

Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 10th, 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

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AREA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

As I am writing this I just returned from our 67th General Service Conference in Rye Brook, New York two days ago. I cannot put into words the amazing experience this has been for me! The positive and loving spirit of this Conference from all attending was truly inspiring as we did the business at hand. I have to say the environmental change from Manhattan to Rye Brook in my opinion made for more fellowship, fun and laughter before and after (and also during) our daily business due to the fact we were out in the middle of nowhere. The beauty of the hotel grounds with the blooming of the spring flowers and birds singing brought much gratitude to me daily to be alive and a part of our wonderful Fellowship, my heart is full! Even Tom A., our West Central Regional Trustee made sure to provide an ice cream social late one evening in his room for us eight Regional Delegates with a couple added guests, not an easy task to do. What would any Conference be like without ice cream? We know right Area 35? Thanks Tom, for your leadership and the time we were given to relax and have fellowship among us during our busy Conference schedule. From my experience, I am so grateful to be a part of our West Central Region. We are a group of fun loving and hardworking individuals that are dedicated to carrying our message along with a true passion for Alcoholics Anonymous. We may be the smallest Region but we are the best! I cannot thank our Regional Delegates enough for a great week and wish them well in their travels as they do their report backs within their states. I cannot also thank all the Trustees, Directors, GSO staff and the other 92 Delegates enough for a memorable, positive and productive General Service Conference, thank you all!

Speaking of report backs, I am busy working on mine and look forward to all my travels to your Districts in the upcoming months. There is a lot of business to share with all of you and I am excited to be able to pass it on. As always thank you all for the honor and privilege to serve as your Delegate.

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

Alt. Delegate:

I enjoyed attending the 2017 Area 35 Spring Assembly in Deerwood MN. I also participated in the GSR Training at the Assembly. Area 35 did a nice job preparing Kelly D. for her service as Delegate at the 2017 General Service Conference.

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

Zonal Forums. I am directed by a recent Area action/motion to check with DCMs in each of four zones to see if they would like Area Officers to conduct a forum in their zone during this two-year rotation. The purpose of the Zonal Forums is to reach out to AA members in a zone, attract members to general service and assist the zone in issues facing a local area. We have scheduled the next Area 35 Zonal Forum to take place on June 3 at 1 pm at the Alano Club in Alexandria, MN. Districts 3, 4 and 15 will be attending the forum. A flyer for this event is posted on the Area website.

January Workshop. I am currently planning for Area 35’s 42st Annual Workshop. This workshop will be held in Duluth, MN. Eight districts will be conducting presentations at the workshop. If your District did not present at the 2017 workshop it is very likely I will be contacting your DCM with an opportunity to present in 2018. I am setting up this event and the Alternate Delegate elected for the next rotation will be chairing the workshop.

Backing up Kelly D. our Area 35 Delegate is also a major responsibility. This entails reading communications she receives and sends on to me from AAWS and our General Service Office. This service has intensified in March as we become familiar with many pages of background information on the Agenda Items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in April of 2017. I enjoyed coordinating a discussion of these items with District 9 prior to the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

I am honored and humbled for a nomination to stand as Delegate in Area 35 from District 13.

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

In service,
Roger
Area 35 Alternate Delegate.

Area Chair:

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all have enjoyed some quite downtime since the Spring Assembly. The beginning of the year is always so busy with all the events going on leading up to the assembly.

I have just a few things to report on. I have decided to pursue a large church

for the Joint Workshop in St Cloud instead of the Tuscan Center in hopes that we may save some money doing this while not compromising on the space we need. I have asked the Area 36 chair prior to pursuing this. She agreed. The hope is that as a church we would be able to bring in our own coffee at our cost instead of buying it from the Tuscan Center.

My apologies for my email stating the delegate resumes were due this issue. Thank you to those who caught it so I could get a correction out to everyone. With that said, districts who are considering nominating someone for delegate should make their considerations during the month of May as the resumes will be due to go into the July issue of the NL which the deadline for submissions would be right after the June ACM. You can find delegate resumes on the Area 35 website under downloads, Kelly D. has them and so do I. I would encourage anyone completing one using the resume on the website, which both Kelly and I have a copy of so that they all appear in the same format. If you have any questions on how to complete one you can always look back at 2015 and 2013 July issues of the NL and see what others have written. Those nominated will be announced at the June ACM. Thank you to anyone who stands for this position.

See you in June.

In Service
Jim S.,
Area Chair

Secretary:

Greetings Area 35.

I typed the minutes from the Spring Assembly since we last met. Our treatment chair Gayle R. shared her (typed) notes from the Assembly with me, which included a summary of the Agenda Item Sharing Sessions, which was a huge time saver for me when compiling the minutes. Thank you, Gayle, for sending me your notes and all the service work you do. I will make a flier for the Fall Assembly and then ask Rodney to put it on the area website as soon as possible. I will not be able to participate in the Zonal Forum due to a previously scheduled family event. Several years ago, I would not have cared about attending family gatherings or understood the privilege of being invited to such events. However, I will be attending my niece’s high school graduation and I will go with a plan of bringing something positive to the party and not an attitude of “what will I get out of it”. Being able to spend meaningful time with my family is one of the many gifts I have received from AA and for this, I am truly grateful. In addition, I am really looking forward to hearing Kelly’s report back from the General Service Conference.

Yours in Service,
Rillis E.

Treasurer:

Greeting Area 35,

I attended the Spring Assembly at Ruttger’s Bay Lodge in April. My report including the financials are printed in the minutes.

It was a great assembly and I was impressed by the involvement of the group and districts. It goes to show the passion and care that we have in Area 35 regarding preserving Alcoholics Anonymous and making sure, the program continues down the right path. I was very impressed with the stance that out Area is taking on Social Media and letting our Traditions guide us in this endeavor. It has been clearly spoken that AA should not be getting involved in these areas and we need continue talking to our members in our homegroups and educating them on what how we should not be posting on Facebook and other sites. It is not our right to break anonymity on Facebook at the expense of others. We have to realize how our actions effect the people we are connected to and how we effect AA as a whole.

At the end of the day, I don’t have control over the actions of others but I can lead by example and I can do the best that I can to “practice these principles in all my affairs” and to make sure that I am following the Traditions.

I met with the Financial Oversight Committee to go over your bank accounts and they reported that all your money is accounted for in all accounts. I appreciate that Jim and Neil were willing to meet at the Spring Assembly being I missed our regular scheduled meeting at the Area Committee Meeting in February due to an illness. A special thank you to both of them.

As of April 30th, your checking account has a balance of \$13,197.54 plus \$6,043.54 in the savings account for your prudent reserve for a total of \$19,241.08. The prudent reserve is there to cover 2-3 months of operating expenses in case a decline in group contributions and expenses needed to be covered.

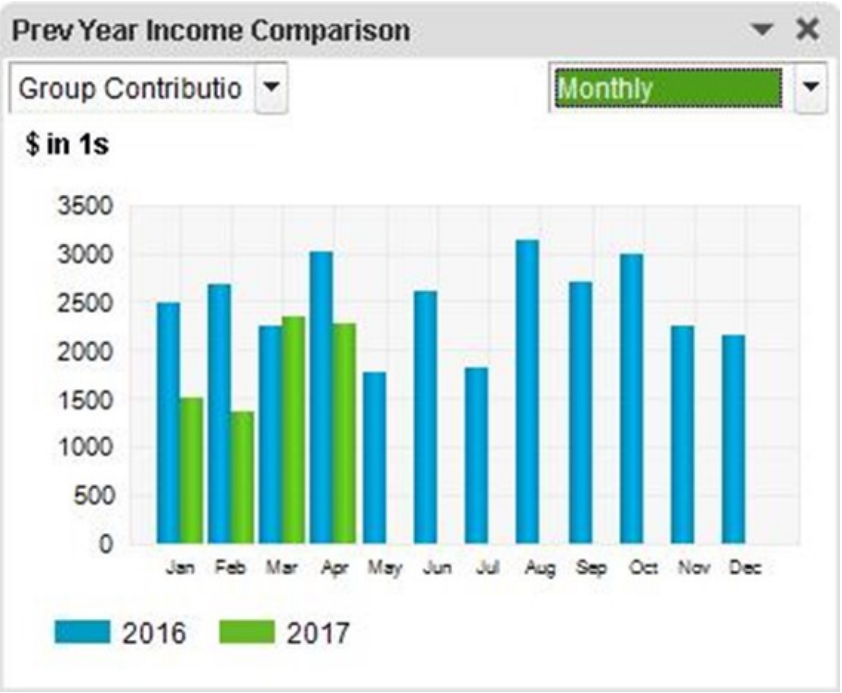
With our 2017 Financial Statement of Responsibility of about \$50,000, we need about \$4,200 per month in contributions to be on track to cover the expenses. Almost half of the Financial Statement of Responsibility has been incurred the first four months of this year so with continued group support

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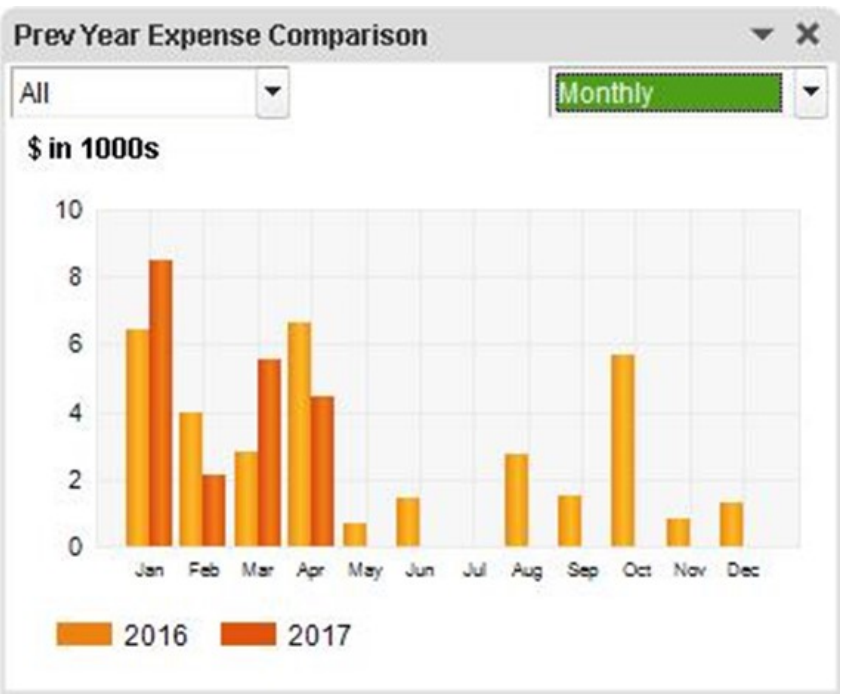
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throughout the remaining year, I anticipate contributions will meet the expenses.



