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2018 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

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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**
2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
- District 2**
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737
- District 3**
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
Alano Club
827 Summit Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- District 4**
3rd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for location (It Rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.
- District 5**
3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
Freshwaters Church
12475 273rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398
- District 6**
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.
North Branch, MN 55056

- District 7**
3rd 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 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746
- District 11**
1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran
2177 Hwy 18
Finlayson, MN 55735
- District 12**
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)
- District 13**
1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
St. Cloud Alano Club
127 7th Ave. NE
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

- District 14**
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm District Meeting
Coffee Landing
444 3rd Street
International Falls, MN 56649
- District 15**
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307
- District 16**
1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church
1701 S.E. 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking
- District 18**
1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Long Prairie Alano Club
21 2nd Ave.
Long Prairie, MN 56347
- District 21**
2nd 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 has been a busy time of the year. I am still learning the ropes being your Delegate and a lot has been going on. I returned from the West Central Regional AA Service Conference and left for a vacation that was scheduled last summer. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Kelly D. and Jim S. for all your help and support through this transition.

The Service Conference started on Thursday evening with a meeting held by our WCR Trustee, Tom A. He updated us on his service and what has happened at GSO over the past couple months. Tom reported that there are 71 translations of the Big Book. Tom stated it has been an amazing process to see translations come alive and how our contributions make this happen. This is a great example of carrying the message to the “still suffering.”

GSO has 85 staff members that are doing a great job at answering 90 thousand letters. Corrections answers 6,500 letters per year. Archives 1,300 requests annually. AAWS ships out approximately eight million books, pamphlet and materials annually. 73,000 pieces of mail are processed in finance. AA.org has had about 12 million visits.

2017 contributions to GSO are up 6% and operating expense up 4% from 2016. The profits of \$1.6 million in 2017 were used to pay down the pension plan. \$1.5 million of expenses will be cutout once the plan is paid off. This could happen as soon as this year. Only 40% of the active AA groups are providing these contributions.

Online contributions continue to grow in amount and frequencies which cuts the costs of processing the contributions. Saves a fair amount of time and money.

Grapevine is the voices of AA. We need to support the GV just like we support our Area, District and GSO. Grapevine is really needing help through subscriptions. Please consider supporting the Grapevine with a personal subscription or even giving it as a gift to your sponces. My homegroup supports the Grapevine by ordering a couple subscriptions and sharing them with the members in the group. There are many great uses for the Grapevine and we should all consider supporting it if we want the publication to continue.

Major points from the General Service Board:

- Using Third Legacy procedure to nominate chairs
- New auditor was chosen through a RFP process. Selected an auditor that can bring forth new skills at a lower cost
- Pay down debt of the pension obligation
- Manuscript litigation was in NY city and the GSB was presented with a letter that they owned the manuscript. A temporary restraining order was placed on the manuscript and the person in possession did not take kindly to the request of returning it. The Board took a fiduciary responsibility to obtain the manuscript. As stated in Warranty 5, sometimes the best that we can do is mediate. Mediation would keep conversation private and not disclose information like litigation would make people’s names public. The board decided it was time to put an end of this process and to pull out they had to settle and offered the person 135K to go towards attorney fees and gave up all rights to the manuscript.
- Technology Communication Services – Analyzing website and it will be completely redone. Looking at providing a unified meeting locator so people can find meetings. The committee is looking into an App that we will be able to use that will not be giving up our integrity or Traditions to provide information for people who want it. We don’t want to be pushing information on people.

During this meeting with all the Delegates in the region, we also discussed the WCR checkbook that gets passed on to the area that will be hosting the next service conference and there was discussion about the frustrations that are happening at the banks when trying to change signers. Area 35 will be hosting the next conference and I will be working on getting the checkbook transferred to our area. Some of the thoughts are that we could have the Area that is hosting the conference add another checking account to their bank for the conference but then the area would also have to assume the added income when they report the 990EZ and this may exceed the \$50k limit. Another option would be to file a 501(c3) or 501(c7) non-profit status. I will have more information on this for you to take back to your groups at the Spring Assembly.

We are starting the planning process for a successful conference in 2019. Jim is chairing this event and we will be working on forming committees to help with all the activities that need to get done. If anyone is interested in helping out, please send Jim or myself an email. The 2019 WCRAASC will be held in Moorhead at the Courtyard Marriot on February 28th – March 2nd, 2019. More information to come.

There was also some discussion on a WCR Archives of past Delegates and Trustees of the region. There are some talks of these individuals that are scattered around the region and we are looking for some ideas of how to gather this information and make it available to our members. If you have any thoughts or ideas please let me know.

Friday morning and afternoon, we met with our WCR Trustee and past Dele-

gates were invited to join us. This was an opportunity for new Delegates to learn more about their experiences and ask questions that we may have before heading out to the Conference in New York.

