If you have decided you want what we have..." That line focuses on: 1.) the alcoholic who still suffers ("you") and on 2.) us ("we"). That is to say, one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic. Another key phrase that I often reflect upon is "decided you want what we have..." So one of the callings of the Committee to work with the Professional Community is to help display what we have. All of us enjoy a program of attraction. As we work on CPC presentations we help to demonstrate "what we have..." and that is what each of us do day to day. Each of us may not be in the spotlight in our 12th step work but we are observed by others. Your behavior may be the only portrayal of the Big Book, which somebody encounters. So enjoy your sobriety each day.

As to the activities of the Area 35 CPC we are steadily taking on assignments. In early January, I presented to about 35 staff members of the Aitkin County Health and Human Services Department, and placed pamphlets with the department suitable for professionals. In January 12 county Human Services Directors and sheriffs received invitations for CPC to present to their staff meetings for 15-20 minute training program. In February another 12 counties have been contacted seeking the same opportunities. Once again, this approach aligns with the theme of "Taking Our Information to Them".

Yesterday PI Chair, Mark N., and I presented and shared at District 8's Workshop in Virginia: "Service is Action...a Little of the Present, Past, and Future". As part of CPC out-reach, I distributed a packet for individuals to share with the professionals in their lives...doctors, clergy, and other professionals. It includes a suggested checklist for CPC in-person calls. Next Tuesday morning I will meet with and present briefly to the Brainerd Ministerial Group. On Tuesday, March 14 we will present to a gathering of north central Minnesota Human Services staff members from 8 counties.

I will attend the Spring Assembly on April 1 and 2 at Rutgers. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

District 1- Good morning. I am Leslie H., Alcoholic. I represent District 1 as their DCM. Our District 1 was unable to meet in December due to weather issues. We have been busy putting together the "Spring Fling" which will be held in Fertile, March 11, at the community center at 1:00 PM. We are co-hosting this along with Area Alanon. It appears to be a great afternoon of sharing. We are having 3 speakers, Vera O. from the Bemidji area sharing her 37 years of her experience, strength, and hope. Then Carl B. from Bagley doing a workshop on steps 6 & 7 – the forgotten steps and Eric H. from Fargo. There are flyers I have left in the back, please come and join us, it should be a great day. I was able to attend the Winter Workshop and "Supporting our Future". It was held in Bemidji and I want to thank Jeff L., DCM and his groups for the service and volunteer time in putting this together. All the groups that presented did a great job and thank you so much. I want to give a round of applause to all that attended, for without you there we would not have future in AA. The Wild Rice Round Up was held the same weekend, I did not attend, as it was the same weekend as the Bemidji workshop and I have not found a way to be 2 places at once. It was reported to me that they had about 270 attending. I want to thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Yours in service.
Leslie Ann H.

District 21-Jeff L. No report

Webmaster-Rodney S. Greetings Area 35, there were four present at our meeting this morning: Bob, Group Records chair; Steve, Northern Light Editor, Rene from District 6, and myself. Topics discussed included the Northern Light mailing list, some recent difficulties I had with uploading the agenda items background file, and contributing articles for the Northern Light.

I felt the district presentations and the Sunday morning guest trustee presenta-

tion at this year's Annual Service Workshop were a great way to start our 2017 year in service. Without making this a recitation of my Northern Light report, I will say simply that keeping the words of that weekend in mind should keep us all grounded in the basic principles practiced by our fellow-ship.

Perhaps one of the greatest areas of growth and deeper understanding and openness through my service work at the area level is in the importance of self-support in relation to its effect on our primary purpose and singleness of purpose. Throughout the annual workshops and pre-conference assemblies, time and time again we are faced with financial issues and/or proposals to ease a financial burden. We spend hours of discussion, looking at and deliberating them from all angles, and thankfully, there always seems to be a strong faction with a voice at the mic that allows us to see that these supposed cures and fixes will take us away from our original goal of carrying the message in the simplest manner.

No matter what service position I've held, there seems to be busy periods and lulls. I haven't felt all that busy with the area website since the January workshop but I wanted to commend the various DCM's that I've connected with through the support email for aameetinglocator on their cooperation and willingness to help with updating meeting information and finding contacts. The flow of information between areas has been smooth and proactive, also.

I look forward to attending WCRAASC next weekend and with any district participation thereafter.

Thanks for these opportunities to serve,
Rodney S.

Literature and Grapevine-We had 11 in attendance this morning. 2 people from Districts 3 & 16, also present were districts 6, 8, 2, 7, 11, and 12. District 6 is putting on a Grapevine writing workshop on 4/8/17 at the Isanti Alano Club. District 3 reported they are bringing newcomer packets into treatment facilities and leaving phone numbers for the hot line in jails, etc. District 12 reported most literature is bought from intergroup and is going to start attracting people to the Grapevine.

District 7 reports they have a \$1500.00 budget for literature and Grapevine and sales have been slow. District 16 reports bringing the Grapevine into jail meeting weekly. District 2 reports going to groups for literature and Grapevine and trying to get people to attend district meetings. District 8 has a new alternate Grapevine/literature and its going good. Welcome, Shari. She bought a couple of books for district. District 11, Cindy, attended her first committee meeting. Welcome Cindy.

I've just ordered about \$550.00 of Grapevine material and have a lot of it with me today. The new book Our 12 Traditions is on sale today for \$11.00 and I have about 20 of them. Please bring your old Grapevines to me as I will get them to treatment or correctional facilities. If anyone needs any additional Grapevine material, please ask and I can order it.

Please elect a Grapevine Rep. if you don't have one and buy a newcomer a gift subscription because I know all of you have a subscription by now. I would like to thank Brian from district 3 for sitting in for me at the WCRAASC as I cannot attend due to my work schedule. Thank you.

Yours in service,
Paul M.

District 11-New DCM, Cindy K. was not aware she needed to give a report. Gary stated "we're here and all is good". Here is an updated report from Cindy.

I attended my first Area 35 committee meeting in February. Please tell me I won't be so befuddled next time. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know other DCM's and GSR's in area 35. District 11 is in need of more GSR participation. I am looking at ways to get the word out to the groups as to what we do and the importance of participation. Some happenings in District 11 include Fellowship bowling the 3rd Friday of the month from 7-11pm.; \$11.00 for the evening in Sandstone. Pot luck open meeting in Mora is on the first Saturday at 6pm with both Alanon and AA speakers Bring a dish to pass.

Thanks
Cindy S-K

District 7-Liz L. Greeting from District 7! So great to be here in Aitkin on this lovely spring day! Our District is gearing up for all the exciting upcoming events like Cheyenne, WY for the (I know we have at least 5 people attending!!) We also have a special meeting scheduled March 30th to cover the Agenda Items, the Spring Assembly at Rutgers's April 1-2!

In other news, we have been experimenting with a new schedule size/format for our District due to growth and sheer numbers of meetings.

We also have a Corrections Transition Fair coming up Thursday, April 6th at the Crow Wing County Jail and continue to try to recruit new volunteers to take meetings into Crow Wing County, Aitkin and Sandstone.

Always a blessing to be able to be of service!

Liz L.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Northern Light-Steve L. Good morning Ladies and Gentleman’s,

I’m Steve L. you Northern Light Editor.