For the month of April we have received \$2,283.64 in group contributions and had \$4,446.97 in expenses. This compares to 2016 of \$3,018.55 in con-



tributions and \$6,654.77 in expenses. Comparing 2016/2017 through the month of April, we received \$10,420.93 in 2016 and \$7,486.97 in 2017 in group contributions. We are about \$3,000 down from last year and as you will see in the next graph, our expenses have



only increased a little bit.

Expenses in 2016, through April, were \$19,874.33 and in 2017 are at \$20,529.87 for a difference of about \$700. I am confident that that groups will pull together and send in their contributions. If your groups have any questions on where contributions are going, please visit this link :

<http://www.area35.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Self-Support-Flyer-Seventh-7th-Tradition.pdf> .

I encourage everyone to visit Area35.org. There is good information on the website along with your information about your district.

Please contact me if you have any questions about your group contributions or if I can help you in any way.

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

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

Archives:

Area 35 Archive Committee Report
4/1/2017

Attendance;
District 13, District 18, District 8, District 4. Area Archivist

Welcome District 4!

District reports were given. Not much activity, but discussed encouraging districts to develop an archives position. That it may be a fit with group records. Collect on a district level the minutes to the District meetings. Have groups provide copies of flyers to submit to the archivist.

We discussed how treatment centers have impacted AA and how our history can guide us in providing a consistent message to new members that come out of treatment. "Treatment is discovery, and AA is recovery"

We also discussed how some meetings and some individuals do not believe in the service structure. Again, we discussed how providing information on the formation of the traditions and why they are important.

Our discussion centered around how Archives allows us to provide consistency in carrying the message. We discussed our interaction with outside enterprises, singleness of purpose.

Brad provided insight on what records and how to preserve those records.

We ended by encouraging districts to host archives presentations or workshops as a way to inform our membership of our past.

We closed with the responsibility prayer.

Yours in service
Steve D.
Area 35 Archives Chair

Archivist:

Greetings every one;

I made through the Superior Round-up without getting wet. I wasn't sure if I was going but that is another story. At the Round-up I chaired an open discussion meeting with a topic of my choice, Singleness of Purpose. With the sharing on this topic, I heard about several locales, which have opened their meetings to non-alcoholics due to the lack of any other fellowship available nearby. This is a break of Tradition 5. We are choosing an easier softer way to deal with an ongoing issue that is going to increase exponentially in the near future. Rhetorical Question. What is going to happen to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting when alcoholics are outnumbered by non-alcoholics? I am sympathetic to the misdirected nobility and the overwhelming desire to help others. In the short term, it can be beneficial to the non-alcoholic but long term wise this misdirected nobility is detrimental to the non-alcoholic and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

There is an ancient Chinese parable, Give a man a fish and he will eat for one day. Teach a man how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime. I would suggest to those who feel this moral obligation to break tradition to help, not as A.A. members, but as caring citizens to help these non- alcoholics start a meeting of the fellowship that is more suitable to their problem. Help them develop a meeting format. Help them find a meeting place. Help them buy their own literature. I would like to remind them. Their meeting was started by a single alcoholic who had nowhere else to go 60 years ago with help from other alcoholics.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

If your life resembles mine, you will understand the peaks and valleys of daily activities, which careen from the hectic and chaotic to the quiet and reflective moments. Again, if your life resembles mine, there seems to be large quantities of the former and not enough of the latter.

And so these past two months falls into the latter of the two bookends... quiet and not so hectic in terms of CPC activities. The month of April was well-launched with a spirited and thoughtful Spring Assembly during which Delegate Kelly D. received great guidance, a wonderful array of perspec

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tives for her final trip to New York and the General Service Conference. The aspects of the General Conference pertinent to CPC did not take center stage among the various topics. I complement both Kelly and Area Chair Jim S. as they maintained a good pace to guide us through the Agenda items. We look forward to Kelly’s report within our various Districts.

On March 14th District 15 DCM Melissa A. and I presented the CPC message to 30 Public Health and Social Workers from several north central Minnesota Counties. First, thanks to Melissa for her excellent message which resonated with an all-female audience and gave rise to great questions regarding her personal story as well as her role to reach out to the professionals in all communities. Second, our presence in their comfortable space and within their schedule for many topics pertinent to their jobs was another example of “let’s take the message to them”.

CPC is ready to work with each District. As noted in previous information I will be glad to arrange for a trip to your District meeting or to other events, which serve the fellowship to share the message with the still-struggling alcoholic. Perhaps more than we know, that still-struggling alcoholic who is sober in AA but remains confused, anxious and unable to express their needs. We want the hand of AA always to reach out to our neighbors.

Before I turn off the light at bedtime, I make it a commitment to read something from AA material. Sometimes from the Big Book, or the 12x12, or the Grapevine. The other night I read an article from Vol. 1 of the Best of the Grapevine authored by one of our great non-AA members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. John Norris. He addressed in a 1977 article “Our Primary Purpose and the Special-Purpose Group”. It seems somethings don’t change...at least not much.

Dr. Norris observed, “We have never discouraged AAs from forming special-purpose meetings of any or all kinds to meet the needs of interested individuals, but we have been hesitant to consider as *groups* those that might seem to exclude any alcoholic, for whatever reason...However, the fact is that such groups *do* exist—in the United States and Canada, at least. There are women’s groups, stag groups, young people’s groups, and groups for priests, doctors, lawyers, and homosexual members. These groups feel that the “labels” serve the purpose of attraction (*double* identification) and are not intended to imply exclusion of other alcoholics.”

He goes on to observe, “The adversaries of the special-purpose group would say that this is an instance where the good became the enemy of the best, to use co-founder Bill W.’s phrase. Once AA had accepted one kind of special-purpose group (such as a women’s group), it became difficult, if not almost impossible, not to accept others.”

Dr. Norris observed, “When we make a distinction between AA groups and AA meetings, we are emphasizing a *concept* rather than the *format* of what actually happens when AAs get together. We think of an AA group as something that continues to exist even when there is no meeting-taking place, because a group does many other things besides holds meetings. On the other hand, special-purpose *meetings*, which take care of the needs of interested individuals, are usually informal gatherings with no particular structure.”

So forty years ago a very astute observer and strong advocate for AA made suggestions which resonate today. A group? A meeting? To which do you belong?

Yours in Service,
Jim T.
CPC Chair

Corrections:

Since the spring assembly, I've learned that I owe area 35 an apology for wrongfully bringing up the Big Book request for MCF Moose Lake. I did not perform my due diligence in tracking this request, and since then have found that the request came from the facility and not the AA group. Because of this newly found info, which I should have found out before bringing it to the area. The request for Area funding is not needed. My apologies to everyone. I will do my best to follow through more thoroughly in the future.

I recently attended the Superior Round Up and had a wonderful time. I really enjoyed the speakers, but this year the committee had decided to stay more local with their choices. While discussing this with some friends we thought it would be a lot of fun to maybe get a group together and check out some of the roundups and gatherings where the speakers were from, so we have agreed that we will make the effort to expand our circles and have as much fun as possible in doing so.

Spending time with the friends that we are gifted in this program is so important. I look forward to these road trips and the fun that awaits.

Thank you for all of your examples.

In love and service

Servando M.
Area 35 Corrections

Grapevine:

Greetings From your area 35 Grapevine chair!

We had a little bit of spring now it's winter again! I'm going to be placing another order of Grapevine literature soon. I’ve been invited to the Iron Range get Together however I am unable to attend because of another obligation. On the other hand, I will be attending the Heartland Round Up in September and putting on a Grapevine workshop and selling Grapevine literature at the round up, there is another new grapevine out!

Please if you have, any used Grapevines bring them to the committee meeting or assemblies so I can hand them out to the treatment centers or corrections chairs! Anybody needs any additional literature let me know.

Yours in service

Paul M.
Area 35 Grapevine

Group Records:

District Updates: When sending me updates for dictriect committee positions I need Full names and Addresses, Phone number and e-amil addresses are optional. Without complete information I cannot update the GSO database.

I received a letter from GSO with tips for the GSO database. We were reminded that only one group records person per area is granted access to the GSO database. Area 35 is in full compliance with GSO and access to their database.

I was reminded about the database ownership. Here’s an excerpt from the letter:

“The FNV database belongs to the GSO, where it is used to create mailing lists that enable the GSO to communicate with a large portion of the fellowship at one time. A group can chose to be listed with us or not. It is their individual choice.”

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 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,

I sure enjoyed the Spring Assembly. Useful discussion on the agenda items. Great fellowship and a fantastic meeting location along with tasty food. If you look at calendar of events, you will see I included address and phone numbers for the hotels hosting the Fall Assembly in Hibbing and the West

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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

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Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, SD. You can now start registration for the WCRF at aa.org. On the very top of the opening page center right you will see printed in blue letters Regional Forums Online Registration just click on that and it brings you to the registration page so you can register on line.

In putting the Northern Light together I was able to clean up a few more little formatting blemishes. I received only one article to publish this time. I have intentionally left one page blank to illustrate how empty the Northern Light is without the input from the fellowship.

Enjoy your summer and remember if you travel this summer please make time to visit meetings in the cities, towns and hamlets you are staying in. I've always found doing that a fun part of my trip. Meeting new people and seeing how the other half lives so to speak.

Yours in Service
Steven L.
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

Public Information:

I attended the West Central Regional AA Conference in March and got a large dose of the regions group conscience. It is clear that as a region and Area 35 we all agree that the Internet and its social media are not to be toyed with, because of the challenges they present to our 12 Traditions. We might be in a minority, because in some cases the horse seems to have already left the stable, but we will see how our Delegates at the conference which is ongoing at the time of this writing.

While at the WCRAAC I was tasked with facilitating the Public Information break out session, we were graced with the presents of a Class A trustee, and a Class B trustee, which brought some good experience to the conversation. The topics ranged from how to invite and or get people to a PI workshop or presentation, How to promote the event, such as newspaper ads, through the groups etc. We also talked about bringing the presentations to the specific places of work such as social service workers, nurses, police, schools and colleges.

I attended the Area 35 Spring Assembly, we had a nice discussion at our break out session, covering many topics, especially how to better serve the Veterans. It seems to be an important issue; we need to spend some better time on. We also talked about anonymity and social media at some length.

I have scheduled a Traditions workshop at the Lakes Area Alano Club in Baxter, MN for May 20th 2017, from 3 to 5pm. We will be watching the DVD Bill W. discusses the 12 traditions with discussion before and after. I will schedule a few more before the year is out. It's my attempt at getting the Fellowship interested in the Traditions, and service work.

