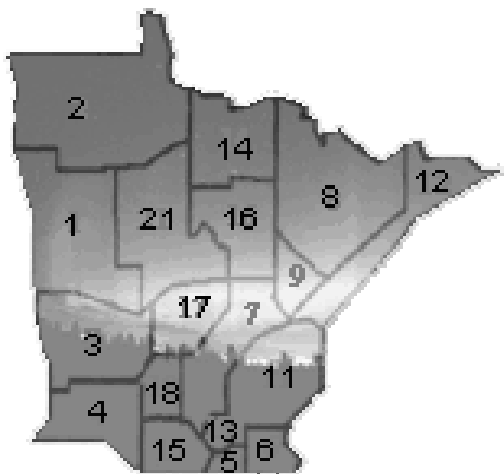


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*Northern Light* is  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

**This is YOUR Newsletter.**

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

**Please bring extra copies to share with your group!**

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

2017 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

<b><u>AREA OFFICERS</u></b>	<b><u>COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)</u></b>	<b><u>DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (D.C.M.'s)</u></b>	<b><u>DISTRICT 14</u></b>
<b><u>DELEGATE</u></b> Kelly D. <a href="mailto:delegate@area35.org">delegate@area35.org</a>	Jim T. <a href="mailto:cpc@area35.org">cpc@area35.org</a>		Paul E. <a href="mailto:dcm14@area35.org">dcm14@area35.org</a>
<b><u>ALTERNATE DELEGATE</u></b> Roger R. <a href="mailto:Alt_delegate@area35.org">Alt_delegate@area35.org</a>	<b><u>TREATMENT</u></b> Gayle R. <a href="mailto:treatment@area35.org">treatment@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 1</u></b> Leslie H. <a href="mailto:dcm1@area35.org">dcm1@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 15</u></b> Melissa A. <a href="mailto:dcm15@area35.org">dcm15@area35.org</a>
<b><u>AREA CHAIR</u></b> Jim S. <a href="mailto:areachair@area35.org">areachair@area35.org</a>	<b><u>WEBMASTER</u></b> Rodney S. <a href="mailto:webmaster@area35.org">webmaster@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 2</u></b> Myron H. <a href="mailto:dcm2@area35.org">dcm2@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 16</u></b> Mike F. <a href="mailto:dcm16@area35.org">dcm16@area35.org</a>
<b><u>TREASURER</u></b> Christine G. <a href="mailto:treasurer@area35.org">treasurer@area35.org</a>	<b><u>GROUP RECORDS</u></b> Robert (Bob) B. <a href="mailto:grouprecords@area35.org">grouprecords@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 3</u></b> Brian P. <a href="mailto:dcm3@area35.org">dcm3@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 17</u></b> NO INFO
<b><u>SECRETARY</u></b> Rillis E. <a href="mailto:secretary@area35.org">secretary@area35.org</a>	<b><u>NORTHERN LIGHT</u></b> Steven L. <a href="mailto:northernlight@area35.org">northernlight@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 4</u></b> Greg C. <a href="mailto:dcm4@area35.org">dcm4@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 18</u></b> William “BR” B. <a href="mailto:dcm18@area35.org">dcm18@area35.org</a>
<b><u>AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u></b>		<b><u>DISTRICT 5</u></b> John S. <a href="mailto:dcm5@area35.org">dcm5@area35.org</a>	<b><u>DISTRICT 21</u></b> Jeffrey L. <a href="mailto:dcm21@area35.org">dcm21@area35.org</a>
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<b><u>ARCHIVES</u></b> Steve D. <a href="mailto:archives@area35.org">archives@area35.org</a>		<b><u>DISTRICT 7</u></b> Liz L. <a href="mailto:dcm7@area35.org">dcm7@area35.org</a>	
<b><u>ARCHIVIST</u></b> Brad I. <a href="mailto:archivist@area35.org">archivist@area35.org</a>		<b><u>DISTRICT 8</u></b> Scott M. <a href="mailto:dcm8@area35.org">dcm8@area35.org</a>	
<b><u>CORRECTIONS</u></b> Melissa A. <a href="mailto:corrections@area35.org">corrections@area35.org</a>		<b><u>DISTRICT 9</u></b> Cathy R. <a href="mailto:dcm9@area35.org">dcm9@area35.org</a>	
<b><u>LITERATURE</u></b> Skip D. <a href="mailto:literature@area35.org">literature@area35.org</a>		<b><u>DISTRICT 11</u></b> Cindy S. <a href="mailto:dcm11@area35.org">dcm11@area35.org</a>	
<b><u>GRAPEVINE</u></b> Paul M. <a href="mailto:grapevine@area35.org">grapevine@area35.org</a>		<b><u>DISTRICT 12</u></b> Steve E. <a href="mailto:dcm12@area35.org">dcm12@area35.org</a>	
		<b><u>DISTRICT 13</u></b> Sean S. <a href="mailto:dcm13@area35.org">dcm13@area35.org</a>	

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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:

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Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- District 2** - Badger, Baudette, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Middle River, Rainy River (Ontario, Canada), Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Effie, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake\*, Longville, Remer
- District 21** - Akeley, Bagley, Bemidji, Blackduck, Cass Lake, Debs, Menahga, Onigum, Park Rapids, Red Lake, Shevlin, Solway,Squaw Lake, Walker

Zone II

- District 3** - Audubon, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Cormorant, Deer Creek, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Elizabeth, Erhard, Fergus Falls, Frazee, Hawley, Henning, Lake Park, Moorhead,

- Osage, Ottertail, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, Wadena
- District 4** - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis
- District 15** - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sartell, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Sauk Centre, Watkins

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Braham, Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis, Rush City
- District 7** - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Isle, Little Falls\*, McGregor\*, Palisade, Pierz, Pilager\*, Waukon
- District 11** - Finlayson\*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley\*, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake\*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Willow River, Wahkon
- District 13** - Kimball, Rice, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Foley
- District 17** - Backus, Cross Lake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pillager\*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Little Falls\*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

Zone IV

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

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

District Meeting Location Information

**District 1**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.  
Fertile Community Center  
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540

**District 2**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.  
First Lutheran Church  
210 Park Ave. N.  
Middle River, MN 56737

**District 3**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.  
Alano Club  
827 Summit Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

**District 4**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location (It Rotates)  
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.  
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

**District 5**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m.  
Freshwaters Church  
12475 273<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

**District 6**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.  
Spring Lake Lutheran Church  
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.  
North Branch, MN 55056

**District 7**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Congregational United Church  
415 Juniper Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**District 8**  
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.  
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”

**District 9**  
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.  
Hibbing Alano Club  
3725 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Hibbing, MN 55746

**District 11**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
Peace Lutheran  
2177 Hwy 18  
Finlayson, MN 55735

**District 12**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)

**District 13**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.  
St. Cloud Alano Club  
127 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

**District 14**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30pm District Meeting  
Coffee Landing  
444 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
International Falls, MN 56649

**District 15**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.  
Albany Community Center  
741 Lake Ave.  
Albany, MN 56307

**District 16**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
1701 S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

**District 18**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Long Prairie Alano Club  
21 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347

**District 21**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Bemidji Alano Club  
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

**District 17**  
Not currently active or unknown

# AREA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

## Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe that this will be my last Northern Light Report as your Delegate, it’s amazing on how fast the last two years have gone by. I would like to take this time to just say thank you! As I have said many times in my reports, it has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve you in Area 35. It has been a journey filled with gratitude, gratitude for given the opportunity to be just a small part of our wonderful Fellowship and the service we do every day to carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic in northern Minnesota. I have served with many of you that truly have love and passion for Alcoholics Anonymous and have helped me along the way to try and be the best trusted servant that I could be. I am grateful to all of you for your help and service!

So where do I begin to thank so many of you for the help, guidance and gifts I received from you? First of all I have to thank God, where would my life be without his presence daily. A loving God I found only through our program. Also, my sponsor JoAnne N., Area 35 past Delegate. I could not imagine being on this journey of service over the years if it was not for her love, experience and encouragement. Then there is all the Area 35 Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM’s, and GSR’s I served with. And yes, I cannot forget those past Delegates too! Tom A. our WCR Trustee that did a fine job keeping us Delegates informed and busy throughout our WCR and will continue to do through the rest of his rotation no doubt. All the WCR Delegates I served with and the many A.A. friends I made along the way in our Region. The Finance Committee I served on at the General Service Conference and all the GSO staff and individuals serving there. All the many A.A.’s I met while traveling to our Districts and doing my GSC report back, the highlight of being Delegate for me. Thank you all for your support and trust in me as your Delegate. What an amazing time of love, learning and growth I received from all of you, thank you all from the bottom of my heart! My hope is that I served you well.

And last I would like to thank and congratulate Christine G. our incoming Panel 68 Delegate for her service. I have no doubt she will serve Area 35 well the next two years!

I look forward to seeing many of you along the way as we continue our journey of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous and giving back what was freely given to us. God’s blessing to you all!

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

## Alt. Delegate:

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Area 35’s Alternate Delegate.

One of my major responsibilities is to set up the next Area 35 Service Workshop for the incoming Alternate Delegate, who will be elected at the Fall Assembly and will Chair this event next January. Our Fall Assembly seems to me to have arrived very quickly. This is a wakeup call for all to shift into a high gear to accomplish our General Service goals in the remaining months of this rotation.

I enjoyed participating in the Fall Assembly in Hibbing, MN. It was great to see many new GSR’s at our GSR Training Session.

I attended the 2017 WCRAASF, September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Sioux Falls, SD. This regional AA forum was a great experience in both learning and motivating all to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic. We gained knowledge of the important role our General Service plays in carrying AA’s message out to the world. Our Big Book is now available in over 70 languages and AA is working in over 175 countries. I was touched by a report the AA in Israel is making the Big Book in Arabic available to Palestinians who cross the border to attend AA meetings in Israel. It was also great to learn our General Service Office is doing well financially as contributions from groups and members’ are up, as well as literature sales have been strong. This means that the projected major shortfalls in 2017 and likely 2018 will not take place. We all left the forum with a positive feeling that through our work in general service and the work of our trusted servants, AA will continue for this generation and generations to come after us.

One of my major responsibilities is to set up the next Area 35 Service Workshop for Jim S., our incoming Alternate Delegate. The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Area 35 Service Workshop will be held from January 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Radisson Duluth Harborview, in Duluth MN. Bob W. who recently rotated out of his board position as Trustee-at-Large will be our guest presenter and speaker at the workshop. It is also time for you to reserve your room for this event. The flyer for this service workshop is located on our Area 35 website.

October was a very busy moth of service. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, we held our final Zonal Forum for this rotation, in Duluth MN. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, I conducted a group inventory for the Primary Purpose Group in Waukon, MN. On October 27<sup>th</sup>– 28<sup>th</sup>, I chaired a successful St. Cloud Roundup. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, I shared my experience, strength and hope story at the Grapevine Meeting in St. Cloud MN.

I would like to thank all in Area 35 for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair during the upcoming rotation. I have been busy selecting and inviting members to serve as Action Chairs.

Our next Area Committee Chairs will be announced and approved at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Area Committee Meeting in Aitkin, MN.

In service,  
Roger  
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

## Area Chair:

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank everyone who attended the Fall Assembly, it appears this assembly had the highest turnout we have had in a few years. It was so great to see how many people came out. Unfortunately, the facility did not quite accommodate that many people as well as I had hoped. I understand there were some problems people had with the facility and for that, I am sorry. On the other hand, according to the email I received from Christine the facility cost the Area less the \$500 for the whole weekend. Therefore, I guess there is a tradeoff for everything.

I attended the Zonal Forum in Duluth on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. I did have some newer guys come with me which made the drive there and back a much more pleasant experience driving. Steve E. did a great job of hosting us and a big thank you to everyone else that helped out and attended. While the attendance were light, a great time was had and if you weren’t there you missed out.

I am looking forward to the Joint Workshop in St Cloud this Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us this year and we will see a few more people than we did last year. It has been brought up to me about the viability of this workshop and does it justify the expense. This is a conversation that should always be had about anytime the Area spends Fellowship money. I think the Joint Workshop is a worthwhile endeavor. The worthwhile of it is dependent upon people’s willingness to attend this short workshop. It is only four hours long, while that doesn’t include travel time, I find that if you bring people the drive is more enjoyable.

I would like to thank Area 35 for electing me to Alt. Delegate. I am quite surprised and deeply humbled. I have greatly enjoyed being the chair for Area 35 over the past two years and can’t believe how fast it has gone. It seems like just yesterday I sat down with Rillis and Christine at the Annual Workshop and just had a short visit about the upcoming rotation we were about the embark on. I am looking forward to hearing who Roger has found to fill the committee chair positions as that is a big hurdle for the incoming chair. There are so many great people I have met over the years and many would make valuable chairs for the Area.

Just a reminder for the incoming chairs, your budget for 2018 is due by the Annual workshop. This is not a lot of time but to fulfill the requirements of the actions booklet to have the budgets out 60 days before being voted on, this has to be done.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Dec.

In Service  
Jim S.  
Area 35 Chair

## Secretary:

Congratulations to our new officers, delegate, and alternate delegate and thank you for accepting these trusted servant roles!

Completing the minutes from the Fall Assembly was a challenge for me. However, the lesson learned was do not switch internet providers before the minutes or any other important documents are completed! After many hours and five services calls, my internet is up and running again. Thank you to Steve Lere, our Northern Light editor, for his patience and grace while I struggled to get the minutes to him albeit nearly a week after the deadline.

I plan to attend the Joint Workshop in St. Cloud on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the third Joint Workshop I will be attending and feel like I have a better understanding of what goes on at that meeting. I also plan to attend the ACM on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is the last ACM of this rotation. I will have information prepared to hand to Melisa A. as she will be assuming the Secretary position in January. I will also be going to the January Workshop in Duluth. Now that the minutes and this report are completed, I will continue to work on the Actions Booklet and a flier for the Spring Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your secretary during for the past two years; this has been an opportunity for me to give back to the program that saved my life. As a result I have grown in my sobriety as well as my personal and spiritual life and for that, I want to express my gratitude.

Yours in Service,  
Rillis E.  
Area 35 Secretary

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

Treasurer:

Greetings Area 35,

It has been about one month since my last report at the Fall Assembly. I can't believe that the we are getting ready to rotate out of our positions. As I prepare to hand over your Area finances to the next Treasurer, I am reflecting on how much of a privilege it has been serving Area 35 as your Treasurer. The incoming Treasurer is Mike F., DCM from District 16. I am very confident that Mike will serve the Area well. Congratulations Mike on your new position! I will be here to help Mike with the transition as much as he needs.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, I presented at a Service Workshop in District 5 that was hosted by Big Lake Big Book Study Group. There was great participation and food. Thank you for inviting me to present.