Friday evening, we started the process of going through the conference material and had a sharing session. Saturday, we continued on with sharing sessions and conference material. I would like to extend thanks to Kevin K., DCM, and Brian P., Area Literature Chair, from District 3 on their presentation for Area 35 on “Participation in All of AA: Is My Triangle Balanced?” Thank you to Rillis for facilitating the breakout session “Webmaster – Geek Squad or Carrying the Message” and Melissa for being the Secretary. Area 35 was well represented at the conference and I appreciate all of you who were able to attend.

I will continue reading the conference materials so I can be well informed for our Spring Assembly in Alexandria, April 7th – 8th. I look forward to seeing you all there.

There is a lot of information on this report so if you have any questions or would like clarification on the information I have provided, please send me an email and I will be happy to explain in more detail.

In Love and Service,
Christine G.
Area 35 Delegate

Alt. Delegate:

Hello Everyone,

These are the notes I took during my time at the conference. Some of these are fragmented so if you have questions please do not hesitate to ask.

I would like to thank everyone in Area 35 for the opportunity to attend this great conference. I would also like to thank Christine for asking me to accompany her to the delegate’s meetings Thursday night and Friday. I had no idea how much work goes into putting this event on.

CONFERENCE NOTES:

FRIDAY NIGHT:

aa.org is getting a complete redo. \$8.4 million in 2017 in 7th Tradition contributions and literature sales was \$13,898,550, literature profits were \$9,361,614. AAWS paid down a significant portion of the pension plan with the profits. Budget for 2018 in literature sales is \$14,000,000 and literature profits to be \$9.2 million and 7th Tradition is \$8.2 million. 82% of operating expenses could be covered by 7th Tradition, bringing us closer and closer to fully self support. Potential profits for 2018 could be a half million. Just over 40% contributed to GSO. We always need to advocate that groups give whatever they can. Electronic contributions are much more profitable then mailed in contributions because someone doesn’t have to open the letter, read the letter, match the group number or research if there isn’t one etc. etc. Grapevine had a profit of \$126,000 for 2017. Subscriptions have been dropping over time, the board has worked hard to reorganize the office to eliminate as much waste as possible. There is a projected loss for 2018. In my opinion, the only opportunity for the Grapevine to be profitable at this point is increased subscriptions. What if we looked at the Grapevine becoming the voice of AA as a whole.

Friday 8pm General Session: Inclusion not Exclusion

Tradition 3 was read. AA has no membership rules, we do not want to build any walls that may exclude anyone who wants what AA has to offer. May God grant us a useful life and a long life. AA Big Book page 46 the realm of spirituality. Long form of Tradition 3: We may never refuse membership to anyone, any two people who meet may be an AA meeting assuming they have no affiliation with any other organization.

The speaker’s opinion was that special interest groups exclude people although they make those in attendance more comfortable. However, this flies in the face of Tradition 3.

Agenda Committee:

- A: Nothing
- B: Nothing
- C: Nothing
- D: 1.) Hard to make an assessment when delegates aren’t responding
2.) Do the delegates fill it out at conference or afterwards when they have had time to reflect. Suggestion was made that you be able to complete after conference and return within a week or so
- E: It appears this year the agenda committee asked every chair what they wanted on the agenda where according to one person mentioned in the past the agenda committee to simply set the agenda themselves. This year the agenda committee was asked to “poll” the delegates their thoughts on what items. Doc 1. Talks about the 2016 conference advisory action. Committees expressed a need for more input from the area delegates to give more input on what items were to be on the agenda. The trustee committee chair was supposed to

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contact the Delegate Committee Chair of their committee to get more input after each conference call of board members. No actual plan has been written, they are just acting as if there was. One person mentioned that the lack of action taken on this item creates mistrust that nothing has been done. Brook suggested, the delegates need to ask the Trustees to give them a copy of the agenda items that were not put on the agenda to see if an item falls within the scope of their committee and use the “other” item to input that item on the agenda.

CPC:

- A: One person thought the committee did a good enough job in taking steps to not affiliate. Another guy, who I agree with, made the analogy of linked and affiliation saying we should look at the similarities versus the differences. One person mentioned this is a professional webpage and we have a Tradition mentioning we are not professionals AA gives us suggestions about social media but then make a motion that we use it because they found out a way that we could use it. This is hypocritical. Wouldn’t a Linkedin page take away from the districts CPC committee activity?

General Session II: Participation in all of AA

These conferences are about reflection and intention. Is my triangle balanced? Recovery unity and service these three legs of AA. The first gives us the chance to recovery, the second is the need to stay together and the third tells us what we should do with what we have received.