I am also working on the Local and State fair with summer coming on it's always a fun time getting out to the fairs.

I have started correspondence with Sharing from Behind the Walls a program of 12-step work with Prisoners facilitated by the General Service Office, I have yet to receive a reply but I just started. I also am a volunteer for the AA Central Lakes Help line with a Thursday shift. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities out there to keep a person occupied.

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

Treatment:

Not a lot since the Spring Assembly. I was honored to facilitate a group inventory for The Way Out Group in Elk River, 7pm Thursday at the Elk River Lutheran Church. It was nice seeing the group work for the common solution. No one was the ruler, they didn't draw blood and the group was their priority. I look forward to hearing the follow-thru... Thank you so much for allowing me to be but a small part of that process.

I had one temporary contact request and I forwarded that to Area 36 & Minneapolis Intergroup... I received a few district treatment reports, please send those, I enjoy reading what you're doing in your district.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Gayle R.
Area 35 Treatment Chair

Webmaster:

Greetings Area 35,

I attended the Spring Assembly at Rutgers Resort in Deerwood. It was a great atmosphere to get through the agenda items, which we did quite efficiently. I was surprised by how little discussion took place on the items involving social media, google for non-profits, and security issues. I attribute that to the individual districts being well informed on the agenda topics background and the discussions and overall feel brought back from the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference.

We had a lengthy discussion in our Area Officers and Committee Chairs meeting involving the need for all of us in Area 35 to look for someone willing to take over the position of Archivist and continue with the same fortitude, enthusiasm, and commitment as Brad has.

Group records chair, Bob B. presented an example of aameetinglocator converted to a Wordpress site, just as we have done with the Area35.org. He also shared his experience in trying to maintain the continually changing group information using the GSO database (also known as the Fellowship New Vision database). Bob suggested that we use the GSO database to initially load all group data to aameetinglocator, but then use a Wordpress friendly plug-in locator to keep that information updated; this is to be maintained by the Group Records Chair as he/she already receives new or changing group information. His suggestion brought forth much controversial discussion. He agreed to having a model of the site and a clear proposal for Area 35 consideration at a future Area event.

It's been a busy month for me, personally, with work and my writing endeavors. I also took some time off to visit relatives and friends in Kansas, and to do some traveling in southeast and northeast Wisconsin. Adding flyers to the events calendar and making changes to some of the district pages has been the bulk of my activity for this month since the Spring Assembly.

It was reported to me at the assembly that the pictures at the end of the 2016 Delegate's Report Back were a violation of our traditions. I am actually surprised that no one had brought this up any sooner. With little more than a month remaining before the new report came out I simply removed it. After speaking with Kelly about this, she thought maybe for this year we would use password protection so that, ideally only members of Alcoholics Anonymous would be able to view the report pages.

I will soon be making arrangements with Kelly to meet her with the projector and screen for her first report back, which will take place at Brainerd on May 18th.

In Service,
Rodney S.
Area 35 Webmaster

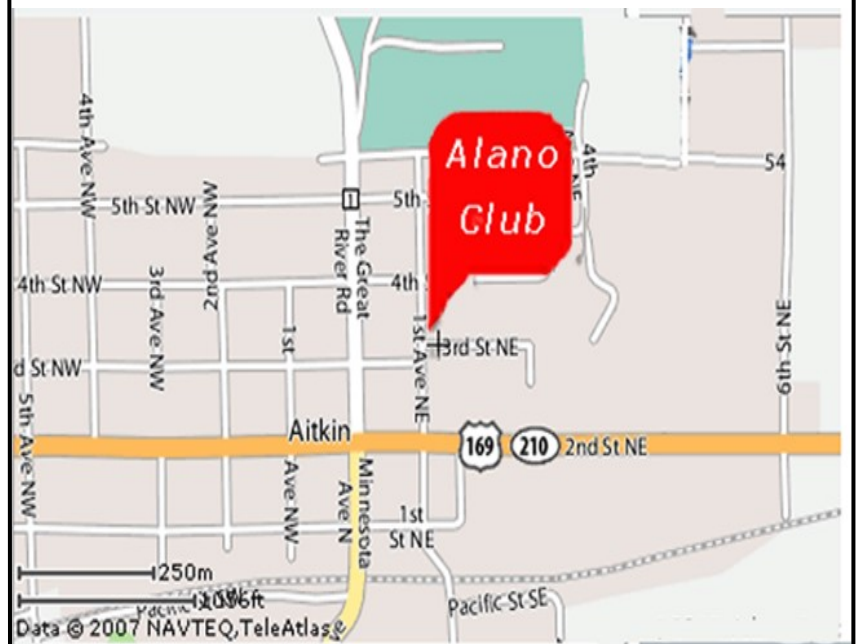


"When they say 'keep coming back,' this is not the place they were talking about."—Anonymous

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.





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 Spring Assembly Minutes

Ruttger’s Resort, Deerwood, MN April 1-2, 2016

Call to Order: Jim S. convened the assembly. Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Why We Need a Conference: Read by Scott M.

Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance: Scott J. panel 38, Bruce B. panel 44, Susie A. panel 48, Tom A. panel 50, Mike J. panel 64, John C. panel 60, Jim K. panel 62 (Gayle panel 58 & Larry panel 38 from San Diego, CA). Tom A. also serves as the West Central Regional Trustee.

Recognition of GSR’s in attendance: Twenty new GSRs, 17 attended the GSR Orientation Session

Additions to the Agenda: Literature for Moose Lake Correctional Facility (Servando M.) and the State Fair Booth (Mark N.)

Approval of the 2016 Fall Assembly Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.

GSC Agenda Items Sharing Sessions:

Gayle R. sent me a copy of her notes from the agenda item sharing sessions and they are listed below. Gayle’s notes were accurate and thorough so I found it not necessary to retype them. Any changes or additions made by me are in parentheses. Thank you Gayle for sharing your notes with us.

Agenda:

- A: No discussion
- B1: No Discussion
- B2: One group disagreed; don’t take plug out of the jug. One group stated takes focus away from conference. Vote= No
- B3: 2 persons stated they want presentations, but yes limit to 6- Vote- Yes
- C- No discussion
- D1: No Discussion
- D2: No Discussion
- E: Read portion of report, we don’t get the option of picking own business at our business meeting.
- F: Delegate and Trustee’s eyes only.
- G: Is on every committee agenda. Poorly worded, 60-day window time frame. OK with it as it opens up discussion. What is a conference call? Committees make conference calls to talk about what to bring forward. Removing the “60 days”. Used as a way to get to know each other, limited discussion on actual agenda items. Busiest conference had about 60 agenda items, this year we have 90. Vote=Yes

CPC:

- A- Area 35 Jim T. stated CPC committee supports retiring pamphlets. Discussion- both to and for retiring. Outdated, for professionals. Vote: 42 to retire to 32 to keep.
- B: CPC/PI substantial majority to support the footnote. Vote=yes
- C: CPC committee opposed. GSR stated cannot control ads placed. Vote- NO
- D: CPC does not have a majority either way. The word Problem Drinker vs the word Alcoholic. Problem drinker is still a label. Vote=Yes
- E. CPC committee supports. Reach out to the VA professional
- F. YES
- G. No discussion

Corrections

- A: Need more men to write male inmates.
- B: Trust issue, these are in correctional facility. We have a lot to gain by reaching out to the Native committee, difficulties with communications (need to communicate directly with the reservation). Different way of format, more ways of spirituality. We are there; they have different literature (Red Road to Wellbriety). Their beliefs are slightly different; we perhaps could have more of an open mind. Developing trust within the community...
- C: Vote=Yes
- D: No discussion

Finance:

- A. (A, B, and C are agenda items every year) Stagger the items, so we are not doing all 3 one year then the next year none. Apparently, there are three missing items? If something would happen, it would be two more years. Vote= Yes
- B: Vote=Yes
- C: Vote=Yes
- D: No discussion. Vote=Yes
- E: Vote=Yes
- F: No discussion

Grapevine:

- A: When we bring places, they seem to disappear.
- B: Print both in black and white operating (message is the same). Is operating at a loss. Rarely bring problems outside the family; usually go to clergy or within themselves. Brought La Viña to Spanish stores and they disappear. (Many people read one LaVina). Vote= No.
- C: Hazelton buys at bulk (and receives a discount; is this affiliation?) Hazelton has a special account. Vote= No
- D: Is there a cost, yes time of staff. (Keep exploring other options) Vote= no
- E: page (500+) exploration. Get with the times. Vote= No
- F: \$10,000 in free ads. (Donations violate our traditions) Vote=No
- G: No Discussion
- H: No Discussion
- I: No Discussion
- J: Yes
- K: No discussion

Literature:

- A: Some think we do keep list and it states in service manual states we do. (Info given for lists is voluntary.) Vote=No
- B: Offensive to some, but many of these pamphlets (are taken at the State Fair Booth. Might reach those with low reading levels). Vote= No
- C: No Discussion
- D1: Committee eyes only.
- D2: Committee eyes only
- E: No discussion
- F: No Discussion
- G: No Discussion
- H: No Discussion
- I: No Discussion
- J: Group is abstaining. (Kelly sent out email from GSO with “guidelines”). Vote=yes
- K: Is there a cost? Minimal.
- L: Yes

Policy/Admission

- A: Time saver? Cost is less than \$2500 plus hotel and meals for 2 techs (2 year trial)
- B: Six options for translators, cost varies. (Deadlines for Agenda Items would be September rather than December)
- C: No Discussion. Vote=Yes
- D: No discussion
- E: No justification to. Vote=No
- F: (Status quo works, no need to change) Vote= No
- G: Not in favor of moving conference. Vote= No
- H: Concept of a bid is Vote= No discussion (Not financially feasible)
- I: No Discussion Vote yes
- J: YPAA. Vote=No (Is this a special interest group?)
- K. Vote=Yes

Public Information

- A: Need to spend our dollar in the meeting locators and world-class app.
- B1: No Discussion
- B2: No Discussion
- B3: let trustees form. Vote =Yes
- C: No discussion
- D: No discussion
- E: No discussion. Vote=No
- F: Tom has report (was minority vote). Vote=No
- G: Not going to happen
- H: No discussion
- I: Vote= Yes
- J no discussion

Report and Charter:

- A: No discussion. Vote= Yes
- B1: Committee eyes only
- B2: Would like the GSO to take a more active role on area websites. Vote= yes
- B3: Service manual is already too wordy. Vote= No
- B4: Reminder to the Trustee. Vote=Yes
- C: Would tell what has changed. Vote=Yes
- D: Committee members
- E. (Committee eyes only)

Treatment/Accessibility

- A: Replacing. (Already is process. No vote taken)
- B: No Discussion, a veteran will not go to AA because we use the word GOD. Started “Smart Recovery” They don’t use the word God. GOD stands for Group of Drunks. (No vote taken)
- C: Yes
- D: No discussion
- E: No discussion

Trustees:

- A1: (Committee eyes only)
- A2: Committee eyes only
- A3: Committee eyes only
- A4: Committee eyes only

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- B: Committee eyes only
- C: Committee eyes only
- D: Committee eyes only
- E: perhaps each region only has the amount of voters as the lowest region has. Vote= Yes (6 regions in US and 2 in Canada. Suggested each region have people able to vote to give equal opportunity to all)
- F: Some regions has few areas some more. Most has 18 and least has 4. Vote= Yes. (Discussion about restructuring of regions and areas. Some area divisions are based on language)
- G: pg. 1236 what happens when a seat is vacated. Vote= yes
- H: Vote=yes

Archives

- A: Can search archives for marketable material. Vote= no
- B: Vote=Yes
- C no discussion

International Convention/ Regional Forums

- A: Next forum is Sept in South Dakota
- B: No discussion
- C: Vote=Yes

GSR Sharing Session Report

GSR Sharing Session Topics and Discussion: Tony N.