I apologize for the Northern Light being late for this meeting. You should see it in your mailbox by Wednesday or sooner. The snafu came about from asking to print 1000 copies of the NL. Cold Spring was use to printing 600 copies, so they had to do two printings before mailing out 686 copies, because of that the mailing was a week late. This was an excellent edition with lots of great submissions from many people around the area. I hope you had time to read the NL on line on our website Area35.org before today, I usually post it there within two weeks past the submission deadline.

I hope you notice some of the small changes that have been made. I changed the order of some of the repeat information. I changed the volume number to coincide with when the Northern Light was first issued. Another new feature added was a table of contents.

I had an email conversation with Bill from Cold Spring and he stated that it will cost about \$75 to \$80 more to print 1000 copies over the 600 we have had printed in the near past. That is a cost of \$450 to \$480 a year more. It will pay to improve and keep the mailing list updated.

I will not be able to make it the WCRAASC this weekend, I’m retiring from the mining camp I’ve worked at for 39 years this week. Which is a direct result of implementing this program of AA into my life, thank you. I did make reservations for the spring Assembly and attended District 8’s workshop yesterday. There were some great presentations on PI/CPC Treatment, Corrections; Service Experience one notable presentation was a locally written skit on anonymity that brought anonymity to represent current events.

Remember the deadline for the next Northern Light is Monday March 6th, if you are going to the WCRAASC and have a report from there I will stretch the deadline to Wednesday the 8th.

Thank you
Humbly in Service
Steven L.

GROUP RECORDS-Bob B.

- Updated 380 addresses in the GSO database to received mail. All area35 trusted servants listed with GSO will receive mail. We will be able to use this list for our Northern Light mailing. While doing the updates, I found addresses that would not validate; some were missing the state, and other the zip code. All information was updated.
- I’m still getting meeting information with incomplete address information. aaMeetingLocator needs correct addressed for the meeting location. Address like 12th and Vine may or may not get ups the correct meeting location. Please use the address information like 1234 m may or may not get ups the correct meeting location. Please use the address information like 1234 Mystreet, MN, 564XX.
- Bring updates and questions to our next assembly. If we have WIFI I will be able to do updates in real time.
- When doing search in aaMeetingLocator on a cell phone select 20 or more miles. The default and 10 mile options are not working.

In Service,
Bob B.

District 14-Paul E. Not present.

District 6-Renell P. Greetings from District 6, nestled in the SE corner of Area 35. Several of our members, and I, attended and presented at the Area 35 Workshop in Bemidji. It was great to hear new ideas and review old ideas on how we can better serve the still suffering alcoholic and our district members.

We held our District meetings in Dec., Jan. and Feb. There were 2 Committee chair positions open; CPC/PI and Literature. I was able to fill Literature right away and I’m working on finding a replacement for CPC/PI, because we really need an active member to step into that position.

I am looking forward to WCRAASC in Cheyenne. Our agenda item workshop will be on Sat. March 18th. Our district is sending at least 4 to the Spring Assembly, and possibly more. We are putting on a **Grapevine Writing Workshop** on Sat. April 8th at noon. It will be held at the Isanti Alano Club, Isanti, MN.

I have proposed to our members to hold at least 3 workshops this year. The hot topics suggested are Archives and Sponsorship. (I set a date, today, with Brad to do an Archives Workshop on Saturday, June 24th)

I want to thank you all for being here, today and I thank my Higher Power for bringing me here.

Yours in Service,
Renell P.

TREATMENT-Gayle R. Greetings Area 35, there is not a lot to report since the Area 35 January workshop. Thank you again to the districts who presented. I have only had a few temporary contacts and have forwarded those requests to the area or district needed. I am still working on communicating with a facility in Mora as they are using the Temporary Contact forms; I need a little more information.

I have downloaded the GSO agenda items and background material. 1277 pages are a lot to go thru but I have started reading and preparing, if anyone would like any help with discussion, we can try to help.

From today’s meeting, we had 9 present with Districts 12, 16,18,15,4,8 & 7 represented. District 12 Steve (DCM) & Rich (Alt DCM) reported, new treatment chair Shelly H (unavailable today). She has been in contact with Liberalis, women’s facility, they want us, and they don’t want us right now. They are wanting us again 2 times a week. The Center for Alcohol & Drugs Treatment in Duluth AA facilities men’s meeting the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, finding the Speaker format works better. The facility Bethel hosts an open speaker meeting on Saturdays, usually has about 80 to 100 persons. Bethel also has a women’s meeting on Sunday and an open meeting on Mondays. Sara from District 8 states Arrowhead Treatment in Virginia, center request an 8 week commitment, speaking on steps with a Q & A, for their Phase out program. They are also considering doing a day meeting as needed. Range Center also in Virginia continues to need more speakers (see Sara if interested). Merit Transitional House changing format, discussion for 1 speaker a month during the day. Starting to rebuild the relationship with local Al-Anon (commitments were lacking).

District 8 had a workshop 2/25 (yesterday) Sara had about 10-15 minutes to talk about Treatment. Mary from District 16 (Welcome back to Area 35), Mary is not the treatment chair, sat in with us anyway. AA members will go to speak into treatment centers but centers are not always welcome to AA’s format. Not sure why we are not welcome into facility, treatment center has open meeting, perhaps is the behavior of AA members. BR DCM district 18, reported that his treatment chair does an awesome job, end of his report. Kathy District 4 reported that district 4 takes in 6 meetings a month, 2 groups sponsored meeting once a month, and 2 women and 3 men from district 15 takes in meeting. THANK YOU District 15.

The Women’s Serenity Group donates books for women to take on their recovery journey. New Vision in Morris Day program and Relapse prevention has 6 volunteers once every 6 weeks, talk about What AA is, and gives an AA beginners packet. Kathy is working on a Service Board to post what is needed for service commitments; this would be posted in every meeting place in the District. Scott from District 18 has 3 facilities in the district, New Way in Long Prairie and 2 youth facilities, one in Aldridge and one in Staples. Treatment is working with CPC and PI to work with the workers at the youths facilities on the topic of Open and Closed meetings, as a group from one of the youth facilities was turned away at a closed meeting. Bell Hill in Wadena (District 3) is an adult in patient treatment center needs female speakers, see Scott if interested!! New way facility only wants speakers once or twice a year.

There will be an AWESOME AA speaker (Pat M.) on April 15 at the Staples Area Annual Spring Round Robin (see flyer). Pat M. from District 15 reported (after we were side tracked), Serenity Paths in Paynesville continues to need speakers men and women, I spoke there not that long ago, Roger and Christine are scheduled to speak soon. Friday nights at 7pm, Pat has gotten only 3 speakers that have volunteered, and 9 of 10 speakers are from other than District 15. Sobriety First in Sauk Center and also Midtown Square in St. Cloud has an open meeting that we chair and we have 2 or 3 going in. 5 groups are going to Passage men’s every 3rd month Mondays @ 7pm. Still need District 15 volunteers to help District 13 bring in a meeting to the women at Passages. See Pat if interested in any of these service opportunities.