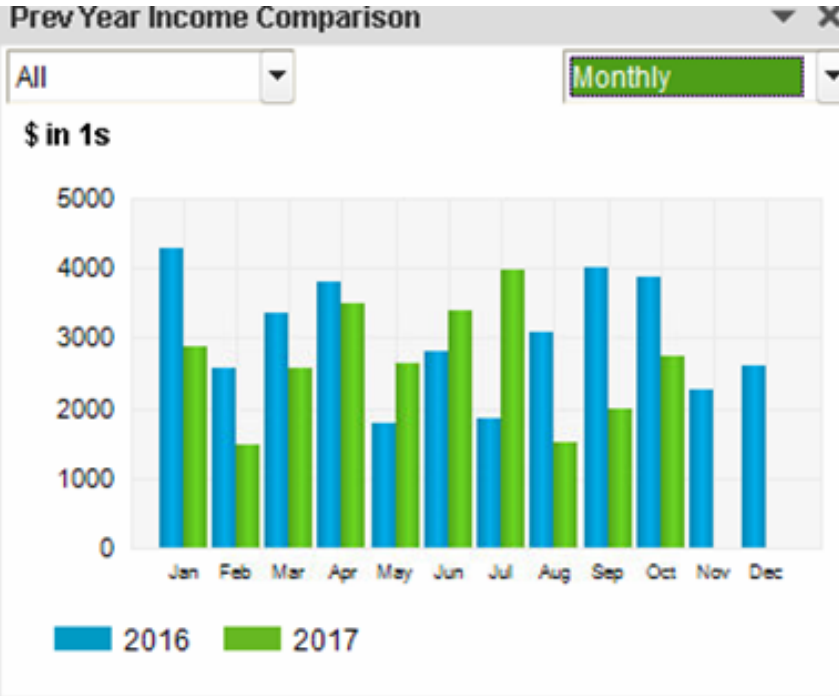
On October 21<sup>st</sup>, I presented at the Zonal Forum at the Duluth Alano Club. Thank you to Steve E. and District 12 for hosting the forum and for all your participation.

Your Area checkbook has a balance of \$17,464.49 plus a prudent reserve of \$6,044.61.

For the month of October, we had a total income of \$2,746.53 and total expenses of \$4,289.28.



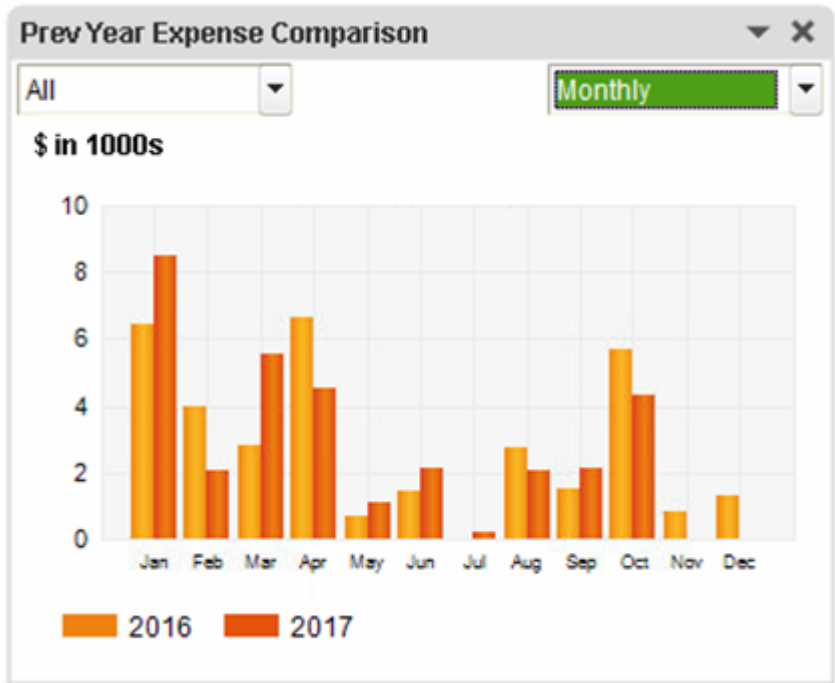
Income YTD 2016 was \$25,896.62 compared to YTD 2017 \$26,599.41.



"Sobriety -- freedom from alcohol -- through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA group."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1958  
"Problems Other Than Alcohol," The Language of the Heart

Expenses YTD 2016 was \$31,957.70 compared to YTD 2017 \$32,494.55.



For 2017, we are down \$5,895.14 in contributions. We have a couple more months to go to get caught up. I would like to thank all the groups for their contributions and everyone who has contributed to the birthday contribution. Please talk with your groups and see what they are willing to contribute to the Area.

Contributions to GSO are looking very good for 2017. We may be self-supporting through group contributions and not taking in account literature sales. That is so wonderful! It looks like Area 35 contributions to GSO are on the decline. Out of 576 groups in Area 35 220 are contributing, which is 38.19% of the groups. What can we do as an Area to get this percentage up past 50%?

Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area Treasurer.

In Service,  
Christine G.  
Area 35 Treasurer

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

Archives:

Welcome to Chuck R. from Hibbing, to our Committee.

Scott M., Dist. 8 reported that they have elected an new archives chair from Pike Sandy, MN.

Greg C., Dist. 4 reported that at this time, they do not have an Archives chair. Greg discussed how through working with Area group records, they discovered some history of the groups in their district and recognizing many groups in the FNV database.

Peter T., Dist. 13 reported that his district voted to not to digitally record district meetings as there was concern that it might break anonymity. We discussed how important it is that we communicate what the meaning of anonymity is in AA. Meetings are still being documented through written minutes.

Chuck R., Dist. 9 has been active in the past in recording old timers and providing those recordings to the area archives.

Brad I., our area 35 Archivist reported his recent activities. He will be rotating out as area archivist at the end of the year.

Action items.

- We discussed how we can assist Brad and the incoming Archivist. We discussed increasing active participation in the Archives committee to assist the archivist to keep our records accurate and current. Providing districts, a consistent process for archiving material including, minutes, flyers, and other documentation to minimize the effort of the archivist.
- We also discussed how our history can help us to understand changes that happen in AA, such as roundups. Looking for ways we can invigorate that important part of our fellowship.
- We discussed the space requirements for housing archives, its current content and what our future needs will be.
- Scott suggested we tour the Archives in Waite Park to get a sense of the scope of our history in Area 35. We are looking at the end of September. We will try to communicate this to all interested districts.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- ♦ Please encourage your district to continue to provide your history to Area 35 archives. It is imperative for us to have this to remember from whence we came.

Steve D.  
Area 35 Archives Committee Chair

Archivist:

NO REPORT

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Two sections to this final report from your CPC Chair for the past two years. One of great gratitude for the support and encouragement of the Area Officers and those who have stepped forward to work on CPC. In the second section I offer observations and concerns regarding our Society’s future as it pertains to CPC and most other aspects of the Higher Powers greatest gift of healing to the alcoholic.

These past two years we have focused on bringing the message of what A.A. is, and is not, to sites where our Area 35 professional workers abide. It has been our belief that to find them in their work places and association meeting opportunities makes it easier to spread the message. “Take it to where they are” has been a guiding principle. We have brought the message to dozens of social workers, police officers, some physicians, many ministers, local service club members, and teachers. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century every professional occupation is called to in-house consultation, training sessions, and most have workloads or commitments which make it especially difficult to meet us at a place and time of our invitation. As the Chair for the Area I find far more shortcomings than success stories in my guidance. The next Chair will find vast fertile ground for CPC work in each and every district. My best wishes and prayers are with her or him. I also stand by to assist in any way that I can. The more than 8 basic pieces of CPC literature, coupled with a host of other pamphlets make easier our job to connect with the professional community.

Section 2. I’m not sure what questions to pose from my limited knowledge and biased viewpoints regarding recent Area 35 discussions or experiences of “singleness of purpose.” So, I offer information from A.A. pamphlets:

What is Alcoholics Anonymous ? (Brochure P-2; 44 Questions)

“...men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem...[the] “common problem is alcoholism. The men and women who consider themselves members of A.A. are, and always will be, alcoholics, even though they may have other addic-tions.”

Problems other than Alcohol (Brochure P-35) (Bill W., author)

“Perhaps there is no suffering more horrible than drug addiction, especially that kind which is produced by morphine, heroin, and other narcotics. Such drugs twist the mind, and the awful process of withdrawal racks the sufferer’s body. Compared with the addict and his woes, we alcoholics are pikers. Barbiturates, carried to the extremes, can be almost as bad. In A.A. we have members who have made great recoveries from both the bottle and the needle...many A.A.’s, especially those who have suffered these particular addictions, are now asking, “What can we do about drugs--within our Fellow-ship and without?”

“[questions]...can readily be resolved to the satisfaction of everyone if we have a good look at the A.A. Traditions which apply, and another look at our long experience with the special-purpose groups in which A.A.’s are active today—both within and without our Society.

“Now there are certain things that A.A. cannot do for anybody, regardless of what our several desires or sympathies may be.”



“How come you’re all of a sudden easy to get along with? What did I do, outside of joining AA and getting sober?”

“Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival. Therefore, we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity. An A.A. group, as such, can-not take on *all* the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world.”

“Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the

Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities, and they have always failed. It has also been learned that *there is no possible way to make nonalcoholics into A.A. members*. We have to confine our membership to alcoholics, and we have to confine our A.A. groups to a single purpose. If we don’t stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone.”

“Therefore, I see no way of making nonalcoholic addicts into A.A. members. Experience says loudly that we can admit no exceptions, even though drug users and alcoholics happened to be first cousins of a sort. If we persist in trying this, I’m afraid it will be hard on the drug user himself, as well as on A.A. We must accept the fact that no nonalcoholic, whatever his affliction, can be converted into an alcoholic A.A. member.”

“Such is the sum of what A.A. *cannot* do. Now, then, what *can* be done? Very effective answers to problems other than freedom from alcohol have always been found through special purpose groups, some of them operating within A.A. and some on the outside.”

“We cannot give A.A. membership to nonalcoholic narcotics addicts. But like anyone else, they should be able to attend certain open A.A. meetings, provided, of course, that the groups themselves are willing.”

“A.A. members who are so inclined should be encouraged to band together in groups to deal with sedative and drug problems. But they ought to refrain from calling themselves A.A. groups.”

“There seems to be no reason why several A.A.’s cannot join, if they wish, with a group of straight addicts to solve the alcohol and the drug problem together. But, obviously, such a dual-purpose group should not insist that it be called an A.A. group, nor should it use the A.A. name in its title. Neither should its straight-addict contingent be led to believe that they have become A.A. members by reason of such association.”

Open minds. Open discussions at the group, district and area levels. Bill W. has left us a legacy which begs our adherence for the good, and the life, of our miraculous fellowship.

Jim T.  
Area 35 C.P.C. Chair

Corrections:

NO REPORT

Grapevine:

Greetings!

Greetings from your 35 Grapevine chair. We had seven in attendance at the fall assembly in Hibbing. All districts that were represented seem to be doing good with the GV. I placed another order for almost \$500 to meet my dis-count, which is 20%. I sold about \$160 worth of literature at the St. Cloud I sold about \$160 worth of literature at the St. Cloud Round-Up. Sadly to say that this will be one of my last reports as the GV chair this has been a great job! I will leave the Grapevine inventory with a lot of the new books for the incoming GV chair. This is AA and I love this place! If anybody has any questions, concerns, or need any additional literature please see me. I have the new 2018 calendars and pocket calendars for sale!

Yours in service  
Paul M.  
Area 35 Grapevine

Group Records:

**aaMeetingLocator:** aaMeetingLocator is now in WordPress and using the 12step Meeting List Plugin. aaMeetingLocator will be updated using the output from our General Service Office group records database. We are out of the web software business. There are contact us form on aaMeetingLocaor. When a form is filled out e-mail is send to grouprecords@area35.org. Our incoming group records chair will have to be proactive and responsive to the contact us requests. Some of the requests are 12 step requests.

**Ad Hoc Meeting:** An ad hoc meeting was help with Southern Minnesota to discuss changes in aaMeetingLocaor.org. In addendance were Both area35 and area 36 group reocrds, and a past delegate from area35 and area36. We discussed:

**WordPress:** aaMeetingLocator is now supported by wordpress. The FNV file from area36 will be emailed to grouprecords@area35.org. In the past the file was uploaded to the the aaMeetinglocator web site. Area35 Group records will be responsible to keep aaMeetingLocator up to date. The FNV group records database will need to be broken into file with 200 records. The 12 step meeting list tool will process and update the web meeting list. The tool used google to geocode the meetings. Bad addresses are reported immediately. The previous aaMeetingLocator did not have this feature. aaMeetingLocator is also a secure web site. Search engines prefer secure web sites.

(Continued on page 7)

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

**November Joint Meeting:** We are holding a joint meeting in November. This year area 35 is rotating out. In November area 35 does not know who will be on the incoming committee. This is more of a farewell meeting vs a joint meeting to promote joint project between area for the next year.

**Joint web site:** We discussed having a joint WEB site as an entry for the public to contact AA in Minnesota. The site could have information for PI, CPC, and Treatment. The site would be a common way for the public to contact AA in Minnesota. This has come up in the past and hit a dead end. We would need participation from our PI, CPC, and treatment committees. In the past the committees have not shown an interest in doing this. It will brought up again at our joint conference.

**Servant Contact List:** Area 36 has a servant contact list for the entire area 36 servants. Included in the list are all Committee Members including district committee members and active GSRs. The list was generated from the FNV database. Access to the list is on the WEB in a password protected file. After reviewing the list the GSO FNV contacts can be cleaned up.

**Group Records:** GSO records know that we have been holding elections for our next years rotations. They ask that we hold off updating our records until January 1. This will allow GSO to send out BOX 459 to the current trusted servants.

GSO changed our FNV access. I am able to access the FNV database from any computer. This has made my job easier.

**Thank You for allowing me to serve:**

Up to date input of information by the groups and area registrars.  
Or the consequence of a group or an area not providing requested information for a group record update

Bob B.  
Group Records  
grouprecords@area35.org

## Literature:

Good day Area 35,

Hard to believe that this rotation is near the end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the experience, and trust you have shown. At the start, I had no idea what I could possibly bring to the table, but with your help, I think we pulled this off well. Thank you.

I am looking forward to the joint workshop on November 18<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud, also the Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The fall assembly went well, despite the crowded space, for I was unable to set up everything due to someone took one of the tables I had. We did sell \$860.43 in literature. Thank you all. There was bad news. Someone gave me a check that did not clear, so it charged the account \$20.00. A first for me in this program as Literature Chair. I have tried to contact this individual three times in the past week, but as of writing this, have not heard back from them. Speaking of the Fall Assembly, I believe I forgot my notebook with my notes on my report at the Assembly in the hotel room with my shampoo and soap, so if you see a report from literature in the Northern light, we have an AWESOME secretary, Thank you Rillis. If no report, that is why.

I would like to thank all of you for the support and help you have given to me in this past rotation.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,  
Skip D.  
Area 35 Literature Chair

## Northern Light:

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

This has been an interesting issue to publish working with patience, acceptance and discovery. I want to thank everybody in this rotation. It has been a fun panel to work with and I'm lucky to gotten the time to know some of you better. Thanks for your time, energy and unselfish service to AA. I want to give a BIG thanks to Brad for his long and exceptional service to our area. You did a bang up job. I've been fortunate enough to be asked to stay on as the NL Editor for the next rotation and I am looking forward to working with the next rotation of service people in the Area.

The other day I was moving a file cabinet in my basement. Looking in one of the drawers were old AA folders. In one of those folders, I found the whole first year of the Northern Light starting with issue "one" dated October 7<sup>th</sup> 1982 along with some of the other first years. WOW, has the NL evolved. From a four page 8 1/2x11 inch white typing paper to todays 20 to 24 page newspaper news print. I was thinking I might start a Blast from the Past column and place an old story or article from an early year issue starting in next years first NL issue. Because of this find I will be changing the Volume number to XXXVII (37) starting in 2018.

It's been a good year and a half.