Participation at the Service level-

How to get AA members involved in GSR Service?:

- Go to your district meeting.
- Bring new people along to the steering committee/group conscience meetings; be attractive.
- Step up to the plate.
- Promote by attraction rather than promotion.
- Attract members by having the group pay for the expenses of the GSR to come to assemblies, workshops, district meetings, and regional conventions.
- Maybe length of sobriety isn't as important as quality of sobriety.
- Share with others about how AA service has enriched your own sobriety, take someone "by the hand", show them how you've done, and do it.
- It's a sponsor's job to encourage their sponsee's to get involved in service work.

What information we take from the District to the group and from the group to the District including how to give a report to each:

- Get registered as a GSR with GSO and receive the GSR packet through the mail.
- Updating the District with current information about your group as well as upcoming events etc. From the district meetings the GSR takes back what is taking place at the District level, what's been voted on, what the committee chairs are doing, where and what help is needed at the District level
- GSR takes back questions and concerns from the District.
- Depending on your Group Conscience, find out what your group wants to know about the District and what the District wants to know about your group.

How to respond to the conflict of Anonymity:

- Anonymity is important for each individual to disclose or not disclose themselves.
- Micro fine, macro not fine. On a small level it's okay, on the larger level it's not okay.
- Give your name and phone number to your group for a call list, it's our responsibility to be open to newcomers to be of service.
- Make sure that it's okay with someone before you give out their personal number.
- Anonymous at the level of press radio and films, on an individual basis it's personal preference.
- When connecting with newcomers, make sure to grab THEIR phone number instead of giving them your number and make sure to call them if you feel comfortable doing so.
- Common sense, information, and some knowledge. Ask others about their own experience with anonymity at your home group.
- Own anonymity is not our own. It belongs to each and every one of us. When someone disrespects the tradition, not only are they hurting themselves they're hurting every one of us.
- If you have a question about anonymity, there is a wonderful pamphlet called "Understand Anonymity" that answers many questions about it.
- It's okay to talk about things shared at meetings as long as the person who said it isn't named, implied, or easily identified.

DCM Sharing Session Report

- How do you actively participate as a DCM in the district?
- Rotating the district meeting.
- How do we attract GSR to the district?
- How are the hot topics decided?
- Sometimes you feel its US vs THEM.
- DCMs deal with groups that do not follow the traditions of AA.
- Singleness of Purpose

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate – Kelly D.

Greetings Area 35,

Well we got through the large volume of Agenda Items today and I would like to thank all of you for your input/concerns and discussion on them. We have several issues facing us today and that is apparent especially with the social media items proposed. We have proven to be in Area 35 a guardian of our Traditions and my prayer is that the Conference will too see that they are always considered and followed in any vote or decision that is made there. Even more so I want to thank you for your service and love for Alcoholics Anonymous. I am truly proud to serve you as your Delegate and look forward to carrying your voice at the upcoming Conference April 23-29, 2017.

We Officers presented in the GSR Orientation this morning which is always the highlight of the Assemblies for me. We had 33 in attendance and 13 were new GSR's. I would like to thank them again for their commitment to serve and wish them well in their journey of service.

As I mentioned and highlighted in my Northern Light report I attended the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, WY. It was great to be a part of the West Central Region's passion for Alcoholics Anonymous as was seen by the discussion there on the 2017 Agenda Items. It truly was an amazing weekend of service and fellowship! As I have mentioned before Area 35 will be hosting the WCRAASC in 2019. I have been busy researching areas for a venue. I hope to have a place and a contract signed soon.

I also have been working on a presentation on "Disintegration or Over-Integration" that I will be presenting at our upcoming Forum with GSO September 8-10, 2017 that will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I hope you all have marked your calendar and plan to attend, we only have them in our WCR every other year and it is a great opportunity to get to know, ask questions and bring concerns to some of our fellows from the GSO. Area 35 will also be moderating a workshop there on "How to Increase Contributions" and I have asked Christine our Area Treasurer to facilitate that breakout session. Thank you Christine for accepting my invitation.

As you know I sit on the Finance Committee at the GSC. On March 29th we had a conference call with all of us Committee members that serve on that committee. I felt it was a great experience to hear and discuss what we will be doing as a Committee at the upcoming Conference especially with the new Panel 67 Delegates coming on. Preconference meetings are being encouraged by GSO (as noted on the Agenda Items under all the Committee's) but have been done by other Committees over the years, this was the first one for us, our Finance Committee did not meet last year prior to the conference. I also would like to mention if you have a comment or concern that you would like me to bring to that Finance Committee please let me know.

On this Monday the WCR Delegates will be having an "added conference" call with Tom A. our WCR Trustee (requested by one of the Delegates) to further discuss some of the Agenda Items of concern and any other questions we may have before the GSC. Our meetings with Tom are always a mountain of information that he provides us Delegates on what is going on in Alcoholic Anonymous. Thanks Tom, for allowing us some extra time with you in preparation for the upcoming Conference!

I still have several Districts that need to schedule my report back with them. My first one will be on May 20th at the Hibbing Alano Club at 1:00 pm with Districts 9 & 16. DCMs please see me sometime this weekend so I can get you on my calendar.

I would like to thank District 6 for inviting me to go over the Agenda Items with them on March 18th. It was a great afternoon of business, food and fellowship. I would like to also thank all the Districts that send me their minutes and encourage all of the District to do the same.

The rest of this month I will be focusing on the upcoming Conference and then working on my report back when I return. I look forward to the traveling and visiting of your Districts. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Again thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your Delegate.

In love and service,

Kelly D.

Alternate Delegate – Roger R. Welcome all to our 2017 Area 35 Spring Assembly.

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

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

Zonal Forums. I am directed by a recent Area action/motion to check with DCMs in each of four zones to see if they would like Area Officers to conduct a forum in their zone during this two year rotation. The purpose of the Zonal Forums is to reach out to AA members in a zone, attract members to general service and assist the zone in issues facing a local area. We have scheduled the next Area 35 Zonal Forum to take place on June 3 in Zone 2 in Alexandria MN. A flyer for this event is post on the Area website.

January Workshop. I am currently planning for Area 35's 42st Annual Work-

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shop. This workshop will be held in Duluth MN. Eight districts will be conducting presentations at the workshop. If your District did not present at the 2017 workshop it is very likely I will be contacting your DCM with an opportunity to present in 2018.

Backing up Kelly D. our Area 35 Delegate. Reading communications, she receives and sends on to me from AAWS and our General Service Office. This service has intensified in March as we become familiar with many pages of background information on the Agenda Items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in April of 2017. I enjoyed coordinating a discussion of these items with District 9.

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

Chair – Jim S. Good morning everyone, the Fall Assembly is scheduled to be at the Hibbing Park and Hotel. Fliers will be coming out shortly and will be uploaded to the area 35 website. The Joint Area 35/36 Workshop will be November 18th. I am looking at the Tuscan Center in St. Cloud where it was last year. The Area36 chair has agreed to that location as well. The Spring Assembly will be held in Zone 1. I will be contacting the DCMs from the districts in Zone 1 for ideas on where to hold the assembly. I would like to ask the body for a consensus if I could look at casinos as a possible site for the assembly. I received a majority in favor of this idea. We had 118 registrants for this assembly. Thank you to all who came. I did attend the WCRAASC. As expected, I was in attendance for the entire conference and took notes on the breakout I attended. You can see those notes in the NL.

In Service, Jim S.

Secretary – Rillis E. Good morning. I attended the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, WY earlier this month. On the way back to Minnesota, after several miles of travel, we stopped for gas and met up with Skip, Mark, and Calby (from Area 36) inside the convenience store. We laughed about how we all ended up at the same gas station. After many more miles Servando, Rodney, and I stopped again and just we were leaving, the others were pulling up to the gas station. When I told Kelly about the experience, she remarked that it sounded like God had a part in friends watching over friends along their journey. Along with Rodney and Servando, I attended the District 12 meeting to help with their discussion on the agenda items and was grateful to be of service. I also enjoyed the pizza. Last weekend I told my story and was a member of panel discussing Essentials of Recovery at the Winter Wrap Up in Mountain Iron. I enjoyed meeting new people there as well as talking with other members of area 35 and past delegates. I am grateful to have had this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. I continue to chair a weekly woman’s meeting at the Douglas County Jail in Superior, WI and feel fortunate to have been given this opportunity to try to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

Yours in Service, Rillis E.

Treasurer – Christine G. Greetings Area 35,

I met with the Financial Oversight Committee regarding the Area Finances and they would like to report that all your money balances and is accounted for.

I have filed the 2016 990N for Area 35, which is for Tax-Exempt Organizations not required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Our Delegate, Kelly, sent out a District/Group contribution report from GSO. The report shows that there are 572 groups in Area 35 and of those groups 264 or 46.15% have contributed to GSO in 2016. I ran the number for Area 35 and 238 or 42% of the groups are contributing to the Area. I have printouts for all the DCMs to take back to your districts. It will show what groups contributed during 2016. I have also included a printout of what the group contributions to the Area help support so you can share that with them.

That brings us to our Period 2 Area 35 financials.