Tim V. a GSR from Wright Big Book in District 7 did not sit in our meeting but reported there is an open speaker meeting at Mash Ka Wisen, a Native Treatment Center, on Wednesdays. Also District 7 goes in as needed to De Haven outpatient center in Cloquet... Our discussion was in the middle of our district reports; we discussed AA structure vs Treatment center rules, also lead by sponsorships, AA Sponsorship workshop, please see flyer. It has been requested I update the Treatment committee contact list, so I will get that out as soon as possible. Apologies again to Pat, District 15 for skipping over him during reports. I am planning on attending West Central Regional AA Service Conference next weekend. Christine and I are going to District 15 March 6th to help with the agenda and background material.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Gayle R

District 18-BR B. Good morning, I’m the DCM of district 18. Janie F. is our new secretary and all of our officer positions are now full. We have a round robin in Motley March 11th and in Staples April 15th. The Staples hospital meetings on March 11th and April 15th will not be held in order to encourage participation at the round robins on these dates. The February 25th Drunks on Ice fishing extravaganza??? in Parkers Prairie was a success. District 18 participated in the Area 35’s 41st annual workshop in Bemidji. We did a skit on safety and it was well received. That is all I have to report at this time. Thank you for your service.

BR B.

District 12-Steve E. Good morning Area 35. I attended the area service workshop in Bemidji on Jan. 14 & 15. I enjoyed that experience. Our district meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at rotating locations. We have recently filled our Treatment Committee Chair position. Shelley H. has volunteered for that. Thank you to Rich G. for temporarily covering that position. All of our treatment meetings are covered and Liberalis Woman’s Treatment center is showing interest in our helping them find speakers and chairwomen. Our Corrections Committee Chair, Frank K., is continually trying to find volunteers to chair meetings at federal prison camp and jails. This past week, we had a manned table with literature at Lake Superior College Health Fair. Upcoming, we will also have a presence with

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

literature at UMD and WITC. Thanks to PI/CPC Committee Chair, Rita L. for arranging these and Literature Committee Chair, Chris L. and Alt DCM Rich G. for set up and manning these tables. We are always looking for more help on committees.

Heard a nice story about a woman that saw one of our billboard signs on W. Michigan St. She called the number she saw, which was our Intergroup office, and soon found herself at her very first AA meeting. She was greeted warmly and exchanged some phone numbers. Sure hope she sticks around. I'm looking forward to the spring assembly.

Yours in service,
Steve E.

ARCHIVIST-Brad I. Since the December Committee Meeting I traveled to beautiful downtown Pike Sandy to record the District 8 Archives workshop, and to Bemidji for the Annual Area Workshop. I had stuff to set up a display but lack of space precluded doing so. I have all the presentations and all the Trustee talks on my laptop. If you would like a copy please bring me, a jump drive and it will take just seconds. On my calendar is the Winter Warm Up in Morehead, The Stearns County Round-Up the Superior Round-Up, The Thunder Bay Roundup, Gopher State and a Workshop in Isanti. I won't be able to go to the WCRAASC due to being 3 ½ people short at work. Area 36 has a new Archivist who has yet to make contact with me. I have never met her or the new Archives Chair. I will be doing a joint display with the Past Area 36 Archivist at Gopher state.

There is a GSC Item for the Archives Committee to produce a new book with the title "Unity In Action: Bill W's Service conference talks 1951-1970.

Please copy me on your District Minutes so there is a copy outside of your district. Trust me you will need your past minutes in the future. There will be a conflagration at a District meeting if you don't have easy access to past minutes.

Brad I.

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

- Here are some of the ideas that were generated:
- Have each district put together a time line of their district history.
- Have a history moment at each District meeting on a group or district event in the past
- Develop district archives presentations that could be given at Area functions such as the Winter Workshop.
- Ensure each district archives chair has the Archives workbook.
- Provide groups with group history form
- Remind groups that Brad collects our archival material.
- Begin the process of identifying old-timers for either history interviews or oral history interviews.

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

Yours in service
Steve D.

District 8-Scott M. Greetings from District 8. Committees have been busy taking care of commitments within our district. At our most recent district meeting it was decided to move our informational beginners meeting into the Range Treatment Center because of concern about attendance. This is a weekly meeting that is chaired by a different group each month. Treatment Chair, Sara, is looking into possibly putting together a monthly speaker meeting at the Merritt House, which is a facility for individuals with mental illness. Our public information committee is hard at work preparing to host a PI luncheon in conjunction with the Winter Rap Up at the end of March. Tickets are being purchased by the groups and are being distributed to professionals throughout the community inviting them to attend. District 8 workshop was held February 25th with participation from various groups and committees. Thank you Area PI/CPC. A speaker meeting was held afterward. Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Assembly.

Yours in Service,
Scott M.

District 4-Not present

CORRECTIONS-Servando M. Due to work schedule, I was unable to attend the area workshop and the last Joint Corrections meeting. I will however be able to attend the West Central and Spring Assembly. If groups or dis-

tricts would like, please contact me and we will try to schedule a time that is agreeable to all to share the information we have.

This morning's meeting was attended by 10 people representing Districts 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 15. We discussed a request made by the Moose Lake correctional facility for some literature, the joint corrections meeting, and transitional fairs that are coming up.

Thanks for allowing me to be of service.
Servando M.

District 2-Myron H. Good afternoon, my name is Myron and I am an alcoholic. I am the current DCM for District 2. Our district participated in the January workshop in Bemidji. Thank you Rod P. and Dave N. for your involvement at this event. You are valuable members of our Fellowship.

This week I will be attending a regional conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This activity should help me in preparing to discuss our agenda items at our March 12, District 2 meeting in Middle River. We will be going over the "Hot topics" items as a precursor to the spring assembly in April.

Our district is sound financially and we have a separate account (funded by a previous round-up) which could be used by anyone willing to sponsor and organize a district wide event.

Memorial weekend, "Camperama" will be held at the Lake Bronson State Park near Lake Bronson. MN. This is a free event featuring camping with tents, RV hookups and cabins available. Though not sponsored by District 2, we help publicize this alcohol free activity as it occurs in our territory.

Yours in service,
Myron H.

District 13-Al K. District 13 is moving into a busy time of the year as February comes to a close. Our District has decided to complete a District inventory. The inventories have been distributed and are being completed. The results of the inventory will be reviewed on March 6th at our regularly scheduled District Meeting. We have been fortunate to obtain a past Delegate of Area 35 to facilitate the inventory and we would like to thank Jim K. for his willingness to help.

A 2nd March meeting will be scheduled for our District to review the agenda items of the General Service Conference. The agenda items and background information has been distributed.

It is with deep regret to report that I will not be able to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Cheyenne WY this year, however our alternate DCM, Sean S. stated that he might be able to attend. I am happy to report that District 13 is currently fully staffed with officers and chairs. We elected a new Literature Chair on February 6th. Overall, there has been increased activity from all of our Chairs and Officers in the 2nd year of our rotation and we have been exploring avenues to carry the message that were not explored in 2016.

Yours in service
Allen K.