Yours in Service  
Steven L.  
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

## Public Information:

Public information's primary purpose is to carry the message of sobriety to the still suffering alcoholic through a third person or directly using pamphlets and literature of Alcoholics Anonymous. We can do this by putting public service announcements out on the radio, television or internet services. Place meeting schedules or notices in newspapers, put on presentations and or speak to individuals, groups, associations, conferences etc. Post notes and announcements on bulletin boards in libraries, cafes, bars, laundromat etc. Maintaining literature racks in police stations, churches, probation offices etc. Place AA literature in Doctor's offices, barber shops. Keep an eye out for anonymity breaks at the level of press, radio and film. I think you get the picture.

The job of Public information and Cooperation with the public is quite extensive and can seem overwhelming at times. Pick something small to work on and start there. We are also tasked with informing the groups about the traditions of AA and the service structure of AA and that it seems can be daunting with disinterested members, we need to make it exciting and interesting or else we lose them. Staying busy and including our fellow AAer's is what I need to do if I want to keep this thing going and be an effective servant.

Hope you have a great holiday season.

Thanks  
Mark N.  
Area 35 Public Information Chair

## Treatment:

Treatment Report. Since the fall assembly there has not been any request for temporary contacts. There has been 3 or 4 requests for the presentation I shared, it is available if anyone would like it, but you would have to get your own Myron, Tiffany and Pat.

This rotation has been a first for me at Area, completing something I at first did not think I could do. Treatment was assigned Districts 12, DCM Steve and Alt. DCM Rich along with District 18, BR. What your districts are doing for those in treatment centers are truly amazing, I thank you. All the district treatment chairs have the heart to reach out not just the hand to the alcoholic who still suffers but also the talent to get others to do so as well.

Thank you Jim & Area 35 for allowing me to serve.

Gayle R.  
Area 35 Treatment Chair

## Webmaster:

Greetings Area 35,

Since my last Northern Light report, I have attended the District 12 meeting at which Kelly gave her report back from the General Service Conference, the Fall Assembly in Hibbing, and the Zonal Forum for Zone IV in Duluth.

Congratulations to our new delegate and officers, Christine, Roger, Jim, Mike, and Melissa.

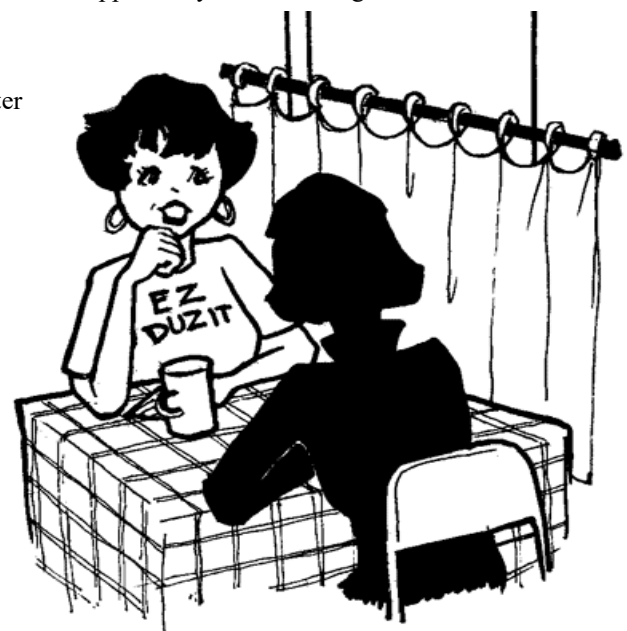
I haven't been very busy since the Fall Assembly. There have been a small number of updates on our webpage and some new flyers for the events calendar. I have also been working to tie up a few loose ends so that the transition to the new webmaster will be as smooth as possible.

I will be attending the Area 35/36 joint workshop in St. Cloud on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

Even though I have not enjoyed many aspects of this position, I have enjoyed, and am greatly appreciative, of the opportunity to serve and be a part of the Area 35 Committee.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported me these past two years, and thanks, again, for the opportunity to serve and grow.

Yours in service,  
Rodney S.  
Area 35 Webmaster



*"My sponsor says she never got indigestion from swallowing her pride."*



## GSR's Thoughts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy

Steve asked for the GSR's thoughts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy voting from the Spring Assembly.

Right or wrong, here are my thoughts on the process.

I had my group's conscience on whom to vote for and I did so. I heard nothing different, there was no "new information" given to me so I continued to vote for the person they had told me to vote for. It didn't matter how many times we voted, there was no new information so I stayed with the group conscience.

Now if everybody did that, we would have had the same count every vote, but we did not. So some GSR's/voting members saw who was ahead in the ballots and somewhere along the lines, changed their vote to who was in the lead, why? At one point, the election for Delegate was within a few ballots, so at that point why did people change their vote? There was no new information presented that would cause someone to change their vote besides one person having more votes than the other.

I guess my thought is, especially in regard to "the right of decision", it is my understanding that if the GSR's learn new information we can take that into consideration and change our votes from what the group conscience says because we are trusted servants. We would then need to go back to our home groups and give a reason for why we changed our vote.

So what would the reason be in the case of voting for the delegate? Because one person was in the lead, I changed my vote. Especially when at the beginning the vote was pretty close between two nominees.

If there could have been some discussion between votes maybe then there would be new information or "reasons" to change a vote.

However, there was no discussion, just another vote- well what was different?

Now after the Assembly, it was told to me that our newly elected Delegate will serve two years and then sit "in the back of the room" with the other past delegates. They generally do not serve in the rotation any longer. Now that is something I nor my group had considered before voting. If I had that knowledge before, my vote may have changed. I believe this person has a lot more to give. This person would be such an asset for the Area in serving other positions that I would hate to just have them "sit in the back".

So again, if there was discussion between voting, this may have been a topic discussed and my vote may have changed as I had new information to consider.

Therefore, my opinion is, if we have Third Legacy Voting, there should be discussion allowed so new information can be given. Something as simple as how the process works after they serve or even a statement on "why I feel my nominee should be delegate".

Those are my thoughts on the process- I am sure more will be revealed and learned from this.

In service  
Denise R.  
GSR Thursday Morning Big Book

## The Master Physician

Recently, I overheard an A.A. member talk about being concerned because he hadn't had a spiritual awakening like Bill W. He was afraid he had done something wrong. He wondered if he had fallen out of favor with God. He questioned whether he had missed something when he went through the 12 Steps. He thought maybe he had glossed over some vital section of the first 164 pages.

Of course, none of the above was true. He discovered the answer to his questions when we went to the back of the Big Book and read the appendix entitled Spiritual Experience. In there he learned that the spiritual experience he encountered was of the type and variety that the author and psychologist William James once described as "the educational variety". My friend had gone through a spiritual experience that happened so slowly and almost imperceptibly that others noticed the profound psychic change within him before he did.

He came to learn that this is the case with most of us. Through the process of cleaning house, helping others and trusting God we all have had insights, epiphanies, and a profound alteration of our thinking and behavior. Through our application of the 12 Steps, we have developed a "God-consciousness". This "still small voice within" directs our thoughts and actions so that we are in tune and harmony with our Higher Power. With some of us it happens quickly and with some it happens slowly, but it will become part of our spiritual routine if we work for it.

So what about Bill's profound spiritual experience?

In December of 1934 in Towns Hospital, Bill experienced a flash of white

light and an overwhelming sense of well-being that freed him from his obsession and craving for alcohol. He felt as if he were in the presence of God. In Bill's own words he stated "I knew I was a free man".

So why did Bill have this profound spiritual awakening when so many of us have the spiritual experience of the educational variety that happens slowly over a period of time?

Perhaps it is because God is the Master Physician. As the Great Healer, God only prescribes that which the patient needs. God doesn't perform heart surgery when an aspirin regimen will do. Conversely, God doesn't say "take two of these and call me in the morning", when the patient needs to be in ICU. As the Master Physician, God knows exactly what I need and in what dosage I need it. There are those of us in the program that have needed a dramatic and profound God intervention to relieve of us of the obsession and craving for alcohol. There are also those of us who have only needed a gentle prodding and nudging to bring about a profound psychic change. Whichever the case, we can rest assured that we were all under the care of the Master Physician.

JD, Dist. 13  
Big Lake, MN

## General Service Board Strategic Planning

While it would likely be difficult to attend an AA meeting and not hear the phrase "one day at a time" said with passion – likely more than once – Bill W. also addresses the proper use of it in Concept IX when he writes about leadership and also having vision. He tells us that one day at a time is a valuable principle that refers to our mental and emotional lives and means chiefly that we are not to foolishly repine over the past nor wishing to daydream about the future.

In fact, he stresses for the need to plan in the next paragraph, "As individuals and as a fellowship, we shall surely suffer if we cast the whole job of planning for tomorrow onto a fatuous idea of Providence. God's real Providence has endowed us human beings with a considerable capacity for foresight...." In fact, Concept VIII charges the trustees with just this task:

8. 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.

I'd like to take the opportunity in a few paragraphs to provide information and examples of how the trustees, in practical terms, animate this Concept. It begins at the July Board meeting, the first time that the General Service Board (GSB) assembles after the General Service Conference (GSC). In a three-hour session, the GSB meets to review the current Strategic Plan that was approved on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and is reviewed at the July Board meeting each year, revises and then implements the tasks indicated in the plan. Items are assigned a GSB Priority Code, which not only factors in importance but also achievability. If possible, the item is assigned to an existing committee, or a committee is established if necessary to work on the implementation of a given item.

As with any strategic plan, items in the plan evolve as they are explored and developed. Existing items may be actioned, eliminated, combined, or in some way addressed as time passes. This past session, at the July 2017 GSB Strategic Planning meeting, the list of priorities began over 40 items, but by the end the list was transformed to a list a bit over half that amount. In October and January, the GSB will work on the implementation of the plan for 2017-2018, and then in July 2018 the GSB will once again work over the plan itself. When reviewing the list, a common element in the vast majority of the items is "communication". There are multiple reasons why that is the case. First, it is undoubtedly because that this the essence of all of our 12-step work. We "Carry the Message" in many different ways -- far too many to try to categorize in this writing. Second, the GSB, AAWS and GV are all tasked with a wide array of responsibilities – as directed by the fellowship through the GSC process – to design, implement and carry out these tasks. Often, this work is planning ways of carrying the AA message not at the office, but at the area, district, group or individual level. From PSAs to pamphlets to podcasts, the AA message, this language of the heart, can be found in a wide array of venues and formats with an eye to inclusiveness for all who suffer from the age-old malady of alcoholism.

With such a wide spectrum of communications methods, the Board has determined that an overall communication audit was necessary to insure effectiveness, lack of redundancy with an eye to being most effective with the group contributions that make all this communication possible. A Communications Audit is just beginning, and it is being managed by the General Service Office with oversight by AAWS, AAGV and General Service Boards.

Here are a few more examples of strategic planning items that are currently underway:

1. The GSB will encourage the AAGV and AAWS boards to explore a common web platform.

*(Continued on page 20)*



# AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

## Area 35 Fall Assembly Minutes Hibbing , MN October 7-8, 2017

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

**Why We Need a Conference:** Read by Allan

**Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance:** 11 past delegates attended the assembly, they included: Tom L., Panel 32; Scott J., Panel 38; Bob J., Panel 40; Bruce B., Panel 44; Suzie A., Panel 48; Tom A., Panel 50; Tim C., Panel 52; Charlie C., Panel 54; Jerry S., Panel 56; John C., Panel 60; Jake J., Panel 64;

**Recognition of GSR’s in attendance:** Thirteen new GSR’s attended the GSR Orientation Session.

**Additions to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of the 2017 Spring Assembly Minutes:** Motion made and seconded to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.

### OFFICER REPORTS

**DELEGATE-Kelly D.** Greetings Area 35.

It is so hard to believe that here we are at our Fall Assembly and at the end the second year of another rotation. The time has flown by so fast and this weekend, we will have a completely new Area of elected Officers that will serve as our trusted servants for our upcoming 2018-2019 rotation. There is a saying many of us have heard, “God doesn’t choose the qualified, He qualifies the chosen.” I believe this to be true and will happen this weekend. We Area Officers presented in the GSR Orientation this morning. We had 27 in attendance and 13 of them were incoming. Again, I would like to thank them for their commitment to serve their groups and wish them well as they embark on the journey of service within Area 35.

Since my last report, I finished my report back with all the Districts. As I have mentioned it has been the highlight of my service as Delegate. Thank you all that attended and created great discussion and comments on what is going on in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is so good to see so many that are devoted to service and some that are showing interest too! The food and fellowship that went along with it was also an added plus. It is now posted on our Area 35 website with a pass protect password, thank you Rodney. If you did not receive the email I sent out earlier this week with the information here is that code again **Area35 Panel66**. Please pass it on and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns on any of the information I provided from the General Service Conference. Also the hard copies of the “Final Conference Report” is available, please stop by and see Skip our Area 35 Literature Chair this weekend to get a copy or a few to bring back to your Districts.

I attended the WCR Forum in Sioux Falls, SD September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 281 in attendance that weekend. The “Final Forum Report” will be available to us in about a month. Once I receive it I will pass it on to all of you. I would like to thank all from GSO that attended that weekend and Tom, our WCR Trustee, for chairing this event, it was great Forum! A few of the highlights that weekend were presentations from our General Service Office Greg T., General Manager, Michele G., class A Trustee Chair of the board, our very own Tom A., class B Trustee and Leslie B., class A Trustee. Cooperate Service Board presentations were by Beau B., AAWS Director and Carol B., Grapevine Director. Other presentations included Amy B., Executive Editor and Publisher of the Grapevine, Clay R., GSO staff on Public Information and Newton P., Trustee-At-Large US. We also had a presentation from David Morris on Finances. We had three “General Sharing Sessions” where we were able to ask questions. We had sharing from our first time Forum attendees and closing sharing from our past Trustees. There were several Workshops with availability to attend two. I attended “Increasing Contributions” that was moderated by Christine our Area 35 Treasurer and minutes taken by Melissa A., DCM from Distric15. They did great job, thank you both. I also attended the Workshop “Challenges We Face Maintaining Unity” moderated by Alternate Delegate Kathy from Wyoming, which provided great discussion. Five of us Delegates gave presentations. I did a power point on “Disintegration or Over-Integration” which received a positive review (and so did all the other Delegates presentations) by many. After receiving several requests to have mine emailed out, I asked Rodney to post it to our Area 35 website. You can access it by going to downloads on our website; you will not need a password for it.

In Michele G’s closing talk at the end of the Forum, she stated, “Communication was the theme for this weekend.” That brings me to the topic of the Manuscript Litigation of our Big Book. I hope you all received

the email I sent out right after the Forum. If this information was not passed on to, you through my email please let me know and I will be happy to forward it to you. In that email, I mentioned and apologized for not passing the information to all of you when this came out in the end of May. If you recall I lost my email account at that time and had to open another one so I never received the email from Greg T. It was not until just before the Forum I got word about it from Tom our WCR Trustee during our quarterly phone conference meeting with him. I then received the letter from Richard P. also just before the Forum. I made the decision to try to get more information on this topic before informing all of you at the upcoming Forum. In no way was I trying to keep information from any of you. At the Forum Greg T. filled us in the process and litigation (as much as he was a loud to discuss) and it came as a shock to many in our Area that were present hearing about it for the first time. Again, I apologize for that. To date I cannot pass on any more information about this to you, I know as much as you do from the information in the email and letter that I sent out. I can share with you and am quoting what Michele G. stated to all of us on this topic at the Forum when asked the question during her general sharing session “We have a bond in place for this litigation? So does that mean we are willing to pay for the manuscript and if so how much?” Her answer was this *“I can’t answer that question but we will talk in a general sense. The day is going to come, but I cannot tell you, about when we will fully talk about the decisions the board made to pursue the recovery of the manuscript. When that day comes we will tell you everything we can and know, we will tell you everything that we have to say, but right now this is in the hands of the attorneys, they are doing the work that they are paid to do. The manuscript is in a safe place and we have followed the courts orders. If we speak we speak for the corporation, so all of you become witnesses to whatever I say and we don’t want that to happen so that is why we are answering the question now. We are willing and actually look forward to hearing from all of you. We read all the comments and the day will come where we can talk about it with all of you.”* When I hear any more updates on this subject, I will send it out to all of you.