Unity 12 Traditions. Suggests we join a home group and make sure the doors are open for the new comers. Do I have a group that I am involved with and participate in. Service in AA is based upon the 12 Concepts, 12th Step, am I taking others through the 12 Steps, when we go to meetings are we being of service. Making coffee, shaking hands, taking out garbage. What did your sponsor do to get your involved? What are you doing to get others involved?

Why do you think service is important? What are you doing to keep your triangle balanced? Service gives us the chance for the old timers to pass on their knowledge to the new comers as old timers don’t stick around forever. The Four Absolutes: unselfishness, purity, honesty: total absence of any intent to deceive, love:

CPC continued:

- A: Just more discussion on pros and cons.
- B: No comments
- C: No comments
- D: Thoughts were that the changes seemed to be in line with the AA message.
- E: Couple questions regarding the pamphlets in the workbook

Corrections:

- A: Lets not make another pamphlet but replace Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell, one person thought this was demeaning. Let’s use what we have, AA in the prison, inmate to inmate.

Breakout Session: Concept 3 - Make up your own mind

Last nights talk on inclusion vs exclusion this person had a shopaholic come to their meeting and would not identify as an alcoholic. She got backlash from some people for suggesting she go to a meeting for her problem. Some were supportive.

- A: Open meetings are for AA members only, but open meetings are open to anyone looking for info on AA. How does this person’s attendance affect AA as a whole? If I have a problem with something that is going on in a meeting I need to bring it up at the steering committee instead of just handling it myself, so I am certain I have a good perspective on the matter and get a groups conscience. There is no Tradition that states we must identify ourselves as an alcoholic. When we do approach someone about a Tradition break we should approach them with the idea of helpfulness.

How do the people going to GSC when the Area wants a different vote then the Delegate wants? How do you determine when to engage right of decision?

Christine mentioned that what she heard was that my opinion and she is not there to represent her opinion but the opinion of the Area. Unless something is brought up that significantly changes the meaning of the item. It’s important when talking to the groups about representativeness groups etc. etc. that it’s important to hear people out and listen to the entire discussion. If we practice this principle when talking with our group when we go to these voting events if something does change they would have a good idea of what the group thinks they could make an informed decision if they think their vote should be changed. At what point does trust come into play. If we can’t trust our elected servants should we really be concerned if they change their vote after new info has been introduced.

Is the pursuit of the manuscript an example of Concept 3?

The Warranties don’t say that to one person. Warranty 5 says AA may come under sharp public attack. WE should maintain complete silence. His thought is that we are to protect AA not put it in the public eye. Curt: there is no one Concept or Tradition that applies to this. This could be looked at with multiple Concepts, Warranties or Traditions. In Concept 5, the part about participation, the board didn’t always include the staff members as

they do now. There were problems when the board started to include staff members.

You can do three things with right of decision:

1. You must stay within the scope of your position.
2. You can’t use it as an excuse to not consult your group.
3. I need to report what I did. These were very good points.

How do we reconcile the difference between the Trustees Committee picking agenda items versus what past Delegates and other members of the conference think should be on the agenda?

The conference does have the right to reorganize the boards, meaning kick them out and get new members in as board members. What is motivating me to take this action? The intent of being a Trusted Servant was to be humble and obedient. We should always use the principles of AA to make our decisions. Anything within these boundaries are useful to our purpose. If I make decision outside there parameters that creates the opportunity to bring something outside of AA into AA. If we look at what we think about a topic, we don’t give ourselves the chance to learn about the topic.

Breakout Session: Concept 4 - Hey I have a Voice 2 pm

Does the Tradition of only having two Trustees on AAWS continue or has it changed? Short answer is yes, when it was seven directors two were Trustees and now that the AAWS board has nine Directors four are Trustees. **QUESTION TO ASK TOM A. HOW MANY DIRECTORS ARE ON THE BOARD, HOW MANY ARE CLASS A?**

What does the right of participation everyone can bring something to the table for the informed group decision. One person brought up the idea that right of participation meant voting members, this is not the case as in the example in the staff members of the GSO are invited to the conference to bring their perspectives to the conference although they do not get the right to vote. We have a right and a responsibility to participate in AA.

How does our spiritual condition apply to the concepts?

Page 19 of service manual there is another good reason to participate we all have the need to belong and it is a shingling ideal that everyone is equal and that there are no people who are then the other’s participating in AA. It shouldn’t matter whether you have two days or twenty years each of us should have an opinion that should be listened to.

What does “in reasonable proportion” mean as it pertains to the scope of their responsibility? Who determines what reasonable proportion is? One person one vote.