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 presented at the January Workshop and really had an amazing time listening to all the other presentations that were given and learning from our special guest Howard L. Thank you to everyone especially District 21, Roger R. and all the Districts who put on presentations. We appreciate all the time and effort to make the January Workshop such a success! I will be attending the West Central Regional Conference in Cheyenne Wyoming along with our District Treatment Chair Pat M. we are really looking forward to going over the agenda items! We have finally updated our meeting cards. Our Stearns County Round up is coming up on March 25th and starts at 6pm. We would love to have anyone and everyone attend! It is being held at The Landing, which is located in St. Anna. It is our biggest event of the year with usually 250 people in attendance; we have such amazing speakers lined up for this year and always have a great chicken dinner and an ice cream social! If you are interested in attending please let me know! We have tickets available. Our next District meeting is March 6th, which we look forward to having our Area Treasurer Christine and Gayle our Area Treatment Chair attend and help our District go over the agenda items for the spring assembly! We are keeping our commitments with all the treatment centers that we help out in, not only within our District but also in District 13 and District 4. A big thank you to Pat M. for covering our last District meeting and for working as hard as he does making sure our commitments are fulfilled at the Treatment Centers. On a good note, we have more groups contributing to our District, which is awesome! And I just read the email the Kelly D. sent out about Area and GSO contributions and we are at a higher percentage, which is exciting as well! We have decided to table having a service workshop until our April District meeting to figure out what weekend works best!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service! In addition, an even bigger thank you to everyone who continues to serve within Area 35!

Melissa A.
DCM 15

(Continued on page 15)

Responsibility Statement

I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

(Continued from page 14)

PI-Mark N. There were 8 people present at our 9:00am break out session representing 6 districts. There is an opportunity in district 9 for presenting to graduating nurses and policemen from the local college. District 9 was also interested in how Google voice works and how to use it. A CPC luncheon is planned for March 29th in District 8 at the Mountain Iron Community Center at noon, tickets are being sold for that. District 7 uses a phone service with Century Link that allows calls to come into a central number and then dispatched to private landlines or cell phones for answering. It runs in 3 shifts per day, 7 days a week. District 21 did a presentation for Sanford Health primary care professionals, and also has a presence with the DWI court committee. District 12 is doing Health fairs with the colleges and schools.

I presented at the District 8 Service Workshop held in Virginia MN on Feb. 25th.

Paid a visit to the District 6 and 7’s committee meeting. Have 2 shifts on the AA Central Lakes Helpline.

I will be working on presenting to local newspapers, creating a business card for AA service work, meeting with the High school and colleges, bringing the service and traditions message to the local AA meetings and groups, get PSA’s to the local radio stations, help to create a Public Information committee running in the Districts, and get out to visit and be of service to the districts.

District 9-Kathy R. There was an Alanon/AA speaker meeting in February in Nashwauk. It was well attended and excellent. District 9 has begun a district inventory. We are using the format from the brochure The AA group, the AA Group Inventory. Each month the GSRs will ask their groups a question or two. When we complete the questions, an inventory will be published in our district meeting minutes. The Winter Workshop was an amazing experience. District 9 presented “Is Your Voice Heard”. Well done!! Jack P. is our new District 9 Treatment Chair. Have two openings: Corrections and Archives. District 9 and 16 will have the delegate report at 1:00 PM on May 20th at the Hibbing Alano Club.

March will find District 9 preparing for the Area 35 Assembly.

In Service,
Cathy R.

District 5-Jon S. Not present

District 3-Brian P. District 3 meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Alano Club in Detroit Lakes. Round Robin in Hawley with a smaller crowd. great food. Really enjoyed the General Service Workshop and all the presentations by the different districts. 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. Looking forward to attending the West Central in Cheyenne this week.

Yours in Service
Brian Pederson, DCM Dist. 3

District 16-Mike F. My name is Mike F. and I am the DCM for District 16. We hold our district meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in Grand Rapids. Our district is also represented here today by our Literature and Grapevine Chair Dave C., and Mary R., a member of our Friday night As Bill Sees It group. Our PI, CPC, Corrections, and Archives positions are currently open. However, we still serve by running a weekly meeting in the men’s county jail.

In January we presented at the service workshop on the topic of Spirituality and Money. We learned a lot going through the process of researching and preparing the presentation. Thanks to Roger for a great workshop. In February we held a concepts workshop. We also learned a lot working on it. Attendance was 14. I’d like to thank Dave Clark for his service in organizing and participating in it.

We are hosting a sponsorship workshop the afternoon of Saturday March 25th in Grand Rapids. Flyers are on the back table and on the area website events calendar. The Iron Range Get Together will be held May 5th, 6th, and 7th at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids. The flyer is on the area website events calendar. The Tuesday Night Solutions Group will be hosting their annual round-up “A Weekend with Bill and Lois” at Camp Hiawatha at Deer Lake on July 28th, 29th, and 30th. We currently have 22 groups in our district. The district is solvent and we have a prudent reserve.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

FOC-committee did not meet due to Area Treasure, Christine G., unable to attend ACM held today.

JOINT CORRECTIONS-Servando M. Greetings. Due to my work schedule, I was unable to attend but thankfully, Doreen from District 13 was there to represent Area 35. Her report is available on area35.org under district 13 minutes.

Items discussed were a quarterly corrections newsletter and possible funding, literature funding for a card containing contact info and resources at a glance for professionals in correctional facilities, along with Transitional Fair guidelines.

The next meeting will be held April 11 at 6:30 at Lynde’s Family Restaurant in Osseo, MN.

In Service,
Servando M.

ANNUAL WORKSHOP REPORT-Roger R. Roger thanked everyone that participated in the January Workshop in Bemidji. 97 people attended which Roger thought was a good turnout. He thanked Districts 6, 18, 15, 2, 21, 16, 9, and 1 for their excellent presentations. The presentations stimulated excellent participation by the attendees. Howard L. was the guest speaker; he spoke on Growth and Participation in AA. Howard’s perspective is we don’t need to worry about growth: growth will take care of itself if it going to happen. We need to wake up each morning, follow God’s plan, and carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic. We don’t need a growth plan. Howard told his story on Saturday evening. Roger hosted Howard over the weekend as well as Tom and Suzie A. Roger thanked Jeff L, DCM District 21, and others from that district for setting up the room and managing the registration table. During their breakout sessions, Roger encouraged GSRs and DCMs to discuss how they contribute to AA’s future through their service positions.

A complete report of the breakout sessions will be in Roger’s report in the Northern Light. 47 evaluations were returned and according to those evaluations, the most helpful parts of the workshop were the sharing from the floor discussions, Howard’s presentation was well received, and the general session presentations. Also noted in the evaluations: the groups did a good job of talking about both the spiritual and literature perspective on topics assigned and the issue of safety was helpful. Suggestions for improving the workshop: use the guest or trustee more, such as 2 presentations rather than just one; have area officers and chairs give presentations. Financially, the workshop took in \$900.00 but 97 people attended therefore not everyone registered. Roger offered “amnesty” and asked those who forgot to register to see him. Overall, the workshop was under budget by \$398.52.

SPRING ASSEMBLY-Jim S. Covered in Jim’s Area Chair report.

DISTRICT MEETINGS-Jim S. Jim reminded DCMs to ask area officers and chairs to attend their district meetings to review agenda items in preparation for the Spring Assembly. DCMs were also encouraged to schedule Kelly’s report back from the General Service Conference with her as soon as possible.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-Steve L. Encourage members to write articles for the next issue of the Northern Light. See calendar of events on area 35.org as well as fliers in the back of the room for upcoming AA events.

- The meeting was adjourned with the responsibility statement.

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.