I was out at our Minnesota State Fair on August 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00pm carrying our message of hope to the public in the AA booth there. As always, it proved to be a spiritual experience with many professionals and individuals stopping by to get information on our program. It is always great to see and have many AA members just stop by to say hi too.

Next Saturday I will be attending a Workshop on service hosted by the Big Lake Big Book meeting in my home District 5 from 11:00 – 2:00pm. Two of our Area 35 servants will be presenting, Christine our Treasurer and Melissa A. DCM District 15 along with Tim C. one of our past Delegates. It will be a great Workshop so I hope many of you attend. I will be off to Duluth the following weekend to present at a Zonal Forum with the other Area 35 Officers on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm the last of our rotation. I will then be finishing my rotation with our Area 35/36 Workshop on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud and our Aitkin Committee Meeting on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also in 2010, it was discussed and voted on at the Area that a past Delegate would moderate the DCM Orientation of a new rotation at our Area 35 January Service Workshop. It will be in Duluth January 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and Roger asked if I would do this and I graciously accepted.

We received word from Tom our WCR Trustee that Greg T. our General Manager has been told by his cardiologist that he needs to take some time off. I have had the honor to spend some time with Greg during my rotation and to get to know him and I do not find it hard to believe that he was told this. He is very devoted to our program of Alcoholics Anonymous and has worked very, very hard to make positive changes for all of us. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery. Speaking of Greg, he will be our guest at the WCRAASC in 2019 that Area 35 will be hosting. He graciously accepted my invitation. I have signed a contract with the Courtyard Marriot in Moorhead, MN and our incoming Delegate will be responsible for handling all the details. It is a big responsibility and a lot of work where many volunteers are needed so I hope that there are many of you in Area 35 that are willing to help with this event. We only host it every 8 years as it rotates within our WCR. Look for a lot more information on this to follow in 2018.

And last as I stand before you at my last Assembly as your Delegate, I would like to say that it has been truly and honor and a privilege to serve all of you. It has been a spiritual journey that I will forever hold near and dear to my heart. Thank you for your confidence and support in me over the last two years, my hope is that I fulfilled my commitment by serving you well. Wherever your recovery journey takes you, next I hope you always feel the presence of a loving God in all that you do. Thank you again!

In love and service,  
Kelly D.

(Continued on page 10)

"Living sober is not all roses all the time. But the cool thing is, when I am nervous, it is OK. I do not have to drink to fix it. It is the same with being sad, worried or afraid."

Elkton, Md., August 2012  
"Then Came Susan and Dottie"  
AA Grapevine

### Responsibility Statement

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

(Continued from page 9)

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Roger R.** Greetings Area 35!

Our Fall Assembly seems to me to have arrived very quickly.

This is a wakeup call for all to shift into a high gear to accomplish our general service goals in the remaining months of this rotation.

I attended the 2017 WCRAASF, September 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Sioux Falls, SD. This regional AA forum was a great experience in both learning and motivating all to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic. We gained knowledge of the important role our General Service plays in carrying AA’s message out to the world. Our Big Book is now available in over 70 languages and AA is working in over 175 countries. I was touched by a report the AA in Israel is making the Big Book in Arabic available to Palestinians who cross the border to attend AA meetings in Israel. It was also great to learn our General Service Office is doing well financially as contributions from groups and members are up, as well as literature sales have been strong. This means that the projected major shortfalls in 2017 and likely 2018 will not take place.

Presentations and workshops in the forum were well-prepared, informative and stimulated good participation. Many first-time attendees reported great experiences at the forum. Tom A. our West Central Regional Trustee did a wonderful job in chairing this event.

We all left the forum with a positive feeling that through our work in general service and the work of our trusted servants, AA will continue for this generation and generations to come after us.

One of my major responsibilities is to set up the next Area 35 Service Workshop for the incoming Alternate Delegate, who will be elected tomorrow morning and will Chair this event next January. The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Area 35 Service Workshop will be held from January 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Radisson Duluth Harborview, in Duluth, MN. Bob W. who recently rotated out of his board position as Trustee- at Large will be our guest presenter and speaker at the workshop. Please pick up a couple flyers for this event.

Looks like a very busy moth of service ahead. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, we are holding our final Zonal Forum for this rotation in Duluth, MN at 1pm. On October. On October 25<sup>st</sup>, I will be conducting a group inventory for the Primary Purpose Group in Waukon, MN. On October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, I will be Chair for the SC Round-Up and hope to see you there. In addition, on October 29<sup>th</sup>, I have been asked to share my experience, strength and hope story at the Grapevine Meeting in St. Cloud, MN.

In loving service,  
Roger

**AREA CHAIR–Jim S.** Good Morning Everyone,

The Spring Assembly will be in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn this year. I will get Rillis the info shortly so we can get fliers out. The dates are April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> next year.

The Joint Workshop is Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud from noon to 4pm this year.

I did attend the Regional Forum in Sioux Falls in August. Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend this event.

I will attend the Zonal Forum in Duluth this Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see you all there.

Sorry for running out of nametags, but thanks to Jake, he found someone to run and get some more. They should be here shortly.

The delegate resumes are now up on the website so if you would like to review them you can see them there, there are also some hard copies of the Northern Light up here that also have them as well.

I want to thank Brad I. for his service over these past years. Brad will give us a rundown of how the duties of his position should be separated and we will discuss this in new business.

I want to thank Kelly D. for all you help this past rotation. I just could not have done this position without your help. We do not ask new comers to come into the program and figure it out by themselves. We should not do this to people who are taking over our positions as we leave our position.

If you are planning to nominate someone for a position, you should talk to him or her beforehand to make sure they feel prepared for the nomination. If you are interested in a position, please talk to the person in that position and find out what is expected.

There are evaluation forms on the tables. Please fill them out and let us know how you liked or disliked the assembly.

In Service  
Jim S.

**SECRATARY-Rillis E.** Good afternoon ,

I am grateful to be here with all of you this weekend. I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux City, South Dakota but did not get my report in to Steve L. before the deadline so it was not included in the current edition of our Northern Light newsletter but I will include it at the end of this report. I enjoyed the forum, met some new friends, and learned more about general service and our service structure during that event. I especially enjoyed Kelly’s presentation titled “Disintegration vs Over-Integration”.

I have been working on updating the Area 35 Actions Booklet and will

continue to work on it so it is finished and printed before the next rotation begins next January. I updated the flier for the Joint Workshop which is coming up in November so it now include the agenda as well as the usual who, what, when, and why information. I will be attending this workshop. I will participate with the other officers at the Zonal Forum in Duluth on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Alano Club at 1:00pm. This morning I participated in the New GSR orientation and it was exciting to see that many new GSRs in attendance.

It has been a privilege to serve, as your Area 35 Secretary and I want to thank you for this opportunity to service and for my sobriety. I will help the incoming Secretary in any way I can to make the transition as smooth as possible. Thank you in advance to all who are standing for an officer or delegate position for the next rotation. Trusted servants and all forms of service work are necessary in order for us to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

Report from West Central Regional Forum:

I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and the high light of the weekend for me were the presentations by the GSO staff on Saturday afternoon. It was interesting to hear that they do on a daily basis at GSO. I also enjoyed talking with the staff and sharing meals with them. At breakfast on Sunday morning, I sat with Ami, our Grapevine Editor and she gave to me a copy of a new Grapevine book titled “Voices of Women in AA’ which I am looking forward to reading soon. Others have said the staff at GSO are regular alcoholics like you and I and I definitely found this to be true. Finding out about the litigation over manuscript of our big book surprised me but I have confidence that our trusted servants will do what is best for AA was whole. Thank for this opportunity to attend this forum and to be of service.

Yours in Service,  
Rillis

**TREASURER-Christine G.** Greetings Area 35,

This will be my last assembly as your Treasurer. It has been a great honor to serve the area.

I attended West Central Regional Forum that was help in Sioux Falls, SD. It was a great weekend filled with an abundance of information and great presentations. This was an opportunity to learn more about GSO, AAWS and Grapevine. Plus, we got to meet some of the staff in a more personable setting. Even though it only takes place every other year, it is a great place to connect and ask questions about what is happening in New York. It is amazing how much work goes through the office and how few employees work so hard to make all the work happen. I have a new appreciation for all our paid workers and the time and dedication they put into making sure that Alcoholics Anonymous operated smoothly.

A group of us had the opportunity to have dinner with David Morris, CPA, GSO Treasurer. What a wonderful privilege to meet David and ask questions about our fellowship finances. Our fellowship is doing a great job of sending in contributions and we just need to fire it up a little bit more. Can you believe we are only about 2 million away from being self-supporting? That seems like a lot but if we break like this. There are only about 40% of groups contributing and if we could get that up to 60% and that would be approximately 15,000 additional groups contributing at \$135 total. We could be completely self-supporting through our own contributions. WOW! That is obtainable. Please remember that if your home group does not contribute to the three entities, you can contribute on an individual basis. GSO offers online contributions and recurring payments if this is something you are interested in doing.

I also chaired a workshop on “Increasing Contributions”, I found it very interesting to hear all the different ways that groups, and areas work at trying to increase the money in the basket. Do you realize that a dollar in the basket from 1935 could buy what \$17.30 buys today? Let me challenge you to step up your game and start throwing a \$5 in the basket at your home group and at least \$2-\$3 at all other meetings you attend. Is your sobriety worth \$10/week?? I know mine is and this is something I am going to commit to doing.

I would strongly recommend attending the next West Central Regional Forum and experience the unity of our fellowship.

I will be presenting at a workshop, sponsored by The Big Lake Big Book, on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church in Big Lake. The workshop is from 11am – 2pm. Come join us.

Balance Sheet: For period five, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> – September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, your accounts have an ending balance of \$25,021.85.

Income/Expense Statement: Received a total income of \$3,472.23 for period 5 and we had \$4,244.64 in expenses, leaving us with a negative cash flow of \$772.41. YTD we are \$4,352.39 behind in satisfying our approved 2017 budget. I know that groups will step up to plate over the last few months of the year and send in the contributions, as they are able.

As an individual, you can contribute to the Area directly or through a sobriety birthday contribution. It is suggested sending a dollar for every year you have been sober or whatever you can afford.

Thank everyone who has contributed. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

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

In Service,  
Christine G.

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COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC- Jim T. Not present.

District 1- Leslie H. Not present.

District 21- Jeff L. Not present.

WEBMASTER-Rodney S. Greetings Area 35,

Our Group Records Chair, Bob B., Northern Light Editor, Steve L., Rene P., District 6 DCM, and Paul E., District 14 DCM attended our committee meeting this morning.

Steve mentioned having several inquiries as to when the Northern Light would be up on the Area website, even a week before it is slated to be up.

Bob will be demo-ing the proposed new meeting locator site this afternoon.

Bob brought up the recurrence of the problem with flyers not opening up on cell phones. We need to be looking for WordPress plug-ins that will allow the flyers to come up on cell phones. The “we” I refer to here is I and/or the webmaster for the next rotation.

As usual, much discussion took place regarding updating group information, and some of the difficulties incurred by GSR’s and/or the Group Records Chair.

I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls. It included some great presentations and workshops and was well attended by Area 35. I have an idea I am not alone when I say that these types of events always leave me questioning whether or not I am doing my part—and doing it as well as I can.

As an A.A. member in District 12, I am looking forward to attending the zonal forum in Duluth on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month and the Area 35/36 joint workshop on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for this opportunity to learn and be of service, Rodney S.

LITERATURE-Skip D. Good day all,

We had ten people this morning. Districts 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 16 were represented.

District 9 has been ordering literature as he needs, using Area 35 for orders. He has been nominated for DCM in the next rotation for District 9. Thank you for your service.

District 16 is having a service workshop in September. He also has an article coming out in the Grapevine, all from attending a GV workshop.

District 9 came to the Area 35 Committee Meeting to see where and how he may be of service; he did general service work in the 1980's. Welcome back Joe.

District 3 usually has literature in the trunk of car, has been out visiting other districts to get literature out there,

District 6 going to Round Robins to make literature available to all in her surroundings.

Just to let everyone know I have been nominated for DCM in District 5, if voted in I will be seeing all of you in the next rotation.

The Big Lake Big Book study group is holding a Service Workshop on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 11am-2pm all information can be found at area35.org (area events).

In addition, PLEASE if you are planning to order literature through Area 35 place the order TWO weeks prior to area events, Contact literture@area35.org. All contact information can be found in the Northern Light newsletter.

Thank you ALL for allowing me to serve in Area35,

Skip D.  
Area 35 Literature Chair

District 11-Bill C. For Cindy S.-K. Corrections obligations are being met, but can always use more volunteers.

District 11 hosted a 4<sup>th</sup> Step workshop put on by facilitators from 2218 of Mpls., October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Moose Lake Covenant Church, Moose Lake. Twenty-six people attended and the consensus was lots of good information presented. We will explore doing again in 2018 in the south end of district.

We are gathering information for January service workshop presentation AA technology: where innovation meet the traditions. This district is in the building stages and I am excited to be part of it.

In service,  
Cindy S.-K.

District 7-Liz L. Greeting from District 7.

We are thrilled to be here in lovely Hibbing, MN today for the Area 35 Fall Assembly. Our District has come through the County Fair and Round-Up Season unscathed with great times had by all!

Our current focus has been preparing busily for our upcoming elections on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the First Congregation United Church of Christ. WE will be electing 11 positions, which as we all know can be a challenge, but I keep praying that our Higher Powers continue to inspire and motivate those in my District to step up and learn what a blessing service work can be. And yes, I’m speaking to the 15 plus individuals who are here from District 7 this weekend.

I would also like to take a moment to thank all of those who have been of service with me in District 7 this last rotation, and to Kelly, Jim and all the Area Committee Chairs and officers for their hard work! It has been a pleasure to work with and learn from all of you.

Yours in Service,  
Liz

NORTHERN LIGHT-Steve L. Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

I’m Steve L. your NL editor and an alcoholic.

Just when you think, you have this job figure out, it smacks you down and humbles you. When I received printed NL. I opened it. Looked at the last page for Fall Assembly Agenda and laughed. I missed a big boobo. What I missed just jumped out at me. The date for the Sunday Elections was printed as April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 not October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. I hope people see the humor in this too.

I also missed a few periods with people’s Last initial and a superscript.

I owe an apology to Sean S. for an anonymity break with the online version on of the NL. For the past two months Sean’s full name was listed on the WEB version on the NL it has been corrected.

I would like to get your experience on this Assembly especially first timers to an assembly. Please write a small note about your experience with the election and the third legacy procedure and email it to me for the next NL.

I went to the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, SD. The people from GSO were accessible and easy to talk with, which I did on different topics. I sat in on two workshops “Traditions as a Club” and “Implied Affiliation” there a more detailed report in the NL.

I stopped in at the State Fair Booth, talked with the people at the booth and there was a funny thing. The fair people misspelled Anonymous they had Annoymous.