Corrections continued:

- A: Will this pamphlet give them the information they need to start a life on the outside? The need for another pamphlet suggest we aren’t doing our job in going out and finding the new comer regardless of where they are at, in their case the jails and prisons. One person’s experience who was in jail had a hard-enough time getting a Big Book let alone a pamphlet. He didn’t think an inmate would have much of a chance to even get a pamphlet cuz the inmates can’t receive anything that doesn’t come straight from the publishers.
- B: Review content of kit and workbook: couple items that are directed to people who are carrying the message to the individual he wants more pamphlets in the workbook. The videos in the workbook are outdated, should be updated.

Finance:

- A: There wasn’t much discussion except some people didn’t think it needed to be raised, others thought it should be reviewed every four years.

Grapevine:

- A: No info providing security issues and how they would be handled. Doesn’t tell us how these forms would be used or who would be responsible for using it, this person does IT security for a living and bringing all the potential problems and the conference isn’t addressing these items, just how to make a Facebook post, make a tweet etc. etc. things most people already know. Google for nonprofits is still trying to make a buck, so we would always be hit with advertising.
- B: This is a strategy on how to collect audio recordings
- C: This started because of Hazelden selling Grapevine subscriptions to the fellowship and Hazelton was able to sell at a cheaper rate due to the fact the were buying so many subscriptions. A subscription also creates a relationship with the consumer that lasts until the end, which create affiliation
- D: No comments
- E: No comments
- F: No comments
- G: No comments

Literature:

- A: One person thought all three were good ideas, didn’t think referring to getting recognition from the library of congress, one person didn’t like the library of congress because it considered the Big Book as a self-help book. Another person mentioned affiliation with the library didn’t want to add the Big Book since we already have the preamble and responsibility statement on cards etc. another thought the library was

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- promotion not attraction., there **are already six different recognitions in the back of the book already.**
- B: This is to appease the atheists and agnostics this person didn't think it is the responsibility of AA to provide literature that isn't consistent with the primary purpose of the spiritual program that AA is. One person is in favor of it. They thought it could help someone who doesn't believe in God that could find God. This is not a conference-approved piece of lit, just in Great Britain. If this would happen, what would likely happen is that we would buy the license to print this piece and not approve through the conference.
- C: Creating a pamphlet on atheists the comments were pretty much the same as for B. we already have a pamphlet called many ways to spirituality. The distribution trend has decreased over the years so why would we make another one. There is also a group called we agnostics already. They can go there.
- D: Three Legacies are already published in 4th edition Big Book
- E: The safety card is not conference approved. By putting safety language in our pamphlets could give people the wrong impression that we really are unsafe that we need to convince you that we are safe. One person felt that this is a good way to start the conversation. Carl B. read a piece out of the Big Book that says we should not hesitate to go to the most sordid place on earth to help. If we are going to start creating a pamphlet with safety language, are we contradicting ourselves?
- F: No comments
- G: No comments
- H: One person mentioned where the Big Book talks about how we should look to the professionals for help outside of alcoholism. One person said they don't want to learn about mental issues since she isn't a professional
- I:
- J:
- K:
- L: Just make sure no affiliation to ICKYPAW
- M: No comments
- N: One person didn't like the idea of the book called the 36 principals she felt there were more then 36.
- O: Please ensure subtitles area 36 Literature Chair thought the video was terrible. There were people smoking.
- P: No comments
- Q: One person thought the area should make it themselves if they want it as it might be more area specific rather then nation wide. One person thought it would be a good idea. Even if we make it how do we get it into theirs hands. One person thought if you get it into the hands of health care professionals they would find it.
- R: No comments
- S: No comments

Policy/Admissions

- A: No comments
- B:
- C: No comments
- D: Brook brought up the Delegates using the dashboard to communicate
- E:
- F: Brook brought up the idea that the Delegates make more use of the dashboard also the Alt. Delegates could use it.
- G: This would be a proactive role in helping other countries develop AA in their countries. Lisa D. thought it would look like we think you need our help. Could be taken poorly. MY THOUGHTS, IS IT ARROGANT TO ASK A NEW COMER IF THEY NEED HELP OR ISN'T THAT WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TODO

Public Information:

- A:
- B:
- C: 1. No comments
2. No comments
3. No comments
- D:
- E: One person thinks its important.
- F: One gal thinks that it should be approved by the Delegates as it's being requested to be added to many pieces of literature.
- G: One person though that when you pull up the YouTube channel for AA PSA's you get a whole bunch of other videos that we don't approve but the fact that they come up gives people the impression we could approve of them.
- H: No comments
- I:

Report and Charter:

- A: Stepped out
- B: No comments
- C: Yes, it should be printed in the report. North Dakota Scott believes the cliff notes of the considerations are printed but not the full version.