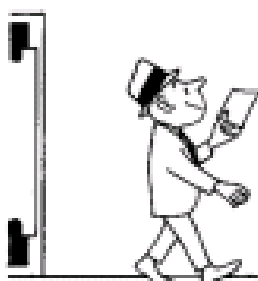
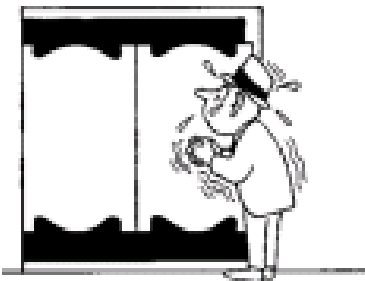
A Declaration of Unity

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 :	24th & 25th : 38th Winter Rap-Up* Mt. Iron Community Center 8586 Enterprise Dr. S. Mt. Iron , MN (just off Hwy 169)	April :	15th : Staples Area Annual Spring Round Robin United Methodist Church 311 5 th St. NE Staples, MN
	25th : Stearns County Round-Up * 18527 Co Rd 154 Avon, MN		21st & 23rd : Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend Holiday Inn 1201 Torgerson Dr. Fairmont, MN
	25th : AA Sponsorship Workshop * United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall) 1701 SE 5 th Ave Grand Rapids, MN		28st & 30th : 72nd Superior Roundup Superior Fairgrounds Curling Club 4700 Tower Ave Superior, WI
	30th : TNYPAA Open Speaker Meeting and Potluck St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7 th Ave NE St. Cloud, MN	May:	5th - 7th : Iron Range Get-Together Sawmill Inn 2301 S Pokegama Ave Grand Rapids, MN
April :	1st & 2nd : Area 35 Spring Assembly * Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge 25039 Tame Fish Road Deerwood, MN		5th & 6th : Alcoholics Anonymous SYMPOSIUM FargoDome 1800 N University Drive, Fargo ND
	8th : Grapevine Writing Workshop Isanti Alano Club 1790 Heritage Blvd. Isanti, MN		21st: Biwabik Sunday Night Open Speaker Meeting United Methodist Church 501 Main St. Biwabik, MN



Area 35 2017 General Service Conference

Greetings Area 35,

I created this flyer to help you understand the upcoming Agenda Item process. The Agenda Items do not come out any sooner to the Delegate's than the week of February 15, 2017 due to the January

General Service Board Meeting. Once I have the information I make copies and CD's to distribute at the Aitkin Committee Meeting on February 26, 2017 to all Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM's and past Delegates. It is the DCM's responsibility to get this information out right away to their GSR's so they have plenty of time to discuss them with their home groups before the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

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

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

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

Agenda Deadline Dates

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



41st Area 35 Service Workshop Report
January 14 & 15, 2017
Bemidji, MN

Attendance: 97

I would like to thank Jeff L., DCM of District 21 for assisting in set-up, organizing greeters and registration table volunteers for the entire workshop.

I would like to commend Districts 6, 18, 15, 2, 21, 16, 9 and 1 for their excellent presentations. See my forthcoming Northern Light report for these presentation highlights.

All presenting Districts stimulated excellent member participation too. Summaries of District presentations follow.

Diversity-Outreach and Attraction District 6

One of AA’s great strengths is our diversity. We are also one size fits all. Read- “Why Do We Need A Conference” We reverse the idea of separation and seek inclusion. Reached out hand needs to be authentic, no place for negativity. Outreach means to go beyond. Bill W. devotion and compassion are practiced. Cited Calgary Area 78 CPC imitative to set up demonstration meetings for new student doctors and student nurses. Branching out to judges attending demonstration meeting too. Rules can limit our outreach, attraction and accessibility. Posed question on growth, participation and contributions.

Safety-An Important Consideration District 18

Skit. Barbara- attractive- 30 days. Brad uses meetings for a dating pool. Brad offers to drive Mindy home, goes for a smooch. Recommended that males stay with males and females with females. Serious issues – inappropriate behavior. It is all of our responsibility to keep our meeting’s safe. Talk about this in your group. Good participation, attacks do happen, need to communicate face to face.

Many woman have been abused prior to AA, many are hit on at meetings. Hard for woman to stay sober in this context. 13th stepping chases women away.

Drinking at/ before meetings is also a problem. Mental health is also an issue. Need to correct people at times, this is what we do and don’t do. Need to say something. Challenge- we are a society of sick people. Being a fellowship, talking about what is going at our meetings on is important. 12 step work is seen as not my responsibility, a hardship. Safety is our responsibility. Recent lawsuit in CA, cost AA 250k. Groups can set their own rules. Starts with each of us. Women- don’t be afraid to ask for help. Don’t leave women there in the dark, stick together, ask for help if needed. Members with mental health issues, who are managing well can best talk to similar individuals who have issues.

Communication –Today and Tomorrow District 15

Communication that was used when AA was created is best to stay with today. The way AA has carried the message over the years has changed but the message remains the same. How can communication of acceptance help the still suffering alcoholic? Today’s communication: face to face; phone; meetings; speaking; treatment/jails/ pamphlets; text messaging/ social media Are we going to any length to pass our message on? Reported Statistics from membership survey on how people are introduced to AA.

Participation- posed 4 questions What are we doing to promote one on one communication? Is text messaging a good form of communication? Can set up calls via texting. Stats show that only 1% of new members find their way into AA by using the internet. Do you think Social Media should be a way to reach out to new comers?

Fellowship vs. Membership District 2

No penalties, no fees, no one can be expelled. We are inclusive, everybody is welcome. Good that membership is still loose. Great that I have a future and can maybe achieve it. Participation, serenity. What are we really afraid of. Today I am afraid of drinking. Many things that I can learn here, that I can’t at my home group. Suit up and show up, learned in first week.

I have two character defects: chewing tobacco, trying to be humble. When it comes to the fellowship, preamble is a condensed version of all of our traditions. AA is a fellowship which includes all of the members. Some are active and some are inactive. Never found a good enough excuse to miss a meeting. Two things needed to become an old-timer- don’t drink, don’t die. With God’s help I can do the first, second is also up to God. I don’t have to drink today. I give credit to the fellowship of AA and the grace of God. Purpose is to point you toward s God.

Some think membership is the big part, some think fellowship is the big part. Adversity gives us the chance to grow, more than comfort. Best to keep our membership open to all who want to stop drinking. We have fun but this is serious and for those still drinking it is hell We have to practice tolerance and love. If AA does not work for someone that is ok. Try something else. Bums, judges, criminal all are welcome. Fellow- ship- means on the same boat. Also medical definition of fellowship.

Community of active ability and experience. We are all equal as long as we are staying sober. Spiritual communion with a divine being. If we practice our

fellowship people will stick around. Fellowship is capitalized in the Big Book which refers to something spiritual .

Leadership: “I am Responsible...” District 21

I am responsible... from 1965 International Conference. My sobriety is between myself and my higher power. Stepping Stone- see dictionaries everywhere with words underlined from Bill. I am responsible for the effort, not results. 1955, anonymity is our greatest protection.... True meaning of humility is self-sacrifice. True purpose of our program is to give maximum sacrifice to God and our fellow man. 12 step work is a joy, not a burden. 1955 St. Louis Convention, Sam Schumaker. Most important in the world . Men walk through to find God. Just as I crave to find the door. Men sometimes don’t find that door, yet it is the most impotent door. Latch clicks with hand on the latch. Men die if they live on the other side of that door. AA Comes of Age is a fantastic book on early years of AA and the history. Talks about responsibility and what happens if we are not responsible. Bill- St. Louis Convention, commemorating the 20 years of AA. What happens when we are not responsible? AA would become an anarchy. Some dive under the table when asked to be sponsors. That’s not responsibility.