How many here receive or see the NL How many read the NL?

Yours in Service  
Steven L.

GROUP RECORDS-Bob B.

- I passed out group and GSR information to all DCMs. When review Group information please check the meeting address. Check for spelling. Is it accurate?
- Keep the updates coming.
- Getting a server error when updated aaMeetingLocator meeting lists. I think this is from the repeated geocoding queries to google. There are no errors in the error file.

The AAMeetingLocator Stats:

AAMeetingLocator Numbers				
♦ Sept 2017	9,288	PC visitors	3,764	Cell visitors 13,052 Total
♦ Sept 2016	5,220	PC visitors	3,063	Cell visitors 8,283 Total
♦ Sept 2015	5,697	PC visitors	2,235	Cell visitors 7,932 Total

Bob B.

District 14-Paul E. District 14 meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 at the Coffee Landing.

- ♦ A few of our members have stepped down and we are searching to replace our secretary and our corrections chair.
- ♦ Jim R. our former corrections chair has moved to warmer pastures in New Mexico. Jim not only was the corrections chair and the Sunday Littlefork GSR but Jim also was at every jail meeting sharing his experience, strength and hope. I would like to thank Jim for all of his service to District 14. He will be greatly missed.
- ♦ We are trying to find members to help with the jail meeting. Without Jim’s commitment, we are at this time back down to two meetings a month at the jail.

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- (Continued from page 11)*
- ♦ I also need to thank Amanda for filling in to take notes and type our meeting minutes the last few meetings so we can keep track of ourselves.
  - ♦ On July 18, we had a workshop at the Alano Club. Our subject was “What is AA?”. Our workshop was attend by about 30 people. Peter W. presented our workshop to the audience using material from our AA website and showing the AA video “Hope”. There was much discussion and of course was followed by a potluck supper.
  - ♦ We are planning a similar presentation of “What is AA” to our some of our professionals. We hope to begin by presenting our material to the Koochiching County Drug Court sometime the winter of 2018.
  - ♦ No one has committed yet to attending the upcoming zonal forum or the workshop in January.

Yours in Service;  
Paul E.  
DCM District 14  
International Falls, MN

**District 6-Renell P.** Greetings from District 6 nestled in the SE corner of Area 35.

It is good to be back among my friends in the fellowship. Always seems so emotional and exciting to gather together again. God is good!

Our district is planning to have elections at our October meeting. I am excited to help a new member step into the DCM role and all the other officers and committee chairs. Since August there has not been much going on with our district. We need to make new meeting cards again. Probably go back to the old version. Something that is easy to pass on.

I want to thank my current officers and committee chairs for supporting the district and me these past 2 years.

I look forward to continuing to support AA at the district level.

Yours in Service,  
Renell P.  
District 6 DCM

**TREATMENT-Gayle R.** Hello everyone, today we had 17 in our committee group with Districts 3,4,7,8,9,12,13,16,17 and 18 present.

**District 12** - Reported that after 4 months the Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment (CADT) is still waiting on a background check for Alt DCM Rich to return bringing in a meeting, they have decided to allow Rich in anyway. Shelley talked about the open speaker meeting at Bethel, they have 100 plus people in attendance, they also have speakers lined up until the end of the year. District 12 has meetings going into Marty Man (women), Liberalis, and Bethel, and have been able to get a list of women willing to co-chair and fill in for those meetings. They are working and supporting on Mish-ka in Cloquet to get speakers lined up. A plan in place to approach Teen Challenge in Duluth to get a speaker meeting going in.

Kathy from **District 4**—Reported they have good communication and relationship with treatment centers within the district, and are happy with us and are requesting us to do more speaker meetings and A.A. meetings. Conducting six meetings at an inpatient facility in Alexandria 4 AA meetings (2-women & 2-men) and two speaker meetings. District 4 is conducting an “Intro to AA” presentation in the outpatient centers in Morris and Alexandria facilities that includes a PowerPoint, the Hope video, sharing of a story with time for Questions and Answers. They have worked hard at getting the Bridging the Gap in place, and continue to serve temporary sponsors within the district. They have also placed temporary sponsors in Rochester, Wadena, Fargo, Moorhead and Alexandria, this all within a month. Working hard at securing volunteers, also looking for the next rotation treatment chair for District 4.

**District 3-** Gene reported he has an updated speaker list. He has been attending Red River Recovery and it is going well.

**District 8-** Doug is the incoming Alt. Treatment chair reported they take in speakers at Range Treatment twice a month.

**District 9** - Jack passed flyers made to keep speakers flowing and others informed. Treatment centers they serve are Range Treatment and Detox in Virginia, Range Treatment in Hibbing and Lakeplace Retreat in Bovey.

**District 13-** Peggy district Secretary reported District 13 struggled with Treatment and Corrections and an Ad Hoc committee was formed and started with 20 persons attending. They have contacted all treatment centers and are starting to see improvements.

**District 16-**Incoming DCM Glenn serves Iron Range and Grand Rapids; he has a user-friendly Google Maps with 20-treatment facilities and is detailed. Is willing to share with us. Sixty persons came to the information meeting on the Iron Range. Toni and Gusti from District 7 joined us to gather up information.

**District 18-** David goes to Bell Hill also volunteers in Morrison County Jail he too is gathering information. Janie, Alt DCM, reports all is well and the district tables are full.

**District 15-**Pat all commitments are being met; also serves Serenity Plus in Paynesville (when no speaker available has a big book meeting), New Visions in Alexandria, Sobriety First in Sauk Centre and St. Cloud (Mid-Town Square) and Passages in St Cloud. Has been in touch with Eagles Nest in Sauk Centre, they are willing to listen. Updating the Bridging the Gap before end of rotation.

**District 7-** Judy stepped out of service work but she is back now and getting involved. We also had a treatment provider who is also an alcoholic in the Grand Rapids area. Spoke about the need for speakers and will get together with Glen for further AA support.

As a committee we read and discussed pages 12 and 13 from the treatment workbook, subjects we shared was Carrying the Message into Non-Correctional Youth Facilities, a few ideas in getting AA involved was focus groups, kids come to meetings and we get to come in. Iron Range get together. Someone suggested that under a year sober, perhaps free admission to round-ups and events. Youths as speakers. CADT in Duluth brings in younger speakers and volunteers to relate to the younger crowd. We also discussed Carrying the AA Message into Psychiatric Mental Health. How to return to sobriety with the medication they have to take. Mental illness may have caused their alcoholism or their alcoholism may have caused their mental illness, Alcoholics Anonymous is a place where they can learn that they can share without judgement or criticism.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treatment Committee Chair-  
Gayle R.

**District 18-BR Borders.** Report given by Janie, but report not received.

**District 12-Steve E.** Hello Area 35.

I am Steve E., DCM for district 12. Glad to be here this weekend. First, I would like to thank Kelly D. for her GSC report with us at Cloquet Alano Club. I am sure she is glad to have completed that. I would also like to thank all the members from District 12 that are here this weekend. Our district is holding up well, even as we have had our secretary and archive committee chair move on. Thank you to Jenn (K.) A. and Erik P. for your service. We appreciate those who have stepped up to help with these positions. Our next District 12 meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Duluth Alano Club at 6:30pm. We will have our elections for DCM, Alt. DCM, Secretary and Treasurer for the next rotation. Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm at the Duluth Alano Club, we will have a Zonal Forum. We are Zone 4, which includes districts 8,9,12 and 14. This is a great opportunity to meet your Area 35 officers and get a better understanding of what they do. There will be snacks and refreshments. Prior to the Zonal Forum, Duluth Intergroup will hold their monthly business meeting with question and answer and fellowship with the AA community from 10:30am - noon. This is a good time to find out what Intergroup does and how they are helpful to us. Saturday evening, there will be Bingo at 6:30pm also at the Club. Make a day of it!! Down the road, looking forward to Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, next Area 35 Committee Meeting and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Area 35 Service Workshop Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Duluth.

Yours in service,  
Steve E. , DCM, District 12

**ARCHIVIST-Brad I.**                      **No Report**

**ARCHIVES-Steve D.** We had six in attendance, including members from Districts, 4, 8, 9, and 13.

Welcome to Chuck R. from Hibbing, to our Committee.

Scott M., **Dist. 8** reported that they have elected an new archives chair from Pike Sandy, MN.

Greg C., **Dist. 4** reported that at this time, they do not have an Archives chair. Greg discussed how through working with Area group records, they discovered some history of the groups in their district and recognizing many groups in the FNV database.

Peter T., **Dist. 13** reported that his district voted to not to digitally record district meetings as there was concern that it might break anonymity. We discussed how important it is that we communicate what the meaning of anonymity is in AA. Meetings are still being documented through written minutes.

Chuck R., **Dist. 9** has been active in the past in recording old timers and providing those recordings to the area archives.

Brad I., our area **35 Archivist** reported his recent activities. He will be rotating out as area archivist at the end of the year.

Action items.

- ♦ We discussed how we can assist Brad and the incoming Archivist. We discussed increasing active participation in the Archives committee to assist the archivist to keep our records accurate and current. Providing districts, a consistent process for archiving material including, minutes, flyers, and other documentation to minimize the effort of the archivist.
- ♦ We also discussed how our history can help us to understand changes that happen in AA, such as roundups. Looking for ways we can invigorate that

*(Continued on page 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.*



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important part of our fellowship.

- ♦ We discussed the space requirements for housing archives, its current content and what our future needs will be.
- ♦ Scott suggested we tour the Archives in Waite Park to get a sense of the scope of our history in Area 35. We are looking at the end of September. We will try to communicate this to all interested districts.
- ♦ Please encourage your district to continue to provide your history to Area 35 archives. It is imperative for us to have this to remember from whence we came.

Steve D.  
Area 35 Archives Committee Chair

**District 8-Scott M.** Good afternoon,

District 8 has been working on putting the finishing touches on this rotation. In August, we had our Concepts Workshop, with Tom A. and Scott J. presenting. Even though the attendance was poor, it was an enjoyable afternoon, with a lot of experience being shared about the Concepts. It was a growing experience for all in attendance. In September, we held our elections. Congratulations to our incoming District officers: Heidi B., Ely, DCM; Dean M., Pike Sandy, Alternate DCM; Butch R., Corrections; Mike B., Alt.; Nels P., Treatment; Darcy S., Alt.; Saari B., Grapevine/Literature; Lynn P., Alternate; Sally L., PI/CPC; Sally T., Alternate; Kevin U., Archives; Sara P. is our secretary and Mike M. Treasure. As this my last assembly serving District 8 as DCM, I would like to thank my District for allowing me this opportunity to serve, it certainly has been a period of growth for me, that I have enjoyed.

Yours in Service,  
Scott M.

**District 4-Greg C.**

- \* Gave outline on our District activities.
- \* GSO finances are back in the black. Still on 40% of groups contribute Area/GSO.
- \* Spring Assembly is in Alexandria. Should plan to provide many volunteers and perhaps a hospitality room.
- \* \*Word Press was approved for website. All our meeting info has been updated.
- \* Met with other District DCM's. Discussion included how to involve old-timers. Collecting Archive information at the District level and passing on to area.
- \* Singleness of Purpose. Presentation by Treatment Chair (Kathy will have more information). Stimulated lots of discussion/debate on Addicts at open meetings and treatment meetings. From former Delegate, "Why do we question our traditions and singleness of purpose? If we do not continue to stress these in their original form, they will be challenged. The more they are discussed, the better they are understood and accepted." In another discussion with several past delegates, we talked about how the traditions really keep us from screwing things up. Like assembling a bicycle. If you just have a picture of a bike and start putting it together without following the directions, in the end, it probably is not going to look right. Therefore, it is with our meetings and structure...if we do not follow traditions and steps, things probably will not run very smoothly.
- \* Election of officers. New Delegate, New Chair, New Treasurer, New Secretary. Two-year rotation. Most districts have their elections on same calendar as Area. I mentioned that we DO NOT rotate out everyone every two years. Only about half the positions every year. Got many comments that this sounded like a good practice.
- \* Got some good ideas to approach Big Ole Committee with including having a panel of 30+ years of Sobriety Panel for Q&A...Display and possible presentation by Area Archives...develop discussion/coordination with other Round-ups.
- \* Overall, I was very inspired, enlightened, humbled and more firmly dedicated to service more than ever.

Yours in service,  
Greg C.

**CORRECTIONS-Melissa A.:** Tim GSR, Gary Corrections Chair District 11, Butch Alternate Corrections Chair District 8, Jerri District 8, Ben GSR District 8, Vicki Corrections Chair District 7, Austin GSR District 3, Mike P. GSR District 13, Mike H GSR District 13, Melissa DCM 15 (stepping in for Servando as Area 35 Corrections Chair for the remainder of the rotation)

**Vicki**— Having a transition fair in Stillwater, which is a part of Area 36, attended the joint corrections committee, sent email of the minutes to Servando and Liz (and will email to me.). Need volunteers for Aitkin county both men and women. Has been accepted to go into Sandstone.

**Mike H.**— Takes meeting into Stearns County, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. District 13 came up with a subcommittee to get together a list of corrections

information that way we can communicate with other districts so that we do not step on people's toes if people are already going into the jails/prisons and so we know where we can be of service.

**Mike P.**- I got accepted into Benton County Foley and will be bringing meetings into the jails.

**Tim, Moose Lake**- It is hard to get volunteers to go into the sex offender programs. We take a meeting in Sawyer that is a Native American treatment center but it is tough to get into that facility.

**Gary**— We have many facilities; I have been struggling getting volunteers in Rush City and the county jails. Willow River is still having people go in there; the communication between Willow River and Moose Lake has been difficult. In Rush City, we have some issues because of the constant turnover of Chaplin's. Rush City mandates that we have to have a guard in the meeting.

**Butch** - I am the Sandstone prison's outside person, we take in two meetings which are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, they are well attended, I am in contact with Tom the first of each month making sure everything is ok in Sandstone. They have two in house AA meetings.

We go into Thistledeue every Wednesday, which is pretty well attended. It is a full hour meeting. The person that runs it is a great person. On the 24<sup>th</sup> not sure of the time, there is talk about another orientation coming up in Sandstone, this will be an opportunity for people to renew their cards in order to come in. If we communicate, things get done. We go into NERCC once a month, not sure what the situation is there but I would like to go in November and hope to get information. It is rewarding. There are many positives to this.

**Jerri**— Pretty much what Butch says. Going to the different correctional facilities is such a rewarding experience, and it feels great  
**Ben**- I have gone to NERCC to facilitate a meeting, they did not have many requirements to get in, and it was an easy place to get in.

**Austin**- I am looking to take over the corrections chair for my district and would like information on what the position entails from your own experience. Our district does not have corrections.

**Vicki**- You get a packet from GSO, then I started meeting people in service and they opened doors for opportunity to get into places and then I would apply and then I was accepted and started going in. I had good guidance.

**Mike H.**— What we are trying to do is get a task list together for each chair from the previous chair, if we could get in touch with the previous and have that information written down for the new person that takes the position, it would help tremendously.

**Tim**— The most difficult thing to overcome is group participation. It requires you to go to many different groups to get volunteers. In our area our groups are just self-contained and it's like pulling teeth, it's good to be able to go to a facility and say I have this many people coming in, most places have an outside contact person and that is who you would be communicating with. There is not a standard orientation, every place has their own requirements on how to get in which makes it difficult.

**Butch**-The orientation that is taking place at Sandstone is for all volunteers not just for A.A. members. In the spring, they have an appreciation dinner, which is nice, a lot of people missed it this year, which is why they are having an orientation because they need volunteers to help.