Treatment and Accessibilities:

- A: No comments
- B: No comments
- C:
- D:
- E:
- F:

Trustees Committee:

- A: No comments
- B: No comments
- C: No comments
- D: No comments
- E: How will censuring the board help the situation? To censure means to reprimand, in Robert's rules of order it would mean this is your one warning and the next time you are fired. Which will be addressed in next item. One person referred to the issue back in the 90's regarding the medallions and using the circle triangle on them when it was supposed to be a part of intellectual property, but the copyright had lapsed. The decision was made that the board did not have the right under Warranty 5 to pursue this action back then so by that rationale this also wasn't protected under Warranty 5.
- F: Good info. There is no info in our literature that states how a reorganization could even happen. But this could be a great chance to send a message to the board to swing way to the right and follow our 36 principles even greater.
- G: This would either re structure the regions to make the number of votes more equitable or simply changing the amount of votes each region could have.

Archives:

- A: No comments
- B: One person thought this sets a double standard since we as individuals we need to refrain from publicly posting AA content.
- C: No comments

International Conventions:

- A: No comments
- B: No comments
- C: CONSIDER USING DIFFERENT COMMITTEES

Sunday am General Session: Where innovation meets the Traditions

- A: Does the use of innovation feed my ego or carry the message?
- B: We don't need to adjust our principles to fit innovation, we should always adjust our innovation to fit our principles
- C: Our Traditions arose out of the failures from our early experiences.
- D: Taking action to recover unify and being of service
- E: Letter of the law vs spirit of the law

In Service,
Jim S.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

(Continued on page 7)



And the 'lil woman gets so sore that she actually buys me a bottle and sez: "Go ahead. Drink yourself to death!" And I sez: "What—on one bottle?"

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

Area Chair:

Greetings Area 35 of Northern MN,

Thank you again for the opportunity you have given me to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous as your Area Chair for 2018-2019. My top priority is to assist you as members, GSR's, DCM's, Area Chairs and Officers in carrying our AA message to those who are out there and still suffering from alcoholism.

The Area 35 budget for 2018 is published in the current edition of the Northern Light and will be presented at our Spring Assembly. Your group contributions are very important and needed by Area 35 as we work to carry our message in 2018 and beyond.

Up next for Area 35 is working together to prepare and inform Christine G., our Area 35 Delegate to represent us at the upcoming General Service Conference in April, 2018. Background information on the items on the agenda for this conference are available on the Area 35.org website and through your District Committee Member (DCM).

All the Conference Agenda Items were discussed on a regional level, with AA members from the eight states at the West Central AA Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa, from March 2nd-4th. I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to this conference. I learned a lot from the discussions on key agenda items and went to the microphones several times to represent our Area. Several members mentioned a concern that the Area Delegates do not have any real input on vetting the agenda items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in NY in April. The agenda for this conference constitutes "what is important" for AA's future. At the conference, the body of Delegates, GSO staff and AAWS Trustees decides what do (review, discuss or consider) about the agenda items or what our Trustees have determined to be important for AA. This suggests to me that we as a fellowship do not have critical input into" what is important for our future".

I enjoyed Area Presentations at the WCRAASC on topics similar to the ones that Districts in Area 35 presented at our January Service Workshop. IN fact Area 35 did a fine job on one of these presentations at the conference on "Unity, Recovery and Service: Is My Triangle Balanced".

I also enjoyed the opportunities for 7:15 am breakfast meetings with officers from Area 35 and Area Chairs in our region.

I would like to encourage the Area 35 Officers and Chairs who were able to attend the WCRAASC to make themselves available to meet with Districts and Groups to share their knowledge of the Agenda Items. I'd also like to encourage Districts and groups to invite these individuals to their meetings in which agenda items are discussed.

We will also be discussing Agenda Items of the 2018 General Service Conference, at Area 35's Spring Assembly on April 7th-8th in Alexandria MN (see Area 35.org). Your group's and District's informed group conscience on these Agenda Items goes a long way in preparing our Delegate for the national conference. I am confident that Christine will do a great job in carrying the group conscience of Area 35 to the General Service Conference.

The 2018 rotation is off to a good start. Let's work together to most effectively and efficiently carry our message to those who are still suffering and in desperate need of our AA solution. As we move into this rotation, I am going to be talking with Area Chairs and Officers on what our goals are for this rotation.

Roger R.
Area 35 Chair

Secretary:

Greetings Area 35,

What a start to 2018! It is again such a blessing having the privilege of serving as your Area Secretary.

I was able to attend the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa. It was an amazing and very informative weekend. Hearing about how the rest of our region feels when it comes to the agenda items has always been something that I greatly appreciate and look forward too. My sponsor always says to remain teachable and to have an open mind. I try very hard to live by that every day.