What my sponsor did for me? He was responsible to show me the truth when I could not see it. As a sponsor I get to go through the book and steps again. BB in How it Works. Those not sponsoring are missing out on a huge responsibility.

Concept 9. Am is willing... to seek advice, surrender personal feuds, have other take my inventory. I am responsible, - part of a we program. What am I responsible for? If you are willing to do anything, you won’t fail. Sponsorship is a key. Biggest gift he was given is ability to work with others. Spiritual experience, leadership at its finest. As long as I lead by example, as my sponsor did for me. Getting just one person well helps so much. Participation-I came to AA, didn’t want to. Citizens of Blue Earth County asked me to attend.

AA hadn’t failed and it saved my life. The program that I fought so hard to avoid did it. Independence of spirit is dependence on God. Only way to keep it is to give it away. Many shy away from concept of service, but they don’t know what they are missing.

Is Your Voice Heard? District 9

Skit. Beginners meeting. 3-month period with no newcomers. So, go to a meeting. Vote requested to close the beginner meeting at district meeting. So, in AA we give respect to people even if they do not agree with us. We do not know when that person is going to walk through that door. We had 2 off the street, one sober, one drunk. Vote changes due to minority opinion. Went to first assembly, thought it was politics, but gave it another chance. GV rep. GV has helped thousands to stay sober. Has worked at all district positions except alt DCM. Need to be willing to go to any length, including things I may not want to do. If you feel you are not being heard, get out and do more, out of your comfort zone. Take baby steps, don’t give up on us. Biggest part of being heard is listening. Need to first listen before being heard. What attracts someone?

Participation- Proposed to district to switch to reading a traditions vs a concept at beginning of each meeting. One GSR spoke against due to concepts only presented at district meeting. Voted against his own motion. We come together with questionable ideas. Group conscience, God that is in the middle, guided by our principles. Humbling experience.

Spirituality and Money District 16

“ Experience warned us our spiritual heritage could be destroyed”. Rockefeller and publisher insisted AA be self-supporting, a real gift. Nice definition of what is service- anything that helps us reach our fellow sufferers is 12th step work. 12th step is our principle aim, the main reason for our existence. Action is the key. Action is a call for sacrifice in time and money. We swung from the idea that we needed vast sums of money to the notion that AA should not have any. “ You can’t mix AA and money”. We shall have to separate the material from the spiritual ”The avoidance of outside interference”. At the personal level does lots of money keep an alcoholic sober. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority. Tradition 6, Tradition 5. Tradition 12- contribute anonymously.” Bill- there is a place in AA where spirituality and money would mix and that is in the hat.

Participation- All of the money that goes in the basket is AA money. Should go to AA entities and AA expenses only.

Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations District 1

Info from Bill from Language of the Heart. Historical summary. We came in as takers- learn to be gives in AA. P. 349 Language of the Heart- AA maintains the integrity of the values set down in the beginning. Self-support pamphlet, good information. Responsibility is an obligation to be grateful; we owe our lives to this program. Giving is not only monetary, greeting, opening a meeting, showing up, suiting up, being a sponsor, talking, listening, work

(Continued from page 17)

ing in the workshops, DCM. Trustee, leader, don't have enough money to match the worth of AA, gives us a chance to have our families back.

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 Saturday evening. As Howard's host for the weekend I am most grateful for the opportunity to get to know Howard. He is a Past Delegate, Trustee and very solid fellowship member. A summary of Howard presentation follows.

Growth, Participation and Contributions Howard L.

Doesn't follow directions well. Let's have a participatory workshop. First part is growth. Why and how do we work for growth? What market are we seeking when we work for growth? Participation- Veterans from military need a lot of help with alcoholism. Work for growth because I need new ideas. Growth is what we are socialized into wanting. Do we really want to reach people who may be interested in AA? Alternatively, do we reach out to alcoholics who are suffering and want to recover? More is not better, more better is better. There is growth in doing what we are supposed to be doing. Freedom under God to grow. We have no... to grow in AA comes of Age. We don't drive people to AA, we are just out there and they are attracted to us. AA can use social media for information, AA members can't.

Howard- you are probably going to hear growth talked about as we need to grow the number of people in AA. Getting more people to meetings is not really our goal. If Step 3 is in, if I tend to today, if I tend to what my higher power puts in my today, we will be ok. We need to reach those who suffer from alcoholism and wish to recover. 1.4 million in the US and Canada without a marketing plan.

Participation and contributions. % of contributions being so low. If we get more alcoholics, as members then the participation and contribution will take care of ourselves. A tweet is not going to attract someone, a sober member of AA is. We need to make sure our doors are open for anybody who want to walk in.

DCM's and GSR's continued participation in the workshop in their break-out sessions in which they were asked to discuss how they can contribute to growth of our fellowship. Complete summaries of the break-out sessions follow.

GSR Sharing Session- January Workshop 2017

Supporting Our Future

How do we get more GSR's involved?

- Bringing our GSR voice to other groups
- Putting together GSR workshops that stress the concepts
- Explain your role, duties, and responsibilities as a GSR to group members to help spark participation at the district level.

What can we do to get members to participate and show up to the District meeting?

- Keep the District meeting at the same place and the same time and day each
- Month and get the word out.
- District inventories, Group inventories
- Sponsors need to stress service work and encourage participation.
- Ask GSR's to attend meetings that do not have GSR's and encourage GSR
- Participation.
- Groom future GSR's
- Ask group members what they need from the District
- Utilize potlucks, food, and round-ups to help encourage and spark interest in
- Attendance at the District meetings.
- Distribute flyers with District meeting information
- Instead of closing at the end of a meeting on a business meeting night go straight into the business meeting which will "help force" everyone to stay and attend the business meeting.
- Getting feedback from the district meeting and sharing GSR reports at the group level.

Things GSR's can do:

- Provide and distribute an informational flyer and hand it out at your meeting for everyone to read.
- Highlight and stress the very critical points to your group members from the district meetings that will or may require a vote to get our group conscience.
- Stress to fellow GSR's how important their attendance and participation is at the District level so they can communicate with the DCM and provide that information to their groups.
- Keep in contact with your DCM's to help stay on top of the current and upcoming District agenda.
- Bring back all of the positive things you experienced at this year's Area 35 January workshop to your group members and share your thoughts.

DCM Sharing Session- January Workshop

Supporting our future

12 DCM's in attendance

Getting people involved in service:

- Sponsorship
- How we portray the positions that we are in, we need to be enthusiastic and excited about our positions
- Start to groom GSR's into the position before the 2-year commitment is up.
- Those 3 legacies have to happen in order, recovery then unity and then service. People need to be recovered first. They need to have certain tools before they can do the service work. People who are involved in service need to find a new person and guide them.
- GSR's should be front and center in our district meetings and at the group level they should be giving reports at what took place at the district meeting or area function.
- Our district went to all the outlining cities and brought the district there. Which didn't work out well, as the DCM and I decided I'll start going to every meeting.

Page 336-337 in the Big Book- share with people who may be interested in service or whom you think would be good at service.