- ♦ Get the packet from GSO, attend district meetings, area meetings, and soak up as much information as you can.

**Austin**— There is a new jail going up in Moorhead, a jail in Detroit lakes, a Juvenile Detention Center; I think there are only those two that I know of so far. There is an A.A. meeting that goes on in the JDC but I am unsure which group it is. There is another A.A. group that goes into the jail but I am not sure which group they are either.

- ♦ I would contact those groups that are going and communicate with them and see if they have an outside contact person and I would talk to them about what they have been doing. That way you are not stepping on toes and confusing the jails that are already in communication with AA.

- ♦ Volunteer to go in with the groups that are going already.

- ♦ You can look up on AA.org the guidelines

- ♦ Most places do not like singleness of purpose; they are looking for exclusive where it is for everybody not just alcoholics, they want everyone to be able to attend.

♦ Discussed the singleness of purpose  
Closed with the responsibility statement

Yours in Service,  
Melissa A.

(Continued from page 13)

**District 2-Myron H. :** Good Afternoon, my name is Myron H. and I am an alcoholic.

I am the DCM representing District 2. Our district meets at 2pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of odd numbered months, at the First Lutheran Church in Middle River.

This is my last assembly as DCM, and the December Area Committee Meeting will be the last event I attend in this capacity. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve with all of you Thank you all.

At our September meeting, we held elections for the upcoming rotation. No one stood for any officer position.

Yours in service,  
Myron H.

**District 13-Peter T, Alternate DCM:** Good afternoon, my name is Peter T. I am an alcoholic.

I am ALT. DCM for District 13. I will be giving the report for Sean who cannot be here because of a prior engagement. Sean did not provide me with his report so I will wing it on my own.

District 13 held election of officers and committee chairs on Monday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the next rotation will start in January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Justin W. will service as DCM, Peter T. as ALT. DCM, Denise R. as Secretary. Sean S. as Treasurer, Jim D. as Treatment Chair, Bradley P. as Corrections Chair, with PI, CPC, Archives still open.

The treatment centers and halfway houses that District 13 currently bring meetings to are Clara’s House, Passages, Journey Home, Sobriety First, Veterans Administration, Recovery Community, East Haven, St. Cloud Children’s Home, Effective Living Center, Focus Twelve, Central MN Mental Health, Northway IRT, and Recovery Plus.

In addition, the district brings meetings to Stearns County Jail, Benton County Jail, and Minnesota Correctional Facility St Cloud.

District 13 has a beginners meeting held at the St. Cloud Alano Club on Wednesday evening at 7:30. Since its beginning 7 years ago the meeting had 856 newcomers and given away 155 Big Books.

District 13 has 42 active groups and 18 meeting locations, which makes it easy for anyone anywhere looking for a meeting to find one with many smiling faces. Thank you to all the people that make this possible.

Roger R. the Alt. Delegate was gracious enough to facilitate our election thank you Roger and he informed us that he would be facilitating the Area 35 Service workshop On January 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2018 and looking for a presentation. I not sure what that might be but we will find out what he is looking for.

The St. Cloud Roundup will be held at the Rivers Edge Convention Center October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It will have Excellent Speakers, Fun, Workshops, and Great Fellowship. If you see Roger, I am sure he will have tickets.

I am sure I missed things I should have mentioned but I talked long enough.

Yours in Service,  
Peter T.

**District 15-Melissa A.** Greetings from District 15,

First, I want to thank Kelly our delegate for reading my report at our last Aitkin meeting that I was unable to attend due to my husband being in the hospital. I want to thank all of you who have reached out to me about my husband, we really appreciate all the prayers and support that we have been given. He is doing well and things are getting back to normal.

We have our district meeting the first Monday of every month at 8pm, which is located at the Albany Senior Center. I had the privilege of being captain of the state fair booth again this year, which was a lot of fun. If you have not had, the opportunity to serve at the state fair you should consider it. I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which was an amazing experience. I had the privilege of taking minutes for the breakout session that Christine our Area Treasure chaired on contributions. Thank you Christine for allowing me to be of service. There was a lot of great discussion and it was nice to be able to speak to the individuals who serve us at the General Service Office. We are blessed to have such amazing people watching over our fellowship. I had the privilege of speaking at a treatment center Serenity Paths in Paynesville, MN on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our district voted in new chair positions at our September district meeting. Our new DCM is Matt B. who unfortunately was not able to attend this weekend due to being out of state for work. We have filled almost all of our chair positions at the district level except for Alternate DCM, CPC/PI and Archives. We have a new meeting in our district, which is exciting. I am still in the process of making sure that our group records are up to date prior to rotating out. I will be continuing to visit groups and Matt our incoming DCM will be visiting groups with me. Pat M. our Treatment Chair has been keeping up with all of our commitments, if anyone is willing to speak please let Pat or myself know. I was asked to present at a service workshop in Big Lake on October 14<sup>th</sup>, which I am excited about. I was asked to step in for Servando as Area Corrections Chair since he has out of state work for the next couple of months. I will do my best to fulfill that position and will be staying in communication with Servando so that I have some guidance on

what needs to be done. I will be attending the Area 35/36 Workshop on November 18 and I will be attending the Area 35/36 Statewide Corrections meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

It has been an honor and a privilege serving Alcoholics Anonymous as a DCM for district 15, the passion that I have for service work is one of great gratitude. It is hard to believe that our rotation is coming to an end. I want to thank everyone who has made it possible for me to be of service, has guided me throughout the process, and helped me along the way. Without all of you in this room, none of this would be possible. I appreciate every single one of you and all of the hard work and effort you put into making Alcoholics Anonymous such a beautiful experience within Northern Minnesota.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,  
Melissa A.  
DCM 15

**PI-Mark N.** We had eight people at our PI Break-out session at our Fall Assembly in Hibbing, MN October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2107.

Representing Districts 9, 8, 7,13 ,5 and 12.

Public Information chairs and District Committee Members from around Area 35 Northern Minnesota Alcoholics Anonymous are working on many projects.

Maintaining phone lines, doing Beginners Meetings, AA presentations to organizations and individuals, CPC and PI luncheons, maintaining websites and meeting schedules, safety workshops, local fairs, putting up literature racks in schools, College fairs, and many others things.

I am working on a GSR Workshop coming up on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Going to AA meetings working with other alcoholics and staying sober.

Thanks,  
Mark N.  
Area 35 Public Information Chair

**District 9-Cathy R.** Fall Assemblies are always so invigorating and we are happy to co-host this event with District 8.

District 9 has held its rotation elections a few weeks ago. The current configuration of folks worked hard and we succeeded in electing a complete slate of very fine folks. We did this early so the 2018/19 officers could attend this assembly to view how things happen.

One of our newest GSRs volunteered his group to host a workshop on “How to run a meeting” on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Please consider attending-rumor has it there maybe skits.

We had our treasury audit in September. It came out spotless so that the treasury info will be ready for the incoming treasure in January.

I would like to take a sentence or two to share some feelings, as this is my last assembly as DCM: It has been a very interesting experience meeting lots of area people and other DCMs; listening to How other handle issues and sharing in their successes.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.  
Cathy R.

**District 5-Jon S.** Not present

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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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**GRAPEVINE-Paul M.** Greetings from your Area 35 Grapevine Chair.

We had 14 people in attendance this morning with eight Districts represented. All Districts report Literature and Grapevine are doing well. I attended the Heartland Round -Up with the Grapevine literature and sold \$466.00 worth. I also ordered another \$500.00 plus of grapevine literature to meet the 20% discount. I have the newest book from the Grapevine named “Voices of ‘women in AA” and the other new books that came out this year, “Our 12 Traditions” and “Making Amends”. This has been by far the best job in AA, besides making coffee. I also put on a Grapevine writing workshop at the Heartland/round UP in September. I attended one in Grand Rapids the year before my story was in the September Grapevine ..., “I think not”. Margie from District 14 helped me in the workshop. I was asked to bring the Grapevine Literature to the St. Cloud Round Up; this had been a good way to sell a lot of Grapevine Literature and subscriptions. If anyone needs any Grapevine Literature, let me know! Hard to believe it has been almost 2 years doing this.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.  
Paul M.

**District 3-Brian P.      Report not received**

**District 16-Mike F.:** My name is Mike F. and I am the DCM for District 16. We hold our district meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in Grand Rapids.

Our PI, CPC, Corrections, and Archives positions are currently open. However, we still serve by running a weekly meeting in the men’s county jail.

In September, our district hosted a service workshop that featured speakers Dan H., Mark M., Jake J., and Mary S., all of whom have significant experience in service at the group, district, and area level. I would like to thank all of them for taking the time to speak to a group of our members from our district as well District 9. I believe we achieved our goal of encouraging more participation at the district level.

We are holding elections on November 1, and we have at least one person standing for each position, including archives.

Our Tuesday Night Solutions group will be hosting an AA Recovery Workshop on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm-3:30pm, at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. Flyers are on the back table and on the area website events calendar. Topics for this workshop include home groups.

Our Tuesday Night Solutions group will be hosting their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Meeting/Potluck on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. Flyers are on the back table and on the area website events calendar.

We currently have 22 groups in our district.

The district is solvent and we have a prudent reserve.

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

**OTHER REPORTS**

**AA Meeting Locator-Bob B.:  
Information regarding suggestion to change  
aaMeetingLocator from HTML to WordPress.**

**aaMeetingLocator.org to WordPress**

- What we have today
- What is WordPress
- Experience using WordPress
- Examples
- Updating meetings in WordPress

**What we have today:**

**Current site aaMinnesota.org (aaMeetingLocator.org)**

**HTML** (Hypertext Markup Language) is the set of markup symbols or codes inserted in a file intended for display on a World Wide Web browser page. The markup tells the Web browser how to display a Web page's words and images for the user. Each individual markup code is referred to as an element (but many people also refer to it as a tag). Some elements come in pairs that indicate when some display effect is to begin and when it is to end.CSS

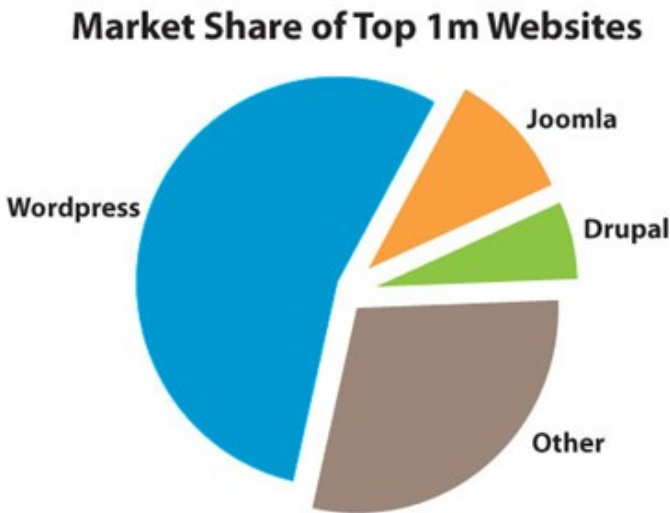
**PHP** (recursive acronym for **PHP**: Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.MySQL

**CSS** is the language for describing the presentation of Web pages, including colors, layout, and fonts. It allows one to adapt the presentation to different

types of devices, such as large screens, small screens, or printers. **CSS** is independent of HTML and can be used with any XML-based markup language.

**MySQL** is an open source relational database management system (RDBMS) based on Structured Query Language (SQL). ... LAMP is a Web development platform that uses Linux as the operating system, Apache as the Web server, and **MySQL** as the relational database management system and PHP as the object-oriented scripting language.

**jQuery Mobile** is a cross platform **mobile** framework designed to simplify and enhance the development of **mobile** web applications by integrating HTML5, CSS3,**jQuery** and **jQuery** UI into one framework that is not only robust, but maintainable and organized.



**What is WordPress?**

**WordPress** is an online, open source website creation tool written in PHP. However, in non-geek speak; it is probably the easiest and most powerful blogging and website content management system (or CMS) in existence today.

**It’s the most popular CMS in the world**

WordPress is used by 73 million websites as of May 2012 ([WordPress Stats](#)) and it holds the largest market share in the CMS market. Many users are already familiar with the WordPress CMS and so it requires less training for staff.

**2. It’s Open Source with room for expansion**

WordPress can be self-hosted so there are no cost associated with downloading, installing, and upgrading. There are more than [20,000 WordPress plugins](#) (often free) available to install such as slideshows, contact form, SEO optimization, etc. Fresh Consulting has licenses of [premium plugins we deploy on your website](#) at no cost such as video manuals of WordPress and easy website backup & restore functions.

**3. Highly customizable**

WordPress is popular because it meets the demand of many users with its flexible framework to allow designers and developers to create and modify layouts and applications. Coupled with user-generated extensions, your website is no longer limited by extensions created by enterprises. Our team have experiences extending the WordPress functionality as well as plugins developed by others in order to meet unique demand of our clients.

**4. Designed for anyone, not just developers**

Before WordPress became a popular CMS for website development, it was developed for non-tech savvy bloggers. So most of user-interface components are user-friendly for many users and there are written and recorded manuals available for you to easily learn how to use WordPress. Our team will handle all the complexities of setting up and customizing your website so all you have to do is to update the content on pages, posts, widgets, etc.

One of the [premium plugins](#) we provide to our client include written and video user manual for WordPress to ensure you have easy entry point with the CMS.

**5. Lower setup and maintenance cost**

According to DeviousMedia, WordPress incurs less setup, customization, and maintenance cost in comparison to other Open Source CMS such as Drupal and Joomla. Additionally, it is relatively easier to find designers and developers of WordPress if further customization or development is necessary in the future. You are no [longer](#) locked down with static website or proprietary CMS that are costly to tweak after initial development.

**Experience using WordPress**

- ♦ Area35.org is done in WordPress
- ♦ Person with No web background was able to support area35.org

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- Demo Site: [www.aaminnesota.com](http://www.aaminnesota.com)
- Other sites:
  - [www.aaminneapolis.org](http://www.aaminneapolis.org)
  - [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org) (West Central Wisconsin)
  - Visit [www.wordpress.org/plugins/12-step-meeting-list](http://www.wordpress.org/plugins/12-step-meeting-list) to see more

Updating meetings in WordPress

12-step-meeting-list

- Meetings can be updated one at a time
- With a batch file only updating changes
- With a batch file update all
- The output from the GSO FNCV database would have to be formatted to work with 120step-meeting-list

Information regarding Working with Alcoholics & Staff Inside Treatment Facilities.

**Treatment-Gayle R.:** The topics were communication, how we keep our commitments, and singleness of purpose followed by a question and answer period.

Communication should be brief. Methods include phone calls, writing letters, and email. Information about AA to include is what AA does and does not do and an explanation of our traditions. What if the facility does not respond to your request establish an AA meeting in a facility? We can make another request; district decides next steps. What if they say yes? Remember we always represent AA as a whole. Things to know before working with clients at a treatment facility: Be familiar with AA literature, personal appearance and conduct are very important, and cooperate fully with the facility staff.

Ways we keep our commitments are to show up when we say we will-be on time, groups can sponsor a treatment meeting or team up with another group to chair treatment meetings, and sponsors can take sponsees to these meetings.

Singleness of purpose is a challenge faced by treatment committees bring AA meetings into facilities because some clients are addicted to substances other than alcohol. Non-alcoholics are welcome at open AA meetings but as observers only, they should not speak. The traditions must always be followed, those that apply are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 & 12. AA does one thing and we do it well.