Friday March 2, 2018, we heard from the four incoming Delegates from our region about what is taking place in each of their areas. We also heard from our very own West Central Regional Trustee Tom. Our first General Sharing Session was a presentation given by Area 76 (Wyoming) who discussion "Todays Alcoholic: Inclusion not Exclusion". They did an absolutely amazing job. Some of the key things that I learned out of that presentation were: "Exclusion is often a sublet foe; sometimes it is the easier softer way" "I once heard in the most important thing we say in AA is the coffee is over there and you can sit by me" "Inclusion means paying attention to what we might need to do to help with the physical barriers at our meetings". What I got out of that presentation is how as an AA member am I towards the newcomer? How is my group treating the newcomer? Do they feel welcomed when they walk into my home group meeting? Do they feel included? What can I do to make them feel included? It brought a lot of questions to my mind about how I as a member of AA am carrying the message.

GSC agenda items (which was on the Agenda) there was quite a bit of

discussion on Agenda item E that was is "Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference." Another item that was discussed in detail was CPC agenda item A., which was Review the Trustees' committee report regarding LinkedIn as a platform for reaching professionals.

Saturday March 3, 2018, Area 35 Officers met with Area 36 Officers for breakfast to discuss our upcoming Area 35/36 Joint Workshop. We discussed the date for the Joint 35/36 Workshop, decided it was going to be on November 18, 2018, and that we would keep the Joint Workshop in St. Cloud. Please mark your calendars for this event, especially if you are an Area Committee Chair and or Officer. We had a lot of great discussion on what we can implement to make the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop successful for both Areas. The notes taken for this meeting might be posted in the Northern Light (depending upon the availability of space, if they are not posted please email me and I can email you a copy) If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me. After breakfast we had our General Session 2 which was a presentation from our very own Area 35 and the presentation was on "Participation in All of AA: Is My Triangle Balanced?" What I got out of that presentation was am I as a member of AA incorporating all 36 principles of the program into my life? How can I better incorporate them? A few things that came out of that presentation were: "When I look at my recovery and I look at the entire foundation of the program, I believe that as I have completed the 12 steps we receive a spiritual awakening. Unity and service cannot be part of our lives unless we participate with these principles in all of my affairs." "We cannot give away what we do not have ourselves." "Do I have a home group that I am involved in? Do I participate in my home group's group conscious meetings? Do I adhere to the Traditions?" It was a great presentation that is vital for all AA members to take a look at.

GSC Agenda items part 2. We continued for a bit in the CPC agenda items that we were not able to finish that Friday night. Then continued with Corrections, which did not have too much discussion. We moved into the Finance Committee agenda items and that too did not have very much discussion. We moved into the Grapevine agenda items and there was discussion on Item A, which is "Review social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits." I would again suggest going through this agenda item within your District and Groups. We then went into the Literature Committee agenda items. There was some discussion on item B that is "Consider request that AA (U.S./Canada) publish "the God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain). There was also discussion on item C "Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members." and item E. "Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in AA literature."

Breakout Session 1: I had the privileged of taking minutes for this breakout session that was moderated by Area 35 Rillis. The topic was "Webmaster- Geek Squad or Carrying the Message". The notes taken for this meeting might be posted in the Northern Light (depending upon the availability of space, if they are not posted please email me and I can email you a copy)

Breakout Session number 2: I attended the breakout session "Concept 5- Not so fast, I have more to say" which was moderated by Area 52 (North Dakota) The big discussion out of that breakout session was the importance of minority opinions and how do we as AA members treat other AA members when it comes to their opinion? One of the questions was "In what ways are minority opinions encouraged? Has anyone put this concept into action?" we had a lot of great feedback and discussion on how important the minority opinion is. (I have notes on this breakout session as well if anyone is interested in them please let me know and I can email them to you)

GSC Agenda Items part 3. Which started with Policy/Admissions Committee agenda items. There was not too much discussion on these items. There was some discussion on item D "Review draft process for polling the General Service Conference between annual conference meetings", item F "Consider request to develop a policy on the use of the Conference dashboard" and item G "Discuss the following question from the Trustees' International Committee: "Does the U.S./Canada (service structure) have a role/responsibility in assisting in the development of AA structures around the world through sponsoring other countries via direct invitations to observe our General Service Conference."

GSC Agenda Items part 4: Public Information Committee agenda items. There was some discussion on item B "Review the 2018, Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan" and agenda item F" Consider revision to the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" which updated language, contact information and information on the prevalence and severity of alcoholism and add information related to safety in AA." And agenda item G "Review a progress report on the AAWS Google for Nonprofit YouTube Channel. We moved into Report and Charter Committee there was not a lot of discussion. Not a lot of discussion on Treatment & Accessibilities Committee Agenda Items, we then moved into the Conference Trustees' Committee Agenda Items. There was a lot of discussion on agenda item E "Review proposal to reorganize the General Service Board" and agenda item F "Review proposal to reorganize the AAWS and General Service Boards." We moved onto Archives Committee and International Convention/Regional Forums and there was no discussion.