Sponsorship:

- I ask newcomers what they are looking for in a sponsor. Then I let them know what I am looking for in a sponsee, find a home group, find a job, it gets them comfortable in the meeting level in having responsibility.
- Unrecovered alcoholism
- Service and a joyful heart is attracting
- Our district went to all the outlining cities and brought the district there.
- Sponsorship workshop

Responsibility/preparing future DCM's:

- If you want A.A. to be there then it is our responsibility to help
- I bring our old DCM with me, I take him everywhere because he is knowledgeable and if he doesn't have an answer he finds it. We need to utilize the people who came before us.
- We need to put the word out of who wants to be next.
- DCM pamphlets/ DCM packets/ General Service Manual
- Sometimes we need to leave the position open for a while until someone feels the burn to do it.

Concepts:

(Justin has concepts email if you want a copy/ minutes)

- When you get the concepts brought down to the level of the person that makes coffee it is really helpful and understanding. (Brooke)
- Have a concept presentation at a January workshop.
- Read the concepts to my district at the district meetings
- Getting the concepts down to the group level.
- Create a group of people who want to learn the concepts and get together with them and post flyers about it.
- 12 concepts illustrated pamphlet
- Read a concept at the group business meeting
- District could hold a concept workshop

Ask it Basket

- Bruce, Susie, Jake, Tom, Tim C., Howard L.
- Susie-Old issue- drugs vs alcohol
- Jake- addiction vs alcoholism. Talks about disease of alcoholism so they don't kill themselves. Invite people cuz of their alcoholism.
- Tim- Future of online AA meetings and groups. Follow AA's traditions and we will be alright. No personal experience with these. Why is the Grapevine so good? Plays an important part, written by AA members.
- Tom Panel 50- What is the answer to all of our problems. Attended first AA service event here in Bemidji. Started as GSR in 1987 and am now the Trustee. Spiritual principles are the answer to all of our problems. Personally 12 steps, twelve traditions are the spiritual principles are the answer to all of our problems.
- Howard- How do we get manly groups engaged in our general service structure,? Something radical like nominating a GSR? Service Manual- DCMs need to visit the groups. In Mississippi, if you feed them they will come, and you know what they started coming, decided something for them and they will come to the next meeting to represent their group. Tel them only GSR's can vote and they will elect a GSR. They'll come to tell you they won't do what you decided for them.
- Bruce Why, is singleness of purpose import for recovery, unity and service. Lois Wilson said singleness of purpose can be the worst for us. If you gently tell people this is a meeting of alcoholics who wish to recover from alcoholism. Unifying effect that we are all here for the same reason. Our steps work for lots of things and there are fellowships what do that.
- Susie Don't we need to grow alcoholics anonymous. NO we discussed this already.
- Jake- what is the biggest change in AA since your first meeting. Biggest change is me, AA has not changed. How I look at it has changed. Look at the history, AA will not change and should not. The principles will stay the same.

(Continued on page 19)

Slogans

Think, Think, Think — Easy Does It — K.I.S.S. — Live and Let Live— H.A.L.T — But For The Grace of God — This to Shall Pass — One Day at a Time

(Continued from page 18)

Evaluations (47)

What part of the service workshop helped you the most?

Workshop experience as a whole: 29
General Session Presentations: 22
General Sharing from the Floor: 18
Saturday Night Speaker: 14
GSR/DCM Breakout Session: 12
Sunday Morning Speaker: 10
Meeting the Trustee: 8

In What Way did it (they) help?

- Starting to think about ways to preserve AA’s future-communication, safety, membership, diversity and outreach.
- Made it even more clear that I have to keep the future of AA going
- I learned new information throughout the weekend
- I enjoyed seeing the broad reach of AA in our area- eye opening
- Listening to people with same problems, attitude and solutions
- Understanding how and what we need to do to support our future
- The GSR sharing was very helpful
- Nice to hear about safety, general rules of thumb on how men and women should behave, also for those suffering from grave mental illnesses
- I had questions regarding my home group and the steering committee.
- There were a lot of good things shared at the Breakout Session and general sharing from the floor
- I always learn something at the workshops. I appreciate the opportunity to meet new people and enjoy our fellowship.
- It gave me a lot of ideas to take back to my group and district
- Got to hear other people’s experiences
- There we a lot of good ideas on how to get some participation from our members and groups
- It was very interesting and had lots of good points- thank you!
- Good topics
- Getting different perspectives-How other groups, GSR’s land DCM’s get people involved
- You did a good job-Roger
- I got more form this workshop than from past workshops just because I was in a better place. The presentations were thought provoking and helpful. The GSR session was particularly helpful as it gave me so many ideas of how to help my district meetings

Sharing of ideas-how different groups handle similar situations

- I received a better understanding of service.
- I received the gift of another day of sobriety
- The Saturday presentations were heart –felt and sincere
- The GSR sharing session was helpful to see different outreach approaches being used to encourage growth and participation. The Saturday Night Speaker brought up a lot of insights in the spiritual and emotions impact of AA’s message
- The open Q and A and discussion that Howard did on Sunday was helpful on brainstorming ideas for growth and outreach.
- New ideas to bring back to the group. Learned a lot about points that need to be remembered to keep AA going for the far future
- Continued commitment to recovery principles: fellowship, experience, strength and hope, be there for the still suffering alcoholic, in and out of the rooms
- Information and communication gets improved this way. The overall theme and flow is allowed for a summation to be formed. This is extremely informative.
- It was wonderful and I am blessed to have attended. I am humbled by the knowledge and spirit present- Thank YOU!
- Being a participant gives me ownership of the event, which allows me to keep being a part of rather than always hanging on the wall. Very good workshop- one of the best!
- Especially the sharing of safety in meetings. Example of non-safe situations are endless. The solution is the same- we are all responsible for keeping our meetings safe for everyone
- I really enjoy listening to presentations because I heard something new
- All of the district presentations were helpful with District 18’s presentations creating some very valuable discussion and critical thinking. I will be taking al of this back to my group- thank-you. Howard L. sharing was also very thoughtful and inspiring. We had some great GSR sharing session this year.
- Bruce from District 16 is a role model for all of us-wow.
- The Saturday sessions were the most spiritually-based presentations I have experienced in my time in Area 35 service work. Sundays’ presentations well continued that theme.
- Workshop was ok. I continue to feel part of the fellowship by participating
- It helped me to understand my position better also how to take stuff back to meetings and to be more alert to make meetings safe and to help support our future
- Thanks everyone-workshop was great
- New perspective on old ideas. Reinforce, remind us of what our responsibilities are. Learn what we can to support our future.
- Better understanding of safety in AA. Liked the presentations on finance and spirituality
- Responsibility to be grateful=obligation
- Hearing other folks experiences and questions-Awesome
- I liked the various subjects, how each individual was respectful What are the concepts?
- Really liked the discussions
- This is a good one- liked the shorter time frame

- I felt a strong sense of spiritual power working within the groups who presented and the individuals who shared after the presentations. I am quite pleased to witness a strong consensus that modern technical venues for communication are not an effective means of carrying the message
- Renewed my belief that we are all dealing with the same issues in service work and recovery
- Enjoyed hearing stories from folks. It is always refreshing to hear about the different groups and how they are handling safety concerns. Lots of awesome things to think about after leaving the workshop
- Roger did an excellent job of organizing the workshop. Groups did a great job of presenting the topics
- The best thing about this is meeting people. Getting to know them and having person to person time.
- I was able to gather information by taking notes. Also see the passion that people have for AA. Gain knowledge to take back to District 3 and my home group. I thought that everything was great –thank you.
- Provides a venue for new GSR’s and DCM’s to learn about service. Great presentations, loved the skits and the creative presenting by District 6-Renelle
- I learn new things with other drunks and enjoy everyone’s opinions
- Good suggestions and experiences shared

Do You Have any suggestions for improving our Area 35 Workshop?