**Discussion followed the presentations.** The following motion was made: “I move that aaMeetingLocator converts to WordPress”. The motion was seconded. The body voted and the motion passed. Jim S. also made a motion that “Area Group Records take care of meeting locator.” Cathy R. seconded the motion. The body voted and the motion passed.

History Talk– by Brad I.

Saturday Evening Brad gave a history talk about the founding of AA and how it made its way to Hibbing, MN. The following is a short summary of some of the highlights.

The Washingtonians were founded in 1840 and believed in total abstinence, members signed a pledge, but the group did not have singleness of purpose. In 1842 Abraham Lincoln spoke to the group as a congressman and by 1843 had reached all areas of the US. They departed from their original purpose in 1846 and opened their doors to anyone.

In 1921, the Oxford Group began. It was a Christian organization founded by Frank Buchman. The group was not a religious order but rather focused on leading a spiritual life. Practiced the concept of personal evangelism-one man or woman talking to another. The Four Absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love guided them. Also important to the members of the Oxford Group were the 5 C’s: confidence, confession, conviction, conversion, and continuance. Buchman was a fascist and his politics caused a firestorm in 1936. In 1940, the Akron group broke from the Oxford Group.

How we got here. Rolland Hazard was a wealthy man from Rhode Island. He was treated in Switzerland by Dr. Carl Jung for months but drank again. He returns to Jung who talks with him about the need for a “vital spiritual experience”. Rolland then works with Courtney Bailey and he finds sobriety. In Vermont, he works with other alcoholics including Ebbie Thatcher who also finds sobriety. At this same time Bill, Wilson was drinking himself to death. Ebbie visits Bill in New York in 1934, Bill is intrigued that his old friend is sober and listens as Ebbie talks about the spiritual experience he underwent at the Rescue Mission. Bill is skeptical and continues to drink but eventually but goes to the Mission where he has his own spiritual experience and is then admitted to Towns Hospital. Bill returns to the Mission in an attempt to sober up other alco-

holics but is unsuccessful. Dr. Silkworth and Bill’s wife point out that he is staying sober. In 1935 while on a business trip and staying at the Mayflower Hotel, in Akron Bill is introduced to Dr. Bob by Henrietta Sieberling. At their first meeting, the two men talk for hours and Dr. Bob got sober soon afterwards. Our literature states Dr. Bob got sober on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1935 but according to Brad’s research, the AMA convention took place a week later that year making Dr. Bob’s sobriety date June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1935. Bill returns to New York, AA grows in both New York and Akron. AA made its way to Hibbing, MN in June 1941 when Ed Friedman’s wife after reading an article about alcoholism in the Saturday Evening Post, wrote a letter to Dr. Stouffer asking for help for her husband. By this time, there were several AA members in Minneapolis, a couple of them got in the car and carried the message to Ed. The meeting Ed starting is still going today and two of our past delegates are his grand sponsees.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

**Recommendation to make changes to Archivist position** Brad and others suggested we divide the Archivist and PA position for the next rotation. Brad gave the history of how Area 35 came to have our own audio/PA equipment. Brad offered to share his experience with the person/people in these positions for the next rotation. A discussion followed. A motion was made by Roger R. that “Area 35 creates an appointed, non-voting audio-engineer position. Melissa A. seconded the motion. The motion passed, the minority was asked to speak but declined.

Jim made a motion that the new area chair will appoint the next Archives Chair and it seconded by Kelly. The motion was passed.

GSR Sharing Session Report

GSR Sharing Session Topics and Discussion: Pat

- A. Purpose: To collectively identify difficulties, problems, and possible solutions to them as it relates to being a GSR.
- B. Key Points of Discussion:
  - 1. Welcomed 11 newly appointed GSRs to this year’s Assembly.
  - 2. How do we find a new GSR for the next rotation?
  - 3. How do we help encourage 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions?
  - 4. Can we change our vote if it differs from our group conscience when provided with new information in regards to a particular subject?
  - 5. How do we gather our group’s conscience without a whole lot of participation from group core members on agenda items?
  - 6. What is the description of the GSR position?
- C. Discussion of possible solutions:
  - 1. How do we find a new GSR for the next rotation?
    - a. Pass around group sign up sheet to find volunteers to attend the District meetings.
    - b. Exercise attraction rather than promotion.
    - c. Be an active group member and stay involved.
    - d. Explain and demonstrate just how fulfilling and important it is to be a GSR.
    - e. Continue to stress the importance of sponsorship as well as motivating sponsees to get involved.
    - f. Cultivate Step 11 to help get others to Step 12.
    - g. Stress the importance of getting involved in service work at every meeting
    - h. Identify a GSR ahead of time (one year out) and have them start attending District meeting to help get the engaged.
  - 2. How do we help encourage 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions?
    - a. Ask the questions: “How much did you used to spend on alcohol (a glass of wine, a beer, or a shot of whiskey, etc.). So what’s a buck?” “How much is your sobriety worth to you?”
    - b. Remind group members what our contributions do for not only them, but also our entire AA organization. Examples: Literature, coffee, meetings in facilities, coins/medallions, and to send our GSR to Area Assemblies, etc.
    - c. Have the group’s treasure remind group member of the above before handing around the basket.
    - d. Encourage newcomers and younger members to keep coming back and to make your group their home group.

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- e. Educate group members on just how important it is to contribute it is also an obligation in accordance with our traditions.

f. Encourage birthday envelopes to contribute to the entities on your birthday.

g. Once we are able to see that working the steps works- we want to give back to the program.

h. AA was there when we really needed it and money is needed to preserve this for the future generations and to continue to help others.
3. Can we change our vote if it differs from our group conscience when provided with new information in regards to a particular subject?

a. Group members have put their trust in you by electing you GSR; they are trusting you will make the right decision in the absence of clear direction.

b. Bring back detailed information on why you changed our vote to your group to help keep them informed and maintain trust.

c. When possible consult with your group on possible variables to Agenda Items prior to voting.

d. Remember we are trusted servants

e. Make sure selfishness or your opinion on an agenda item does not cloud your judgment. Example: you may disagree with your group's decision, but it is not your decision-you can always take it back to your group for re-discussion when presented with new information.

f. Refer to Concept V as outlined in the AA Service Manual.
4. How do we gather our group's conscience without a whole lot of participation from group core members on Agenda Items?

a. Be sure to incorporate Agenda Items during group meetings

b. Create handouts outlining agenda items that require a vote-hand them out and collect them up to capture the group's decision.
5. What is the description of the GSR position?

a. Consult the AA Service Manual.

DCM Sharing Session Report

DCM Sharing Session Topics and Discussion: Brian P.

How can we maintain order in a meeting as a DCM?

1. We actually used a mallet, I cannot always hear what they are saying when they are talking. Finally, I started using a mallet and asked some offenders "do we need to separate you guys" it has taken a while but they are starting to change.

2. The job as a DCM is to facilitate the meeting, we are not in charge, we are not giving our opinions we are just trying to keep the meeting moving and keep it on topic.

3. How many districts here have bylaws? We read the rules of conduct before starting the meeting.

4. At our district meeting we limit the amount of time that people are allowed to talk, because some people take way too much time, I would state in the beginning that each person has 1-2 minutes. I keep my opinion out of it; I am collecting their opinions and data.

5. When I get the agenda made, it goes out 2 weeks before the district meeting, I have clearly stated that it will be 1 hour and 15 minutes and it goes really well.

6. Read a pre-statement, please refrain your comments to the subject at hand and read it every time at the beginning of the meeting.

7. Have a timekeeper; it does help keep the meeting moving.

8. Is there a guideline on what needs to be voted on at a district meeting?

9. We pretty much vote on everything; any decision we make is a group conscious.

10. Agenda- do you ask at the beginning of the meeting if new business needs to be added? - Yes!

11. You will get more participation if you are not having 2-hour meetings.

12. What we decided to do at our district, is have the chair people write up a list of responsibilities are that way when a new chairperson comes in they have an idea of what they need to do.

13. We added a little part on the side of our agenda for the GSRs to fill out and if we run out of time we can still get the GSR report so we know what is going on with that group.

14. I suggest to people in our district that, they need to find their new replacement for the next rotation.

15. In December our district has a GSR workshop so they know what the GSR role entails and then while that is going on the new district chairs are meeting with the old districts chairs. So that they can help guide them into their new position and it works out really well.

How important do you think our archives are and what does your district do about archives?

1. It is a footprint of our history to help guide us so that we do not make the same mistakes.

2. We do not have an archives person, we have minutes they are put into a Google drive folder and they are sent to the area secretary.

3. Achieves chair's learn and read all the past history of the district minutes so when a situation does come up they can say "while this is what we did in the past." In addition, prevent problems from occurring.

4. We are trying to figure out when AA started in our district, its tapping into the experience of when people were involved in the district and see where were are and where are now.

5. Our archivist has recorded stories from our old timers, some is on old tapes and or zip drives, works on a Founders Day events in our district, they work on the action committee book, helping with the meeting minutes and treasurer.

6. I held an archives position on the district because I wanted to know how AA was brought into our district, so we had long timers come in and the minimum requirement was 30 years and the question that we asked them was "how has AA changed" we got some amazing responses and learned a lot.

How do we get long-term sobriety AA members involved and help struggling districts?

1. One of the hardest things for me to do is to ask them for help.

2. Talking with people with a fair amount of sobriety is that they have done their part, if they believe in the spirit of rotation, we are fighting an uphill battle, there are some that want to be involved, but a lot of them are like no, I have done my part.

3. As far as struggling districts, maybe you have already talked to the delegate for input on merging districts. Maybe something like that should be done.

4. We have been lucky. We have many active service people in our district but we are starting to feel some of that in the group that just was elected in. We are not seeing a lot of GSR participation, which leads me to believe that if our GSR participation does not increase eventually we will end up struggling. We have to take action, if we are taking action whether it is workshops; visiting groups etc. are we as a district doing things to keep people engaged? However, when you are building something from the ground up it takes a lot of work and can be a struggle.

5. Sitting here thinking about this is trying to figure out why my district went dark; it is hard to get old timers to even attend district functions.

6. As far as long-term sobriety, I think that it is important to think of the spirit of rotation and realize that some of these old timers have had our positions therefore; they "know" how the positions should be served. In addition, what can occur is they could end up governing unintentionally. Which is not healthy either because you do not want people at your district there just to fill up the seats. As far as helping struggling districts, I would contact and ask for help and or guidance from surrounding districts and or the area.

7. I think about what happened for me, I did not know how to stop drinking, and the other man showed me the 12 steps. That other man explained to me and we read material about how we make an effort to pay back the debt that we can never pay back. My experience may be very different but no one really had to get me involved, but the thing that I think about is the pool of people that I draw information from and the people I would get new service folks from. Is there a pool of people to pull from for service folks? If not then I think that is the real issue within Alcoholics Anonymous. My sponsor tells me that the solution is in the traditions.

8. There are many people out there that have a lot of sobriety and thinking that they should be involved. Maybe we are not approaching everybody because we do not know how long they have been sober, not everyone that has sobriety has done service work before, there are people that have 20 some years that have never been involved in service work outside of the group and could be an asset to being involved in service.

Closed with the serenity prayer at 6:00pm

(Continued on page 20)

"I don't foresee outgrowing my need for help."

Harrisonburg, Va., May 1991  
"Lonely at the Top," Emotional Sobriety

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

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

## 2017

- November: 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> : Founder’s Day Weekend 2017**  
DoubleTree Bloomington  
7800 Normandale Blvd  
Bloomington, MN
- 30<sup>th</sup> : TNYPAA Potluck Speaker Meeting \***  
St. Cloud Alano Potluck – 5:30pm Speaker – 6:30pm  
127 7th Ave NE  
St. Cloud , MN
- December: 2<sup>nd</sup> : Ottertail Potluck Speaker Meeting \***  
Methodist Church 6:30 pm  
104 Shores Rd  
Ottertail, MN
- 3<sup>rd</sup> : Area 35 Committee Meeting \***  
Alano Club 9:30 am –2 pm  
322 1st Ave NE  
Aitkin, MN
- 31<sup>st</sup> : New Years Eve Open Meeting \***  
Peace United Methodist Church 6 pm –10pm  
303 S 9<sup>th</sup> Ave W.  
Virginia MN

## 2018

- January: 13<sup>th</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup>: Area 35 Workshop**  
Radisson Duluth Harborview  
505 W Superior St  
Duluth, MN
- February: 10<sup>th</sup> : District 8 Service Workshop**  
Our Saviors Lutheran Church (look on line for more info)  
1111 8th St S  
Virginia, MN
- 25<sup>th</sup> : Area 35 Committee Meeting \***  
Alano Club 9:30 am –2 pm  
322 1st Ave NE  
Aitkin, MN
- March: 2<sup>nd</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup>: West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC)**  
West Des Moines Marriott  
1250 Jordan Creek Pkwy  
West Des Moines, IA 50266
- 23<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup>: Winter Rap-Up**  
Iron Range Community Center  
8586 Enterprise Drive South  
Mt. Iron, MN



### Area 35 2018 General Service Conference Agenda Items Process

Greetings Area 35,

The Agenda Items do not come out any sooner to the Delegate than the week of February 15, 2018 due to the January General Service Board Meeting.

We realize that this timeframe does not give us a lot of time for discussion within our home groups before our April Sprig Assembly.

It is the responsibility of the DCM’s to get the Agenda Items along with the “Hot Topic List” to the group GSR’s in their District. It is important that this information be passed on as soon as it is received.

Thank you for your Help.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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



## Agenda Deadline Dates

### December 15, 2017

Deadline to receive proposed Agenda Items and submit Agenda Items to GSO from our Area 35 Delegate

### February 15, 2018 (week of)

Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office. Then creates a “Hot Topic List” and sends it along with the Agenda Items and Background Information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

The Webmaster posts the material on our website([www.area35.org](http://www.area35.org)) with a Protected Password. The Delegate sends out an email to the Area 35 Committee with the “Hot Topic List” along with the password information. Which is used to get the Agenda Items and background Information off the Area 35 Website.

### 4th Sunday in February February 25, 2018

Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD along with the “Hot Topic List” from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting.

### First Weekend in March March 2-4, 2018

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

### First Weekend in April April 7-8, 2018

Agenda Items are discussed and voted at the Area 35 Spring Assembly with the Area 35 Delegate

### Third Week in April April 23-29, 2018

Delegate attends the General Service Conference and carries the voice of Area 35 to New York.