Sunday March 4, 2018. We had our last General Session 4 which was a presentation from Area 41 (Nebraska) on "AA Technology: Where Innovation meets the Traditions" They did a great job explaining their concerns about technology and how we as AA members use it and while using it if we even realize that we are breaking the Traditions. Here are a few questions

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that were asked to us “How is my use of technology for my personal recovery? How will using this technology affect the new comer? How will it affect the group? Why am I sharing this photo or post? Am I working toward humility or feeding my own ego?

We then had ask it basket questions that were answered by our past West Central Regional Trustees, one question that I thought was extremely vital was “What do you see as the greatest threat to AA? What are you doing about it as a Trustee? The past Trustee responded saying “in the back of AA Comes of Age, there is a story or article that was written by Bernard Smith, why we have a conference, he also wrote about the future of AA and discussed mechanistic and materialistic, he warned us in 1955. We need to watch out for our society, he felt that our AA principles would keep us grounded when it comes to society. What am I doing about it? I’m talking about it. Mechanistic and materialistic removes our voice, our group conscious and our unanimity are not there anymore.” Another comment that was made was “our biggest challenge is that there is too much unrecovered alcoholism in the rooms of AA”

Overall the WCRAASC was amazing experience. I was able to learn a lot from everyone that was in attendance and get questions that I had about the agenda items answered. Like I have stated throughout this report if anyone is interested in the notes that I have taken for any of the breakout sessions, general session and or agenda items please let me know and I can email them out to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Yours in service,
Melissa A.
Area 35 Secretary

Treasurer:

This is my second report as your Area Treasurer. It is a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

I attended my first West Central Region AA Service Conference in Des Moines the first weekend in March. More than 400 members were in attendance. Four presentations and eight breakout sessions were held on various topics having to do with how to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic.

During the rest of the conference, we discussed the agenda items for the General Service Conference. We were able to complete list of 78 items by 11pm Saturday evening. It was a long day, but everyone in A.A. has a voice and those voices were heard.

The Income and Expense Trend below charts show income compared to expenses for each month in 2017 and 2018:



Our officers met for breakfast with the officers from Area 36. We set a tentative date of Saturday, November 17, 2018 for our next Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, to be held in St. Cloud. We also discussed the content and purpose of the workshop, AA Meeting Locator, and the State Fair booth. Since my last report, I have:

- Filed the Area’s annual IRS form 990-N for tax year 2017
- Reconciled 2 months bank statements
- Made deposits of all contributions received as of March 9th
- Completed financial reports and bank reconciliation statements for review by the Financial Oversight Committee
- Completed balance sheets and income/expense/contribution statements for Period 7 of 2017, Period 1 of 2018, and to-date Period 2 of 2018

I have deposited all contributions and paid all expenses received as of March 9th. Our Area checking and savings accounts have a balance total of \$22,708.24. Group contributions year-to-date are \$7,300. For all of 2017, group contributions totaled \$24,961. If we continue at our current pace, our contributions for 2018 will exceed \$35,000. That would be an outstanding level of self-support!

Our year-to-date expenses include a \$1,000 deposit for the venue for the Fall Assembly, and an \$1,800 contribution to the General Service Board for the GSO Conference. Minus these future event outlays, we have net income year-to-date of \$517.

Written acknowledgment letters to the groups for contributions are still forthcoming. I apologize for the delay. You will receive them prior to the Area Assembly. Your group’s total contribution for 2017 will be included in the letter, and if you note any discrepancies, please bring them to my attention.

Please note that the new address for mailing contributions is:

NMAA
PO Box 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-0114

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Service,
Mike F.
Area 35 Treasurer

Please remember to include your group service number on all contributions. This will ensure that your contributions get credited to your group.

Archives:

Greetings Area 35,

I would first like to thank the Area for sending me the WCRAASC in Des Moines!

I made the 8-hour trek with our NL Editor Steve L. and our Treatment Chair Cathy. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other and found that we all have much in common.

We arrived Friday afternoon and the first thing I noticed was all the volunteers from the Iowa area hard at work greeting people and manning the registration, and they certainly and put on a great Hospitality room with plenty to eat and drink!

The conference was filled with some really good presentations and the discussions brought forth concerning our agenda items were thought provoking and provided an opportunity for growth as I come to a better understanding of our Traditions and Concepts and how they apply to us as a Fellowship.

I am looking forward to sharing what I learned at District 8 Agenda item discussion, as I’m really starting to come to have an appreciation for what it means to have an informed group conscience.