- Balance Sheet – Balance in all accounts total \$20,196.03
- Income, Expense and Contribution Statement
 - ◊ P-2, we have received \$2,339.15 in group contributions and YTD we have received \$5,203.33.
 - ◊ P-2 expenses = \$6,915.63 and YTD = \$13,690.57
 - * We have had some major expenses go out for 1st quarter and that does include our \$1,600 expense to send our Delegate to the General Service Conference in NY to carry the group conscience on the agenda items we have been discussing this weekend.
 - * The WCRAASC was in Wyoming.
 - * Some of this weekend’s expenses have been recorded

All contributions are appreciated and I would like to thank everyone for your support. If you have, any questions please feel free to see at any time this weekend.

The G.S.O. January unaudited financial report revealed that net sales were \$190,610 over budget. Contributions were \$227,289 over budget and expenses were \$58,641 less than budgeted. This resulted in a profit for the month of \$387,371 compared with a one-month budgeted loss of \$122,799.

Preliminary results through February showed net sales approximately \$210,000 greater than budgeted, and contributions \$290,000 more than budget. Total expenses were on budget and a preliminary net profit of approximately \$643,000 was reported compared with a budgeted net profit of \$4,610 for the two months, which is \$499,400 higher than the same period last.

I have been asked by District 15 to stand for Delegate and I feel very honored and have accepted.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Treasurer.

In Service,
Christine

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC – Jim T. As we “trudge the road to Happy Destiny” it is my experience that the road is rocky...sometimes the path is incorrect or useless and it is necessary to go back and start over again...there is no perfect road map...sometimes we are given false directions...and then we simply live within the reality that we never get to be anything more than human. Thus, the work of the CPC committee mirrors this depiction of life’s realities. WE are moving forward, step by step. In late February, I met with members of the Brainerd Area Ministerial Organization and presented a description of CPC; how we work with clergy and other professionals and how we will assist clergy with materials and responses to questions. Each attendee (not too many) received several appropriate pamphlets regarding CPC and I engaged in a good conversation. On March 14th the District 15 DCM, Melissa A. and I presented our message to approximately 35 public health nurses and social workers from 6 North Central Minnesota counties. I offer a loud shout out to Melissa for her rock star presentation. She very well presented her story as it relates to one of our Big Book stories. It was important that an articulate spokeswoman present to this all female audience and between her sharing and our answers to many good questions, I am confident that attendees left the meeting better aware of AA and how it pertains to their work. I am in contact with DCMs from Districts 1 and 2 (Leslie and Myron) to put together a Zonal Forum in the Northwest part of the state next fall. We will work out details to focus on not only the professional community, but also to bring into a half-day session AA members who we assure that part of their 12th step work in to carry the message to professionals in their communities. More to come.

District 1 – Leslie H. Not present.

District 21 – Jeff L. Not present.

WEBMASTER – Rodney S.

LITERATURE – Skip D. Good day all, we had thirteen people in attendance this morning. Districts 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, and 18 were represented. District 3 had a workshop with a history theme, the first women in AA. District 18 has a bookmobile, goes around with books and uses La Viña in many places. District 6 had a workshop on Agenda Items. Kelly (Area 35 Delegate) and I were there to assist in any way we could for a three-hour potluck and workshop. We were able to make it through the Hot Topic list, and a lot of food.

District 13 has a new Literature Chair, WELCOME! He has been buying books from a recovery center @ \$8.00. Curious if this is breaking any traditions. District 9 went through Agenda Items with Roger (Area 35 Alt.Delegate). District 12 volunteers at intergroup where most literature is purchased. Pamphlets are going into high schools and being used at informational meetings. They did have a group purchase pamphlets for the Alano club.

I did attend the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Cheyenne WY. What an interesting trip, there were three of us that traveled together. Thank you Mark, Kelby, and Minneapolis intergroup, for intergroup set up the ride share with Kelby. I was able to go through all the Agenda Items with my home group in two sessions that took up less than eight hours, and a lot of food.

I am here to help all groups and individuals to get literature, so if you would like to order literature through Area 35 please allow two weeks before any Area event, and I will have the order at the event without shipping cost. You can call, text, or email the order. My information can be found in any issue of the Northern Light for this rotation of service. As a reminder, the literature at Area events are for SALE, some pamphlets are free please ask.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 11-Cindy S.K. My name is Cindy S.K. the new DCM for District 11. I was not prepared for this so I can only tell you that I am excited to serve District 11. My goal for the next year is to visit the 32 meetings in the district and let all the groups know we are here to help in any way possible. I am also setting a goal to bring in more GSR'S to serve the district.

District 7 – Liz L. Greetings from District 7! I am so grateful to have been able to attend WCRAASC in Cheyenne. It helped me wrap my head around the ginormous size of the background materials and any time I can listen to individuals like Carl, Brooke, Bree, and Tom along with others that go to the microphone I will take advantage of that! It was good to have that experience to help me run thru things with my home group and my district. We wish safe travels to our Delegate and we look forward to Kelly’s report back and are possibly teaming up with District 18 for this. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

NORTHERN LIGHT –Steve L. Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

If you look in the NL, there is one page out of sync, it goes from page 4 to page 7, printer’s error, and I apologize. I just move page 7 one sheet and

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everything turns into order again.

I'd like to give a big shout out to JoAnne N. for her assistance in putting the Northern Light together. I send the NL to JoAnne and she proofs the paper for grammar and punctuation. JoAnne is fantastic she finds lots of stuff and is fast. Then she writes out a list of corrections and emails me the list of corrections. In this issue she had three pages of changes. A day after I sent this issue in for publication I needed to write something down I flipped over one of the proof list and low and behold, there was another full page of corrections I missed. I forgot I my printer was set for two sided printing. I am truly thankful for JoAnne's assistance.

When the NL went to press I was asked by Mike, who is the Cold Spring printer, which we use for printing the NL if there were any inserts for this issue. I said, "No insert just print the 1000 copies and send to the included mailing list". When I received, my copy of the NL in the mail to my surprise there was a flier for the St. Cloud Round Up. We have a policy in place on how to get fliers inserted into the NL. The process is to send a copy of the flier to the NL editor for approval and once approved send a check to the Area treasurer. This policy and procedure is there so the Area NL editor has control on what is inserted into the NL. This may seem far-reaching but what if some well-meaning group or an individual circumvented the procedure and placed a flier for a non-AA event like a benefit dinner for a sickened individual, a political rally or an Alano club fundraiser. Cold Spring doesn't know the difference. In addition, it makes me the NL editor (me) look like a fool because the editor has no control of what is being printed under their watch. Then there is the monetary controls that the treasurer needs because we are billed for inserts and we pass that cost along to the group that requests the insert. Which is \$75 for inserting a flier and \$123 if Cold Spring prints a one sided flier and inserts into the NL, it is a little more for a two-sided flier.

Now is the time to start looking for people in your district and group for the next rotation NL, Web master and group records, these are technical positions. Look at the job descriptions on area35.org and they should be reliable. It's also time to look at people in your district to stand for Delegate. There resume is to be placed in the July/Aug issue of the NL which is due by July 10th.

Deadline for the next NL is May 1st so please submit articles you have written about how service has played an important part in your life. Some fun event that service have given you the opportunity to experience.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

GROUP RECORDS – Bob B.

- ◊ 533 active groups. How many GSRs are attending this assembly?
- ◊ 638 active meetings
- ◊ 80 meetings did not have zip-codes. I have 40 left to update
- ◊ 180 meetings do not have open/closed filled in

We have been working for over 5 years to get this database up to data to populate aameetinglocator. Meeting lists are distributed to districts for review and update. The work is just not getting done. The GSO database remains out of date. I no longer feel that our meeting lists should be generated from the data in our GSO database,

Northern Light Mailing List: I am using the data in the GSO database to populate the Northern Light Mailing list. If a Northern Light is returned I will mark that servant so they will not receive future mailings. I get a notice from GSO when new GSRs and servants are registered by GSO. After I get the notice from GSO, I am updating their records to receive US mail. When I update a GSR or servant, I update their record to receive mail in real time. If you are not getting the Northern Light, see me and will check the address in the GSO database.

District 14 – Paul E.

We have changed our day, time and location in February. We are meeting at the Coffee Landing on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30. Our meetings have been well attended. Our meeting in March was attended by 10 people.

- We have a new secretary Becky I. that started service at our January meeting. She stepped up as soon as the Cathy C. resigned. Thank you Cathy for your service for the last 2 years.
- We presented a workshop on anonymity that was attended by 25 people including clients from Pineview. The workshop included a skit about anonymity and social media. We split the audience into groups and asked each group to answer question about what was presented in the skit and questions on topics from the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity". There was great participation from each group. We all agreed this spiritual concept is much deeper than talking about who attends an AA meeting and that when we are not practicing humility we truly do affect AA as a whole.
- We have some alcoholics that have volunteered to speak at our local inpatient and outpatient treatment centers. We have committed to scheduling speakers for each facility once a month.
- The meetings at the county jail are continuing for both males and females once a week.
- Our meeting card is being updated. There is an AA meeting that we did not know about. I will be going to their meeting to encourage them to register the meeting and elect a GSR.
- The next district meeting we have is a meeting to put together another workshop. The topic is yet to be decided.
- We have added literature to the school and the motels and have kept checking the places where we already had literature distributed to make

sure they have what they need.

District 6 – Renell P. Greeting from District 6, nestled in the SE corner of Area 35. This past month I have been busy as a DCM and we have been busy as a district. I attended the Aitkin Committee Meeting on February 26 and received copies of the 2017 Agenda Items. I sent the info. on to my district members and prepared for my trip to WCRAASC in Cheyenne. I enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to spend time with friends and make new ones. It gave me a chance to be humble and grow in my sobriety. After returning our district members came together to go over these Agenda Items on March 18. We were fortunate to have Kelly and Skip attend and help explain the items and background. Our district is putting on a workshop next weekend, April 18 at the Isanti Alano Club from 1pm to 4pm. This will be a Grapevine Writing workshop. Our district Treatment Chair is working hard to put together packets to send to area treatment centers and halfway houses. She has been gathering information, to get current meeting schedules and contact info. for counselors and clients leaving treatment. She has been in touch with 19 facilities that serve clients from district 6. We are looking forward to Brad I. helping us put on an Archives workshop in June. I am blessed to have so many people at the district level that want to help. We have 5 attending today. Sometimes people ask, or I ask myself, what am I accomplishing or gaining by going to these events? Are my actions reaching the "still suffering alcoholic"? Am I being selfish by spending this time away from home? Is it all about me? I know not everyone wants to be a DCM and I know there are a lot of people that could be a DCM and do a great job! To these questions, I say I know AA has saved my life. I believe these 12 steps-that give me structure and guidance for life. I am a flounderer I have tried other groups and organizations to stay on a positive course and found that AA works for me. I don't want AA to die. I don't want the opportunity for sobriety, not to be available down the road. I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible. So...it is my time! Time to give of my time and efforts to preserve this awesome gift. Grateful to be here...