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

\*See area35.org for printable flyers

39<sup>th</sup> Annual - AA Round Up with Al-Anon participation

## Winter Rap-Up

March 23-24, 2018

Mt Iron Community Center  
8586 Enterprise Drive (South, just off Hwy 169)

## “Willingness, Honesty & Open Mindedness”

Friday, March 23, 2018

7:00 pm Al-Anon Fred H St Cloud, MN  
8:00 pm AA John T Tower, MN

Ice cream social to follow

Saturday, March 24, 2018

10-11:30 am Speaker Panel Willingness, Honesty & Open Mindedness  
Lunch on your own

2-3:00 pm AA Sue H St Cloud, MN  
Dinner on your own

7:00 pm Al-Anon Mary H Winnebago, MN  
8:00 pm AA Dustin L Bismark, ND

Ice cream social to follow

Holiday Inn Express American Inn  
218-741-7411 218-741-7839 or 800-634-3444  
On Hwy 169 across from Community Center  
Conference rate \$100/night, reserve before 3/2/18

Registration required; also available at the door. Phone: Randy 218-225-8833 or Charlie 218-749-8714

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: AA Al-Anon Alateen Group name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish it to be on name badge, list additional names on reverse)

First & last name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Registration (youth) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration and payment to: “Winter Rap-Up,” 504 Hampshire Drive, Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750

## 2018 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL AA SERVICE CONFERENCE

WHEN  
March 2-4, 2018

WHERE  
West Des Moines Marriott  
1250 Jordan Creek Pkwy,  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
515-267-1500

### REGISTRATION & ROOM RATE

Registration- \$15  
Room Rate- \$ \$104 + Tax

Online Registration  
<https://wcraasc.cheddarup.com>

Mail In Registration  
WCRAASC  
PO Box 367  
Des Moines, IA 50302

### AIRPORT

Des Moines International Airport  
Has Free Shuttle Service To and From Airport (Runs Hourly)

### CONTACTS

Rick W.  
A24 P67 Delegate  
5209 Stone Ave  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
[Area24.Delegate@aa-iowa.org](mailto:Area24.Delegate@aa-iowa.org)  
(712) 490-2465

Wanda P.  
WCRAASC Event Chair  
4333 Parkridge Ave  
#140  
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327  
[Garrison82@msn.com](mailto:Garrison82@msn.com)  
(515) 554-6866

## Area 35 Contributions to GSO by District

10/31/2017 12:02:19 PM

Contributions

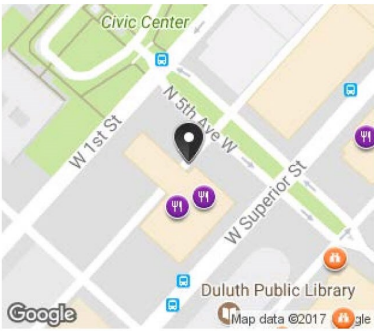
Page 1

Area 035 Contributions to GSO by District  
Year-To-Date through 9/30/2017

District	DISTRICT INFORMATION		GSO CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION	
	Contributions received from District	Number of Groups in District listed in FNV	Number of Groups Contributing to GSO	Percentage of Groups in District Contributing to GSO
No District	0.00	1	0	0.00
01	900.00	11	4	36.36
02	635.00	19	6	31.58
03	3,087.61	53	15	28.30
04	880.00	29	7	24.14
05	761.20	38	11	28.95
06	757.02	34	14	41.18
07	1,970.17	64	16	25.00
08	2,471.05	32	20	62.50
09	1,171.00	23	13	56.52
11	950.00	27	12	44.44
12	3,277.15	83	33	39.76
13	2,114.00	43	21	48.84
14	16.00	7	2	28.57
15	833.00	30	13	43.33
16	1,632.80	19	11	57.89
17	775.00	11	5	45.45
18	710.65	18	5	27.78
21	1,052.34	34	12	35.29
Total	\$23,993.99	576	220	38.19

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Area 35 Service Workshop

“AA-A Solution for ALL Generations”  
January 13-14, 2018



Radisson Duluth Harborview  
505 West Superior Street, Duluth MN 55802  
218-727-8981 or 1-800-333-3333

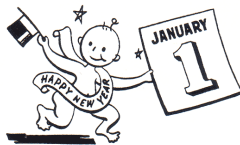
Double Queen and Single King Room Rates: \$109.00 Plus Tax  
Our block of rooms is under Northern MN Area 35 or  
Blockcode1801 Area 35 ID#246833  
You have until December 12, 2017 to reserve your room

This is an annual service training workshop in which 8 Districts and Bob W. a former Trustee, will be presenting and engaging members in attendance. The workshop is designated for Alcoholics Anonymous members, GSR's, District Chairs and Officers and Area Chairs and Officers. Please join us for this outstanding weekend of unity, recovery and service learning.

❖ Workshop begins at 9:15 on Saturday January 13, 2018.



## Seasons Greetings & A Happy New Year





(Continued from page 17)

**Joint Corrections Committee-Melissa A.** will be attending Statewide Joint Corrections meetings for the rest of this rotation.

**Elections of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Offices for next rotation as follows:**

**Delegate: Christine G.**  
**Alternate Delegate: Jim S.**  
**Area Chair: Roger R.**  
**Secretary: Melissa A.**  
**Treasure: Mike F.**

**Calendar of Events-**See the Northern Light and Area 35 website calendar. Email your events to Rodney S. for posting on the website and Steve L. for listing in the Northern Light. There is also an option for a flier to be inserted into the Northern Light. A reminder was made that fliers should include the 5 W's of who, what, when, where, and why; a map is helpful too.

**Ask it Basket – Past Delegates:** The past Delegates read and answered questions from the Ask-it-Basket during the counting of votes during election of new Area officers, Delegate, and Alternate Delegate.

1. Who is the keeper of the ice cream scoops? Suzie A.
2. Worst experience as a delegate? Bruce B. stated once an ice cream social was canceled. Bob J. stated was delegate he missed visiting one district.
3. Why is Grapevine so good? Answered by Tim C.: Many reasons. Important in the early years because there were fewer meetings and the GV is our meeting in print. The GV can be taken into jails and other institutions.
4. Happy to see so many delegates. How do we get more delegates to participate in more than voting assemblies? They have other AA and non-AA commitments. Scott J. has missed only two assemblies.
5. Question about budgets. Budgets are submitted by each officer, committee chair, delegate, and alternate delegate and then approved by area committee. Questions regarding budgets should be brought up at the Area Committee Meeting.
6. Donating at out of town meetings? We are self-supporting so we should, no reason not to. Trust that the group will use 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contribution for self-support.
7. Are addicts allowed to hold positions or chair committees? NO.
8. How do we get others involved? Be a good example. Service is the third leg of the triangle.
9. Someone wants all delegates to wear camo jackets like Charlie C.'s.
10. Someone hopes the newly elected delegate will use all new GSRs.
11. What is the difference between Archives Chair and Archivist? The Archivist collects and preserves all forms of our history as well as participates in Roundups, etc.-this is a non-rotating position. The Archives Chairperson is appointed each rotation to chair the Archives committee. Both assist districts and groups with archives questions or concerns.
12. Information about PI meeting at a local church was placed on a neon, scrolling sign; is with affiliation? No, it is okay according to the PI manual.
13. How important are upholding the traditions? Very, they protect AA from us. They are not outdated. Do you think other regions find them important? Yes, if not it will be noticed because it's unhealthy.
14. Share your best delegate story. One Delegate was instructed to bring his dental records with him to New York and not to walk too close to buildings because people jump out and rob you.
15. Share the worst experience at the General Service Conference. There were high winds in New York so flight was re-routed to Detroit. GSO pays for the stay at the Crown Plaza but delegate got a bill for \$3000.00! The delegate reflected saying "how does a drunk like me get to the GSC?" He also has an emotional experience at St. Patrick's Cathedral.
16. Why is it important to attend the Area Committee Meeting and other area events? We have a chain of communication and when we are not present, the chain is broken.
17. Why hasn't Jake answered any questions? Jake answered, "We try to avoid stupid answers".

**Adjourned: The Responsibility Statement was recited.**

**"The simplicity of this program never changes -- what works is constant: trust in God, clean house, and work with others."**

Concord, Calif., Mary 1997  
"Take My Advice -- I'm Not Using It," Emotional Sobriety

(Continued from page 8)

2. The GSB will develop a plan to embrace more direct sponsorship of other countries.
3. The GSB will develop a permanent process utilizing optimum communications methods allowing for all trustees, directors and staff to share full details of current projects and functions.
4. The GSB will more effectively communicate the availability of online contributions -onetime and recurring.
5. GSB will study current makeup of each operating corporate board and their rotations to determine if their current makeup and rotations are the most effective for our mission.

While just a sampling of items, it is quite evident that improved communications underlies it all. It is also very evident when discussions on implementation takes place, the value to AA as a whole is paramount, followed by how to help the future alcoholics that need and want the solution found in our fellowship.

As the West Central Regional Trustee, it is common for me to discuss strategic planning items with the delegates of the WCR. Of course, the GSC is commonly consulted on the planning, and often is the source of items that get added to the strategic plan. As seen in last month's article that covered aspects of AA on a worldwide basis, there is a great need and countless opportunities for the AA message to be a solution for people in many corners of the globe that have yet to hear about how a mental obsession and physical allergy to alcohol can be arrested when a few simple steps are followed and a Higher Power becomes the central fact of an alcoholics' life.

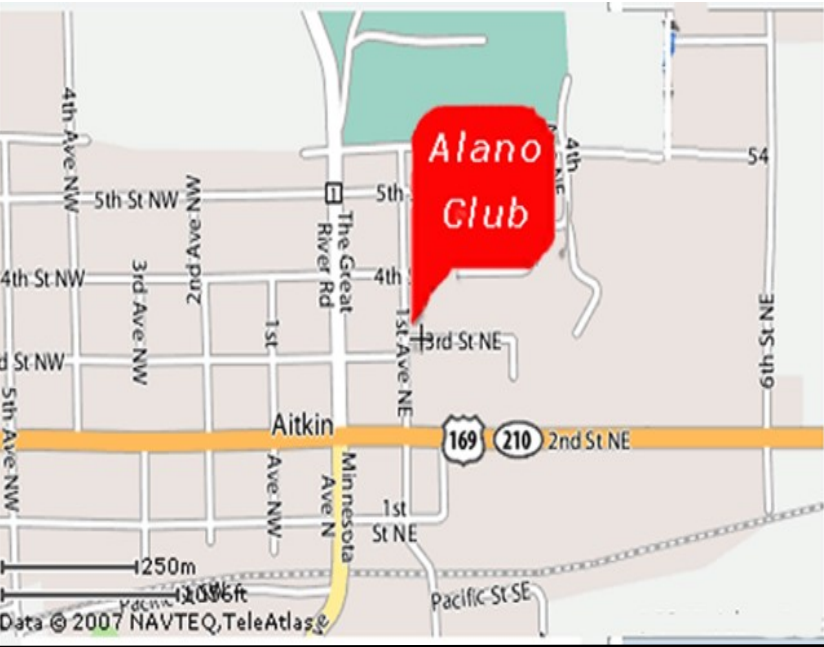
Tom A.  
WCR Trustee and AAWS Director



**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.





NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

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

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

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

**Desirable qualifications:** Current or past working knowledge of the printing business. Knowledge of current computer printing programs. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.

**N.L. COMMITTEE** - The N.L. Committee consists of two D.C.M.s in Area 35. Currently, these have been picked randomly at the start of the new rotation. They also serve on a two-year rotation basis. They assist the editor in communications with other area newsletters, in recommendations on general improvements, and with general problems and implementations of new policies. They may also represent the editor at functions when the editor is unable to attend. Seek advice and help from former N.L. Committee members and editors.

**N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The Committee meets every other month, before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Additional meetings may be called for if needed between these times.

NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:

General submissions to the *Northern Light* are very welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to Alcoholics Anonymous. However, please note that if space is limited, first priority will be given to reports from Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs and D.C.M.s from Area 35.

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area’s newsletter e-mail address: [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org). Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

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

Northern Light Editor,  
Steven L.

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

1. First & Foremost **Contact the Northern Light Editor** at [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) or call the phone number listed on page 3 of the hard copy, print version of the Northern Light, for the Northern Light Editor (remember this will change every 2 year rotation).
2. Email a pdf version of your flier to [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) for approval. Upon approval a copy will be forwarded to the webmaster to be placed on the Area 35 websites calendar of events.
3. Upon approval mail to :

Cold Spring Record  
PO Box 456  
403 West Wind Court  
Cold Spring, MN 56320

With an attn.: Northern Light on the mailing address

Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light
4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Currently there are 1000 copies printed with @620 pieces to mail. What is not mailed is passed out at the Area meetings.
5. The cost for having a flier inserted into the Northern Light is \$75. Make Checks payable to NMAA and mail to :

NMAA  
PO Box 401  
Becker, MN 55308

Number of Copies	Printing Costs		Insertion Fee	Total Cost
	1 Sided	2 Sided		
625	\$ 48	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$ 123/135
1000	\$ 80	\$ 120	\$ 75	\$ 155/195

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—625 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and hand outs.

Northern Light Deadlines for 2018 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 22<sup>nd</sup> : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 5<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 7<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 9<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 4<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 5<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

Nov / Dec 2017		Northern Light - Volume XXXIV Issue 6		Page 22	
OUR PAST DELEGATES					
<b>Panel 64</b> Michael “Jake” J.	<b>2014-1015</b>	<b>Panel 32</b> Tom L.	<b>1982-1983</b>	<b>Panel 10</b> Bob B. (deceased)	<b>1960-1961</b>
<b>Panel 62</b> Jim K.	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>Panel 30</b> Don M. (deceased)	<b>1981-1982</b>	<b>Panel 8</b> Pearl N. (deceased)	<b>1958-1959</b>
<b>Panel 60</b> Jon C.	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Panel 28</b> Garfield (Duffy) S. (decease d)	<b>1978-1979</b>	<b>Panel 6</b> Waldo H. (deceased)	<b>1956-1957</b>
<b>Panel 58</b> JoAnne M. N.	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Panel 26</b> Vern R. (deceased)	<b>1976-1977</b>	<b>Panel 4</b> Wendell H. (deceased)	<b>1954-1955</b>
<b>Panel 56</b> Jerry S.	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>Panel 24</b> Gordon B. H.	<b>1974-1975</b>	<b>Panel 2</b> Arthur R. (deceased)	<b>1952-1953</b>
<b>Panel 54</b> Charlie C.	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>Panel 22</b> Frank P. J. (deceased)	<b>1972-1973</b>		
<b>Panel 52</b> Tim C.	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>Panel 20</b> Clarence B. (deceased)	<b>1970-1971</b>		
<b>Panel 50</b> Tom A.	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>Panel 18</b> Dave H. (deceased)	<b>1968-1969</b>		
<b>Panel 48</b> Susie A.	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>Panel 16</b> Arno A. (deceased)	<b>1966-1967</b>		
<b>Panel 46</b> Bill P. (deceased)	<b>1996-1997</b>	<b>Panel 14</b> Donald F. (deceased)	<b>1964-1965</b>		
<b>Panel 44</b> Bruce B.	<b>1994-1995</b>	<b>Panel 12</b> Donna T. (deceased)	<b>1962-1963</b>		
<b>Panel 42</b> Greg Gits (deceased)	<b>1992-1993</b>				
<b>Panel 40</b> Bob J.	<b>1990-1991</b>				
<b>Panel 38</b> Scott J.	<b>1988-1989</b>				
<b>Panel 36</b> Louie H.	<b>1986-1987</b>				
<b>Panel 34</b> Bob P.	<b>1984-1985</b>				

Q: Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

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

## The Delegate’s Duties

<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"><li>Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.</li><li>Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.</li><li>Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.</li><li>Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.</li><li>Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.</li><li>Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.</li><li>Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.</li><li>Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.</li><li>Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.</li><li>Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.</li><li>Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.</li></ul>
<i>(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)</i>	

# Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon traditional and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

# Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)

- Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

  1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.
  2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.
  3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.
  4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.
  5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
  6. Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.
  7. The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source,
- or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.
  8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.
  9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
  - 10.No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
  - 11.Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
  - 12.And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.



Area 35 Committee Meeting Agenda

Aitkin, MN

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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>_____ June Area Committee 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 – Melissa A.</div><div>_____ District 2 – Myron H.</div><div>_____ District 13 – Sean S.</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>_____ Introduction of New Committee Chairs</div><div>_____ Draw Committee Assignments</div><div>_____ 2018 Budgets</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