- Help with ways to start discussion after presentations
 - Maybe something for district chairs to do during the break –out sessions
 - Maybe we can have a workshop on the concepts next year
 - Bring back Howard he was a real treat
 - Have our guest do more- underutilized
 - The 7 am meeting was not very full
 - Emphasize that all are welcome to attend workshops etc. Encourage us to bring sponsees and newcomers
 - If the workshop could be condensed to one day it would be nice. But if not it is still an excellent event if it goes anything like it did this year-thanks so much!
 - Please consider planning something during the 2 hour sharing sessions for those who are not GSR’s of DCM’s
 - Love, love, love the hotel facilities!!! Great job!!!
 - More participation from the floor- it really opens minds-up
 - Provide something for non-GSR’s, DCM’s and Area officers/chairs to do during their break-out session’s
 - Pick three spots- example Bemidji, Brainerd and Alexandria and have them at the same venue in each place- no surprises that way
 - I was a bit disappointed there was not a time for those in different committees to meet as this was my first event as a district chair, but them was reminded we get together regularly in Aitkin.
 - The venue was very nice. I didn’t mind the higher room cost because of the added value
 - Keep on target
 - Workshops for committee chairs to attend, not a break-out but for chairs in general
 - More skits for presentations rather than Webster’s dictionary.
 - Have area committee chairs and officers put on a presentation of what they do in their position being it is a service workshop. Also have DCM’s and GSR’s share on their positions
 - Maybe get more rooms blocked off for Friday Nights at the hosting hotel-conference center. Also, could we do a “ Pizza” dinner-social next year? Might be fun to have a dinner fellowship J
 - For those officers who organize future workshops it will serve us well to confer with Roger as to how groups were “prepped” to organize this workshop. We can’t tell what exactly to do but shared experiences may assist future workshop facilitators.
 - Please ask the past delegates not to speak to each other while people are presenting
 - Keep on keeping on
 - I would like to have gotten more of our money’s worth from our guest. Maybe a sharing session Saturday, sometime and /or some time with the GSR’s and DCM’s.
 - Trustee ask it basket Room for Achieves display
 - This was good place- should look at single location in each zone. Presentations from AA Comes of Age
 - Add committee chair meetings during the break out session – it is a long period of time without anything to do
- Food

Financials

Registration	\$ 900.00
Room Rental	\$ 1050.00
Speaker Expenses	\$ 501.48

Overall \$398.52 under budget on expenses.

A woman phoned the police station and reported that she had a drunk in her basement. The officer on duty said, "Tell you what--make a trail of shot glasses filed with booze up the steps of your basement to your backyard. Wait awhile, then sneak out, and if the drunk is in the yard, throw rocks at it and chase it away." Thirty minutes later the woman called the police station again. The woman stated, "I followed your advice, now I have two drunks in my basement."

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)

Staples Area Annual Spring round robin



Saturday April 15th

5:30 fellowship
6:00 potluck dinner
7:00 AI-Anon speaker TBA
8:00 AA speaker TBA

Bring a dish to share

Staples United Methodist church
311 5th st NE



72nd Superior Roundup

Serenity, Courage and Wisdom

April 28th, 29th, & 30th 2017

Superior Fairgrounds Curling Club,
Superior, Wisconsin

Tickets \$18.00 in Advance
\$20 at the Door
Under 1 year Sobriety Free

FRIDAY EVENING 4/28

4:00 PM REGISTRATION OPENS
8:00 PM AA SPKR – MARY JO R., EAU CLAIRE, WI
ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW

SATURDAY MORNING

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

2:00 PM SERVICE WORKSHOP
3:00 PM ALANON WORKSHOP
6:15 PM ALANON COUNT DOWN
6:30 PM ALANON SPKR – DORIS K., BRAINERD, MN
7:45 PM AA COUNT DOWN
8:00 PM AA SPKR – KELVIN D., W. FARGO, ND
9:30 PM DANCE DJ (TBA)

SUNDAY MORNING

10 AM AA SPEAKER - JACK D. THUNDER BAY. ONT

Please visit our website:
Superiorroundup.com



72nd Superior Roundup Registration Form

Please mail checks to: Superior Roundup, PO Box 1287, Superior, WI 54880

Name: _____ AA _____ Alanon _____
Address: _____
City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____



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., Larlespur, 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 20065

"Alcoholics have short memories."

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 disputes over property, money, and authority.
- 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. “12 Step” work is never to be paid for.
- 9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
- 10. No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
- 11. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
- 12. And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Area 35 Spring Assembly
April 1st & 2nd, 2017
Rutgers Resort, Deerwood, MN

AGENDA

_____ 9:00 a.m. Registration
_____ 10:00 a.m. GSR Orientation & Action
_____ Chair Committee Meetings
11:30 a.m. Lunch (Buffet in Dinning Hall)
1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes
_____ Call to Order-Open with the
_____ Serenity Prayer
_____ Why We Need a Conference
_____ Recognize Past Delegates
_____ Recognize GSRs
_____ Add to Agenda
_____ Approve 2016 Fall Assembly Minutes
GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I
_____ Agenda
_____ Cooperation With the Professional
_____ Community
_____ Corrections
_____ Finance
_____ Grapevine
2:30 p.m. Break
_____ Literature
_____ Policy and Admissions
_____ Public Information
_____ Report and Charter
_____ Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities
4:50 p.m. BREAK
5:00 p.m.
_____ GSR Sharing Session
_____ DCM Sharing Session
_____ Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet
_____ Closed AA meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner (Buffet in Dinning Hall)
7:30 P.M. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II
_____ Trustees
_____ Archives
_____ International Conventions/Regional Forums

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting
9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes
_____ GSR Sharing Session Report
_____ DCM Sharing Session Report

OFFICER REPORTS

_____ Delegate – Kelly D.
_____ Alternate Delegate – Roger R.
_____ Chair – Jim S.

_____ Secretary – Rillis E.
_____ Treasurer – Christine G.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND
DCM REPORTS**

_____ CPC – Jim T.
_____ District 1 – Leslie H.
_____ District 21 – Jeff L.
_____ WEBMASTER - Rodney S.
_____ LITERATURE – Skip D.
_____ District 11 - Cindy K.
_____ District 7 – Liz L.
_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Steve L.
_____ GROUP RECORDS – Bob B.
_____ District 14 – Paul E.
_____ District 6 - Renell P.
_____ TREATMENT – Gayle R.
_____ District 18 – BR B.
_____ District 12 – Steve E.
_____ ARCHIVIST – Brad I.
_____ ARCHIVES – Steve D.
_____ District 8 – Scott M.
_____ District 4 – Greg C.
_____ CORRECTIONS – Servando M.
_____ District 2 – Myron H.
_____ District 13 – Al K.
_____ District 15 – Melissa A.
_____ PI – Mark N.
_____ District 9 – Cathy R.
_____ District 5 –
_____ GRAPEVINE – Paul M.
_____ District 3 – Brian P.
_____ District 16 – Mike F.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

_____ AA meeting locator
_____ FOC report
_____ Joint Area 35/36 Workshop
_____ Joint Corrections Workshop
_____ Fall Assembly

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

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

NMAA
PO Box 401
Becker, MN 55308