TREATMENT – Gayle R. Today's committee meeting we had 10 present with Districts 3, 5, 8, 9, 12,14, 15, & 18 represented... From District reports, Sara, District 8, reported they have two treatment centers they serve, Arrowhead Treatment center in Virginia has had four staff changes we go in every 8 weeks evening speaking commitment for outpatient clients. Also, DWI (as needed) speaking session on rotating Saturday mornings. There are about 6 groups who are faithfully committed to speaking at Range Treatment Center in Virginia, MN. Every Sunday night at 8pm. Speaking commitment have been filled by our District 8 members. At Merritt House (halfway house) in Virginia, there was a discussion about future speaking commitment, no decision has been made and conversation will be revisited. Approximately 20 people volunteered to be on the potential sponsor contact list has their own format they use, they are willing to meet with Alcoholics Anonymous for both treatment facilities, our Bridging the Gap.

Gene from District 3 reported he has gotten the temporary contact form to all the facilities but 1 in the district. New York Mills Sharehouse and the Fargo Sharehouse are connected and we have speakers going in New York Mills. Our speaker's commitment are being filled. We are going in Red River Recovery. District 18 is helping with Bell Hill in Wadena with speakers. For those who have not allowed us in yet, we are still calling to let them know we are still here.

Dean, the GSR from the Tuesday Babbitt Big Book group in District 8, spoke about the importance of treatment centers; he would like to include how to get in touch with AA after discharge.

Jack from new Treatment Chair District 9 has 15 years speaking in treatment centers; It's my story so it's not wrong. Life can be good but sometimes he has trouble arranging treatment speakers. Jack is making a flyer for treatment centers speakers, and there are 22 groups in the district. There is a challenge with a poor relationship with Hibbing. Asking what is the need for speakers.

Jill in District 5 has a list of transitional persons and willing people to help.. Has contact with treatment centers, what can we do to help. River Place and New Beginnings we are more in contact. Jill does not want to be that person that when someone sees her coming they run in opposite direction, because she asks for volunteers. Speakers may be great one time they speak and not so good next time. River Place brings clients out but when we go in almost like we need to screen our speakers. A Treatment center allows clients to our meeting and then receives big book from meeting, is this ok?

BR DCM District 18 stating Treatment chair is out playing farmer today, Scott, and District 18 is keeping up with treatment literature, flyers and current events. Not a lot of clients in closed meetings due to staff not members of AA. District 18 helps with Bell Hill on Mondays and Wednesdays. Bell Hill is an ole army barracks, clients are right out off the streets. This is a good place to bring new comers, shows gratitude. These clients facilitate their own meetings and we participate. Men and Women love old books, even those already written in.

What do you say to the revolving member? Do you have a sponsor taking you thru the steps and keep coming back.

Shelley new treatment chair District 12. District 12 has long-standing meetings in treatment centers with committed volunteers. Open speaker meeting at Bethel, we have been there for decades. This meeting is a great place to have sponsors help sponsees speak. They have groups sponsor this speaker meeting. Has about 60-110 in attendance each week. Bethel does a lot to support us in this meeting. Also has a women's meeting on Sundays along with open meeting on Monday. Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment has a men's meeting that meets twice monthly. Marty Mann House for women

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has a meeting going in 10am Mondays. Liberalis has a meeting Mondays and Wednesdays.

Margie GSR District 14, they take meetings into an inpatient 90 day facility once a month, likes to have a shorter drunk a log and more focus on recovery allowing time for questions. For an outpatient they would like a morning meeting and a night. Because they are financial sound, they can afford to give those who come to outside treatment center meeting a big book.

Pat District 15 Serenity Path in Paynesville has a speaker every Friday night, couple of speakers not showing up. Sobriety First in Sauk Center and in District 13's Midtown Square morning and night, finding same people and some people we grew up with. Clients pick topic and ask questions. Passages also in District 13, 4, or 5 groups are going in for the guys. When we carry the message are we saying, "Make sure you have a sponsor to walk you thru the steps"? District 15 also chairs a meeting at New Visions, which is in District 4.

During our committee meeting we also read couple of pages from the Treatment workbook to get started. We discussed having a workshop on speaking at treatment centers. One of the things that's important is how we are willing to cross-district lines to help the still suffering, our district treatment chairs do a great job working with each other to get to as many centers as we can.

Thank you for sending me to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference, my report is printed in the Northern Light and as much as I love these agenda items, I really enjoyed the area presentations out there. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 18 – B.R. B. Our district meeting is held at 6:30 in Long Prairie. Our district is doing well as we look to recruit more GSRs. The Motley Round Robin went very well with 110 in attendance. The Staples Round Robin (information is in the Northern Light) is on April 15. Fellowship starts at 5:00, please bring a dish to share. The Motley 4th of July Campout and the Staples Campout are in the planning stages-the info will be in the Northern Light as soon as the plans are finalized.

District 12 – Steve E. Good morning. I'm grateful to be sober and with all of you at this spring assembly and this facility. District 12 has all officer and committee chair positions filled. We hold our district meetings the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at rotating locations. I would like to thank Servando, Rodney and Rillis for attending our March meeting and helping us understand the agenda items. We recently had a table at the Lake Superior College a Health Fair, WITC Health Fair and City of Superior Drug Awareness event at Superior a Middle School. Thank you to Chris L. and Rita L. for their fine service in scheduling, setting up and helping man these events. Our treatment meetings are all being covered and our corrections committee chair is making sure jail and prison meetings are facilitated and have literature. Thanks to all that could attend this weekend from District 12. That would be Rich, Tammie, Melinda, Shelley and Chris. Thank you Kelly for your hard work in going through the agenda items. Looking forward to the 72nd Superior Roundup on April 28, 29, and 30.

ARCHIVIST – Brad I. Since the February Committee meeting I brought a display and gave a talk at the Winter Warm Up in Moorhead. My topic was pioneer women In Alcoholics Anonymous. I covered Florence Rankin, Marty Mann, Sylvia Kaufman, Ethel Macy, Sybil Corwin and Irma Livoni. I also had a question and answer session that covered a huge number of topics. I also brought a display and the P.A. to St. Anna for the Stearns County Roundup.

Upcoming trips are the Superior Round Up at the end of April and the Thunder Bay Roundup the following weekend with speaking at the SCCUM in between.
I also am doing a joint display with Area 36 at Gopher State.

I had to get a new laptop because my old one was still running Vista. While still in the parking lot of Best Buy I had a brief flash of clarity that the 2 recorders were both older then the laptop and I had no idea if the software necessary to upload and save the recordings would even work on Windows 10. So, I bought 2 new ones. After checking, the software is no longer available. So I am updated.

Please all DCM's make sure I am on your mailing list for minutes and flyers. Email is perfect for minutes

ARCHIVES – Steve D. Attendance: Dist. 13, Dist. 18, Dist. 8, Dist. 4. Area Archivist

Welcome District 4!

District reports were given. Not much activity, but discussed encouraging districts to develop an archives position. That it may be a fit with group records. Collect on a district level the minutes to the District meetings. Have groups provide copies of flyers to submit to the archivist.

We discussed how treatment centers have impacted AA and how our history can guide us in providing a consistent message to new members that come out of treatment. "Treatment is discovery, and AA is recovery"
We also discussed how some meetings and some individuals do not believe in the service structure. Again, we discussed how providing information on the

formation of the traditions and why they are important.

Our discussion centered around how Archives allows us to provide consistency in carrying the message. We discussed our interaction with outside enterprises, singleness of purpose.

Brad provided insight on what records and how to preserve those records.

We ended by encouraging districts to host archives presentations or workshops as a way to inform our membership of our past.

We closed with the responsibility prayer.

District 8 – Scott. What a great assembly we are having! It was particularly nice to see all the hands come up of the GSRs and to see all of the stickers on the badges of the first time attendees. Highlights of the district recently are a PI Luncheon our committees put on at the winter wrap up. Twenty plus were in attendance and some invitations were made for us to present to clergy in Ely and to bring the presentation to medical professionals in Cook. This event was fully supported by the groups in District 8. The Treatment Committee is busy facilitating meetings with our two treatment centers in Virginia. In corrections, we are active with bringing a meeting to NERCC as well as the Sandstone prison. We recently filled the alternate literature position. Sherry is attending her first assembly today. Keep up the good work! The Archives Committee remains willing to go and record longtimers in our district. As DCM for District 8, I have been blessed to share this service opportunity with dedicated members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Enjoy your spring!

District 4 – Greg C. Report not received

CORRECTIONS – Servando M. I was able to attend the WCRAASC in Cheyenne, WY with Rillis and Rodney and had an awesome time. After returning, we were all asked to share our experience at the District 12 meeting, which was an honor to attend. I have received a few requests for temporary contact that I will be forwarding along to the appropriate DCMs or corrections chairs. Yesterday's meeting consisted of seven members from districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 15. We discussed such things as transitional fairs, facility rules for donating literature, and volunteer needs. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

District 2 – Myron H. My name is Myron, and I am an alcoholic, I am the DCM from District 2.

I am very impressed (and somewhat intimidated) by all the knowledge in this room. Many have a high degree of technical skill on their laptops and smart phones. I have a flip phone. (Someone ask if I got it at an antique store.)

Last month I attended the Area meeting in Aitkin; the WCR conference in Cheyenne, WY; and my district meeting in Middle River, all on consecutive weekends. The main topic at each of these events was the agenda items, which we went over today. The conference in Wyoming was a great experience and I learned a lot. So much wisdom and expertise in that meeting!

There has been a suggestion to hold a PI-CPC workshop in our district along with District 1. Though I am all for it, can I see a show of hands of people here from District 1 and 2? As you can see, participation may be a problem. We can do it as long as we have proper expectations.

District 2 has an Alternate DCM, a treasurer, a secretary, a Literature chair and a Corrections chair. Other committees are unoccupied. We are financially sound and hold meetings on second Sundays of odd numbered months at Middle River, MN.

Yours in service
Myron H.

District 13 – Al K. Report not received

District 15 - Melissa A. Greetings from District 15,

Our District meeting is held the first Monday of every month at 8pm, located at the Albany Senior Center. I had the privilege of attending the West Central Regional Conference, along with our District 15 Treatment Chair Pat M. and a few ladies who serve in Area 36, which was very informative, and a lot of fun. Our District would like to thank our Area 35 Treasurer Christine and our Area 35 Treatment Chair Gayle for attending our March District meeting and helping us go over the agenda items. I had the privilege of speaking at a CPC event in Brainerd on March 14th. A big thank you to Jim T. our Area 35 CPC chair for inviting me to partake in this event, I really enjoyed it. I was able to go to District 13's agenda items meeting and help them go over the agenda items; we had great discussion and a great turn out. I would like to thank District 13's DCM Al for inviting me to partake in going over the agenda items. We had our District 15 Stearns County Round up on March 25th. Which was the best turn out we have ever had within our District, we usually have 250 people in attendance and this year we had 288 people in attendance, which was simply amazing! I want to thank Brad I. for being of service and having an archives display as well as setting up sound for the event.

Our District is in the process of restocking our literature. We have been meeting all of our commitments to the treatment centers that we are bringing meetings within District 15, 4 and 13. If you are willing to speak in any of those Districts please contact our District Treatment Chair Pat M. I

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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.

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am still in the process of traveling to groups. Our District has asked our current Area 35 Treasurer Christine if she would be willing to stand as delegate and she accepted which we are very excited about.

Our district is partaking in a zonal forum that will take place in District 4 on June 3rd which we look forward too, we have also set a date for Kelly’s report back from the General Service Conference which will take place on June 24th and is going to be combined with District 13. I want to thank everyone who continues to be of service within Area 35, we are extremely blessed to live in such an amazing area.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Melissa A.

PI – Mark N. Area 35 PI Report

For our Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and Public Information (PI) committee’s breakout session there were 14 present representing Districts 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, and13.

We discussed the Agenda Items.

We also talked about how we can better reach out to the Veterans, some thoughts putting on workshop for vets in places where veterans go, VFW’s, American legions and the like. Literature and talks at VA clinics and hospitals, Groups need to get more involved with Veteran 12 step work, and involvement in something called Stand Down through the County Veterans Service Offices.

We talked about the importance of anonymity on social media and how it’s our individual responsibility to uphold the traditions in all our affairs.

Some stuff I have been doing:

I was asked to speak at the Primary Purpose group in Wakhon, MN on the shores of Mille Lacs Lake; I was able to include a little introduction on AA General Service.

I attended the District 7 meeting to assist with the Conference Agenda as well as my home group Sleepy Hollow. I have been attending other meetings in my home district and will be putting on a Traditions presentation soon, which will include a viewing of the DVD of Bill W. talks about the 12 Traditions.

I am available for service in your Districts you can get in touch through email or give me a call.

I will be spending more time with the AA meetings in my local district speaking about General Service and our responsibility to be involved. When you read the Big Book, it is clear that CPC and PI work have been a part of the AA tradition from the start. Doctor Silkworth our first Physician the use of the press, the first class A trustee’s this relationship has been with us since the start, The story – the man who conquered fear did what may have been the first Radio interview in Detroit. If he can do it I can do it right?

How do I intend to get people interested and willing to step up and get involved? It will be by getting out and asking them in person.

Coming up:

I have been asked if we will be part of the State Fair by Area 36’S new chair Rob so am looking for an all is clear before I sign us up.

The county fairs will also be here soon.

Looking forward to a busy summer at both work and service.

Thank you.
Yours in Service,
Mark N.

District 9 – Cathy R. Our district meeting is the last Sunday of the month at the Hibbing Alano Club. We are excited about the forthcoming Delegate Report, which will be held on May 20, 2017 from 1-4 PM in conjunction with District 16. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to pass. It was exciting to host a “Hot Topics” meeting. Roger R, alternate delegate, and Jake (past delegate) were in attendance. We had a lively discussion about the “Hot Topics”. There were lots of questions and answers. We whizzed through all the items in less than 2 ½ hours. We have had a wonderful turn out at the Spring Assembly with 10 people in attendance and we are looking forward to the Fall Assembly. We are in the process of a district inventory.

District 5 – Jon S. Report not received

GRAPEVINE – Paul M. Greetings. We had 15 in attendance at our Literature/Grapevine meeting. We went around and discussed what is going on in our districts. Most districts are doing well and some are struggling for trusted servants. One district is concerned about going dark and he is getting the word out. I would like to thank all who bought Grapevine literature this weekend. This is by far the best job in AA. I have an abundance of literature for sale and few wall calendars and pocket planners are left. I have 8 of the new traditions book on hand. Please bring your old Grapevine’s to the area committee meetings so I can hand them out to treatment facilities and correctional centers. If you need any other Grapevine material let me know

as I will be placing an order soon. I have been invited to the Iron Range Get Together in Grand Rapids on May 6 and 7th and will bring Grapevine material. I sold \$268.25 so far this weekend but no Grapevine subscriptions, so you must all have one. We also have gift subscriptions. There is a Grapevine writing workshop in District 6 next week at the Isanti Alano Club at County Rd 5 and Highway 15 from 1-4 PM. There you will learn what to write and you will have time to write your story for the Grapevine. It’s a very good workshop. Contact me with any questions or concerns. I would like to thank Steve D. for sitting in for me at the WCRAASC as I was unable to attend. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 3 – Brian P. Report not received

District 16 –Bruce Alt. DCM Report not receive

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Delegate Position: Members standing for delegate for the next rotation must be nominated by a district and complete a resume by June 4, 2017. The resume can be found on the area website or gotten from Jim or Kelly.

State Fair Booth: Myron “made a motion to appropriate \$500.00 towards state fair involvement”. Melissa seconded the motion. Comments during the discussion included: Seems like large amount for one weekend. Includes overnight stay for PI chair if needed. Do we need a better display to attract more people? Don’t have enough volunteers for more than one weekend. Motion passed.

Big Books for Moose Lake Correctional Facility: Dan E. “made a motion to provide MCF ML with 3 cases of Big Books not to exceed more than \$600.00”. Cathy R. seconded the motion. Discussion: Moose Lake is a state facility and has strict rules about how books come into the building. Area doesn’t buy books for facility. Should be case by case. Pass the hat. Area 36 buys books for Sherburne Co. Jail if we don’t. Motion passed.

Presentations for Fall Assembly

Archives Committee: Will do 45-minute presentation at next assembly on archives in their districts. Archivist, Brad I., will wrap up presentation.

AA meetinglocator: Bob B. will present on changing the locator to WordPress.

Corrections: Gayle R. will also give a presentation related to corrections.

Archivist: Brad I. announced he is stepping down from position after 20 years of managing the PA system and 10 years serving as archivist. Discussion about separating these two positions. Paul M. will see if PA equipment can be stored at Aitkin Alano Club to simplify position. Jim T. will work with Brad to make a job description.

FOC: See Christine’s Financial Report.

Joint Corrections 35/36 Meeting 2017: The next Joint Corrections Meeting will be on April 11, 2017 at Lynde’s Family Restaurant in Osseo, MN. I’ve had difficulty in attending this meeting due to work schedule and distance. In the past, I’ve been able to ask several individuals to go for me.

We have concluded that this may not be a prudent use of the area money. The information that does concern area 35 could easily be transmitted by

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.

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e-mail or telephone. It seems that Area 36 has different views due to the facilities and locations that they serve. In short, they do things their way and we do ours our way. Because of these differences, I have spoken with area committee members about not attending the meeting and just receive information digitally. We are in agreement and this will be relayed to the committee. Thank you for allowing me to participate in my own recovery.

Servando M.

Discussion followed: Why not address problems at next Joint Workshop. Should come in front of the body. Hard to find people to attend and voice not heard. Next Joint Workshop in November 18 at the Tuscan Center in St. Cloud.

AA Meeting Locator: Bob will be rotating out his position this year. We’ve been using aameetinglocator for 4 years and it is supported by areas 35 and 36. Time to update the software and Bob recommends moving to WordPress. A sample site is aaminnesota.com. Discussion: WordPress makes the position clerical rather than technical. Bob was thanked for his service. Could this position be combine with group records or Webmaster? Would still have 2 databases.

Fall Assembly: October 7 and 8 at Hibbing Park Hotel.

Calendar of Events: Steve L. Steve named events printed in the Northern Light. For more events, see the area web site and the current edition of the NL as well as the next one.

Ask it Basket – Past Delegates.

1. Have times or issues changed very much from earlier years (70’s) to today and how were/are they handled or dealt with? Scott J.-There was no archive or archivist. No GSR orientation, GSR or DCM sessions, area actions booklet. No webmaster, pre-conference. We’re not supposed to move fast. Take time to discuss things.
2. Has your service work caused you to miss your home group meetings? Jake-Very little. When I miss, it’s hard, difficult. Home group is in your heart.
3. Do you think that the conference agenda selection process in balanced so that the fellowship has equal access to the process? Not equal vetting. Improvement needed.
4. Can you share your experience with the importance of “singleness of purpose”? John C.-We are doing a disservice to Alcoholics Anonymous if we deal with other problems.
5. Define the third tradition. Tom A.-The long form has more information. We ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism but we have only one requirement. Open meetings are held to see if you do have a problem. Scott J.-we don’t want anyone to die so we help them find where they need to go for help.
6. Do you think there is a good balance of Class A Trustees to Class Trustees? Suzie A.-There are 7 Class A, non-alcoholic trustees and 14 Class B, Alcoholic Trustees. Thinks we may not need class A’s as we have come a long way. Scott J.-most of us feel that way.
7. How long was it until you felt comfortable with understanding the agenda items? Bruce B.-Scott made one mistake when he though I made a mistake. At Bruce’s first district meeting, he heard about VCR, DMZ, the 12 conflicts, and PCP committees. Had no idea what was going on at first assembly; talk and talk and did not make a decision. Took 3-4 assemblies before he felt comfortable. Hot topics had more weight-were items where decisions might be made. If you don’t understand, please come back.
8. What is a steering committee? Jim K.-Definition: a committee that decides on the priorities or order of business of an organization and manages the general course of its operation. (From Service Manual pg. S-27). Common in larger groups. Acts on behalf of members.
9. When are past delegates going to write an article for the NL? John C. Their job is to sit in the back of the room and help when things get muddled, get things back on track. Thought they could write articles.
10. Is the blue blazer required attire for past delegates? What’s the story behind that? Tom A.-It’s tradition to wear a blue blazer, grey pants, and crazy socks. Board meetings the attire is a piece suite and a tie for trustees. The delegates were once asked if they were a convention of funeral directors.
11. Have times changed in AA? Jim K.-When topics come up we always look at them in light/eyes of the traditions. Traditions give us a pathway.
12. How would a district handle a meeting that allows all addictions to attend and speak of their addictions? Doesn’t this violate our traditions? Is this still an AA meeting? Suzie A.-We are Alcoholic Anonymous! Suggested the DCM go to the group and talk about singleness

of purpose. These groups usually fall apart on their own.

13. If a group or district has a lot of extra money around-what would be some ways to spend it down? Bruce B.-When money goes in the basket it belongs to AA. If a group has too much money, they should contribute to the entities. If a district has too much they could send officers to WCRAASC. Don’t buy hot dogs!
14. If somehow controlled, wouldn’t a Facebook or Twitter account through AA be helpful to reach young people or introverts who are afraid to or are more isolated a way for them to learn about AA? Jake-Possibly. Decisions about social media must hold up in light of our traditions. If you think someone needs to be reached, then reach out to them. Try to reach in a way that is not outside of yourself.

Additional Past Delegate Comments: They are against the 3 cases of Big Books for the Moose Lake Correctional Facility. 18 new GSRs-we need new people. Contributions are up, let’s all participate. The participation level here was great; this is how AA gets better. Thanks were given to Bob B. and Brad I. for their service. Jake is a candidate for trustee at large. Kelly was given a warm send off to General Service Conference. Kelly reported she has been eating, sleeping, and breathing the agenda items but last night she didn’t think about them. We are guardians of the traditions in the WCR, we keep the traditions first in our decisions.

Adjourn: Assembly was closed with the responsibility statement.

In March, District 13 conducted a district inventory in order to take stock of

Lessons Learned from a Failed Inventory

our assets and liabilities. Like the Big Book says on page 64, “A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke.” What we learned was conducting the inventory incorrectly can almost be as damaging as not conducting an inventory at all. As a result of a skewed and improper surveying procedure, the entire inventory was declared “null and void”. Here are the lessons we learned from a failed inventory.

1. Don’t Rush to Failure: Some GSRs felt that the process was rushed and ultimately that haste made waste. It was mentioned that if we had taken more time we could have been more successful.
2. Communication is Key: Some GSRs reported that they didn’t understand the directions for filling out the inventory. Others thought it was unclear what portions of the inventory they were supposed to complete. Before proceeding with the inventory process, ensure everyone is clear about the directions and expectations.
3. Know What You are Grading: Many of the GSRs reported that they were supposed to grade the performance of the district chairs, but they had little to no idea what the chair had done. This confusion and lack of clarity could be ameliorated by having the chairs give verbal reports or to provide a written year-in-review summary of their service work.
4. Determine Your Audience: The inventory was sent out to over 100 people although only 20-25 GSRs attend our monthly district meetings. The lesson learned here is to ensure you know what you are asking and from whom you are asking it.
5. Right Person for the Right Job: Ensure you have someone who is thoroughly versed in the conducting of a survey/inventory and facilitating it. Our survey sample was too small for the size of audience that it was sent to. This resulted in skewed results and gave a false picture of the district. Ultimately, the inventory had to be declared null and void.

Going forward here are suggestions for improving the process for future inventories:

1. Distribute the inventory only to those GSRs and chairs who are attending the district meeting. This will ensure a 1:1 ratio of respondents to inventories.
2. Do not send the inventory out electronically, rather hand them to the GSR or District Chairs at the district meeting.
3. Include instructions on how to fill out the inventory and an expected completion date.
4. Provide inventories a minimum of three months in advance of the expected inventory meeting. This will allow ample time for groups and committees to discuss the inventory.
5. Do not conduct the inventory until a minimum of 75% of them have been returned.

J.D., PI Chair
District 13

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

May:	26th - 28th : Gopher State Roundup XLIV DoubleTree Hotel Hwy 100 & 494 Bloomington, MN	August:	6th : Area 35 Committee Meeting * Alano Club 9:30 am –2 pm 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin, MN
June :	3rd : Area 35 Zone 2 Zonal Forum * Alano Club 1-4 pm 1604 Jefferson St, Alexandria, MN		11th - 13th : 38th Keep it Simple Weekend* Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake . Eveleth, MN
	4th : Area 35 Committee Meeting * Alano Club 9:30 am –3 pm 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin, MN	September:	8th - 10th : West Central Regional Forum* Holiday Inn City Centre (605) 339-2000 100 W 8th St Sioux Fall, SD
	30th : Thursday Night Young People's Potluck * St. Cloud Alano Club 5:30 pm 127 7 th Ave NE St. Cloud, MN		8th - 10th : 27th Annual Heartland Round-Up* Northern Pines Assembly Grounds 20033 County 1 Park Rapids, MN
July :	28th - 30th : A Weekend with Bill and Lois * Camp Hiawatha Camp Hiawatha Road Deer River, MN	October:	7th & 8th : Area 35 Fall Assembly Hibbing Park Hotel (218) 262-3481 1402 E Howard St. Hibbing, MN



A unique opportunity
for A.A. members to
share their experience,
strength and hope.

An invitation for you!
From the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

ALL A.A. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME
FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES ENCOURAGED

What to EXPECT

- First Timer Orientation**
We especially welcome you if this will be your first Regional Forum. Before the Forum starts, there will be an orientation session which will include an informational handout.
- Sharing Sessions/Ask-It Basket**
What have you been wondering about? Come up to the mike, maybe others have been wondering too. Share your thoughts and ask your questions. If you don't want to come to the mike, you can write out your comment or question and drop it into the "Ask-It" Basket.
- Presentations**
You will hear presentations covering topics such as, A.A. Around the World, Self-Support and Carrying the Message. Each presentation features hand-outs and time for questions and answers. It's a great way to get to know members of the General Service Board, as well as Staff and Directors from the General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine.
- A.A. Grapevine / La Viña**
Meet the Staff from A.A. Grapevine and La Viña, "our meetings in print," and learn how the magazines carry experience, strength and hope to A.A. members in a vast number of settings. You can learn how to contribute stories and participate as a Grapevine/ La Viña representative.
- Workshops**
The workshop topics come from recommendations made by Forum attendees the last time we were in your Region. Workshops may cover practical "how-to" topics as well as themes related to unity, recovery and service. At the end of the Forum we will ask you for ideas for the next Forum in your Region.

Our primary PURPOSE

- First Time Forum Attendees**
Those of you attending your first A.A. Regional Forum, are especially welcome! Come and meet other A.A. members and learn about the rich variety of service opportunities that our Fellowship offers.
- Whether you are new to service or have been sober and active in A.A. service for years, the Regional Forum experience is a wonderful way to learn and share about our worldwide, life-saving Fellowship.
- More than a Presentation**
Presentations cover topics such as: A.A. Around the World, Who are Our Trustees and What Do They Do? Your General Service Office: How It Helps My Group Carry the A.A. Message? Self-Support, and much more. Most presentations feature hand-outs and time for questions and answers.
- Workshops, we need your voice**
Regional Forums provide a great opportunity for members to exchange group, district, area and regional experience. You will find that Area Delegates and committee members also come to listen and share their experience.
- Spiritual Principles, Practical Experience**
Communication—one alcoholic talking to another—is the vital link for all of us in A.A. Regional Forums create another important link in that chain. Whether it is a one-on-one chat during a coffee break, asking a question at the microphone during a Sharing Session, or just absorbing information, each member's attendance at these Forums helps to further our primary purpose—staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

FORUMS OFFER..

A meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic. Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, the General Service Board, and Staff and Directors from the General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Group discount codes for the hotels are online at, aa.org, under "Regional and Local Forums" and on each Forum's registration form.

Upcoming Forums 2017

June 2-4	Northeast	DoubleTree by Hilton Mars, PA
September 8-10	West Central	Holiday Inn City Centre Sioux Fall, SD
October 20-22	Southwest	San Antonio Marriott Northwest San Antonio, TX
November 17-19	East Central	Wyndham Springfield City Centre Springfield, IL

2018

June 8-10	Western Canada	Ramada Plaza Regina, Saskatchewan
July 20-22	Eastern Canada	Hotel Le Victoirt Victoriaville, Quebec
September 7-9	Pacific	DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose San Jose, California
November 16-18	Southeast	Washington Dulles Airport Marriott Sterling, VA

Since 1975
Forums offer a meeting place to help carry the
A. A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic.

27th ANNUAL HEARTLAND ROUND-UP

20033 County 1 • Park Rapids, MN
FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

- 3:00 Registration Begins
- 6:00 Sandwich Bar
- 8:30 AA Speaker – Ed R. – Minneapolis, MN
- 10:30 Campfire Call-up Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

- 8:00..... Breakfast
- 10:00 Al-Anon Speaker – Germaine L. – Rapid City, SD
- 11:30 - 1:00..... Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:15..... AA Speaker – Kenny H. – Grand Forks, ND
- 2:30 - 3:30 AA Workshop – Paul G. – Brecksville, OH
"Singleness of Purpose"
- 3:45 - 4:45..... AA Workshop – Paul M. – Wahnkon, MN
"Grapevine Article Writing"
- 3:45 - 4:45..... Al-Anon Meeting
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:30 AA Speaker – Paul G. – Brecksville, OH
- 9:30..... Dance - Music By "Big Show Entertainment"

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

- 8:00..... Breakfast
- 10:00 AA Speaker – Christina G. – Brecksville, OH
- 11:30..... Lunch
- 3:00..... Check-out

Make Your Reservations Early!

LODGING

Sleeping accommodations are warm and clean with single, double and bunk beds with mattresses. All you need to provide is your own amenities, bedding, pillows, towels and wash cloths and a flashlight.

- All Northern Pine buildings are smoke free.
- Pets must be leashed or contained at all times.

Cabins . . .
14 cabins (3 on the lakeshore) which sleep from 4 to 20. All have toilet and shower facilities; some have fireplaces, larger living-meeting rooms, and kitchens. Minimum occupancy on some. Three cabins handicapped equipped. Call for availability. Some are pet free.
Preregistration required by July 15, 2017.

Mail form and payment to:
Heartland Round-Up 2017
38668 Walker Lake Dr
Richville, MN 56576
218-495-2483



If you prefer:
AmericInn 1-218-732-1234
C'Mon Inn..... 1-800-258-6891
Super 8 Motel 1-218-732-9704
Rustic Inn 1-218-237-2828
For resort information contact
Park Rapids Chamber 1-800-247-0054

A Weekend of Fun and Fellowship!

Register only one person per form.
Exception - List children below
who will attend with you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

☐ Please check if new mailing address

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Attending? Please check:
☐ Returnee ☐ New

Children attending with you:

Additional forms can be downloaded from our
website: www.heartlandroundup.com

"Before we can be of any use to anybody else, we must find
the beginnings of the answer for ourselves."

Rev. Samuel M. Shoemaker

**This page is left Blank
awaiting for Articles about
our Experiences, Strengths
& Hopes about Recovery,
Gratitude and Service !**

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—1000

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

<p>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:</p> <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.Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.	<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.Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.
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(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

<p>I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)

<p><i>Our A.A. experience has taught us that:</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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,</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Area 35 Committee Meeting Agenda

Aitkin, MN

June 4th, 2017

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

NMAA
PO Box 401
Becker, MN 55308