I feel very blessed to be a part of AREA 35 and the West Central Region; we have so many wonderful, able and intelligent people serving around us!

DID YOU KNOW?.....You can read all about how our conference structure came to be as we know it today by picking up a copy of AA Comes of Age, a brief history of Alcoholics Anonymous, it’s a really good read and source of information regarding our 3 Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

In Love & Service,
Scott M.
Area 35 Archives Chair

Archivist:

Good Afternoon. This is my first report as Archivist for Area 35. I want to thank Area 35 for the opportunity to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. For me service is “Gratitude made visible”.

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Currently, I have moved the Archives Display to Fargo and with the help of the Area 35 Archives committee, we will inventory and move the physical contents of our archive in May.

I have 3 upcoming displays at Roundups in Area 35. The Big Ole Roundup, the Stearns County Roundup and the Superior Roundup. If there are any non-service events that you know would like the Archives Display at their event, please forward my contact information. Since these are not part of our Service functions, expenses are the responsibility of the event.

If you have a District Service Function that you would like me to either present or display, please let me know.

I have developed a list of action items for the Archivist along with the assistance of the Archives Committee:

- Criteria for accepting Area 35 Archives Material
- Develop a procedure for Districts to submit material to Area 35
- Review and update the Area Archivist Trusted Servant Guidelines
- Develop a presentation on how to develop a district archives.
- Assist the districts on disseminating archivable material
- Organize the Archives Display by Decade
- Identify what equipment the archivist needs, eg. Scanner laptop
- Digital Storage options
- Provide quarterly articles to the Northern Light

I am very excited with the enthusiasm of willingness of the Area 35 Archives committee to assist in our Archivist efforts.

Yours in Service
Steve D.
Area 35 Archivist

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Good day,

My name is Myron H.. I traveled to Mora, MN to be near-by to attend our last area meeting. Weather caused the meeting to be cancelled. Reservations were made for the Des Moines, IA to attend our Regional Service Conference. Events in my employment caused me to cancel my trip. The saying, 'Man makes plans...God laughs", comes to mind. Hopefully, future plans will come to fruition.

Yours in service,
Myron H.
Area 35 CPC Chair

Corrections:

Greetings from your Area 35 Corrections Chair.

I attended the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa. I learned a lot as we went through the agenda items. Corrections are trying to prepare a pamphlet for long time prisoners the problem is it's hard to get those long time prisoners the pamphlet. That is about all there was for corrections this year. I've had a couple contacts from inmates getting out and made contact with them. I will be attending the 35/36 joint Corrections meeting on April 10th in Osseo. I did not attend the committee meeting as I had a prior commitment. I would like to thank Rich from Duluth for chairing the meeting and giving the report!

Yours in service,
Paul M.
Area 35 Corrections Chair

Grapevine:

Hi, I'm Jerry B. & I'm an alcoholic.

Grapevine Chair for Area35. This past January I attended the area Workshop held at the Radisson in Duluth. I felt it was a fantastic Workshop even though the attendance was low. About \$260 in Grapevine material was sold. I recently attended the WCRAASC held in Des Moines, Iowa. I felt it was an OK conference; I've been to some better, and some worse. I enjoyed the presentations put on by the Areas in attendance. Might be a little prejudice but felt Area 35 did the best. I sat in on the Grapevine breakout session and found it to be very educational as well as informative as far as the other groups from other areas understand AA. We're all the same 'cept they talk funny. Also sat in on the Concept 5 for the 2nd Session, some heavy stuff for me to understand. All in all I thought it was a good West Central Conference.

Yours in service,
Jerry B.
Area 35 Grapevine Chair

Group Records:

Greetings, Area 35,

My name is Sally and I am an alcoholic. I have been asked to assume the position of Group Records chair. The previous chair Carl had to step aside. I will do my best to keep the records up to date accurately and in a timely

manner. I just received the hardware for this position and currently awaiting authorization to log on to the records database. As soon as that happens, I will work diligently to learn the software and get busy. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the groups in Area 35, and I am honored that I was considered for this position.

Sally L.
grouprecords@area35.org

Literature:

Just returned from Des Moines where I heard a lot of discussion and insight into the topics for The General Service Conference. I always enjoy this conference to see and hear a perspective from a larger group. There were also several presentations given on some timely topics – Anonymity and Technology always a good topic.

I am still trying to work through some issues as the new Area 35 Literature Chair. Ordering from GSO is sometimes difficult during the normal business hours. I am trying to get an online account set up so I may do my orders after business hours. I am still trying to set up a good system to assure the orders are correct.

If there are any concerns, please contact me.

Yours in Service
Brian P.
Area 35 Literature Chair

Northern Light:

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the new season beginning with fun; baseball, yard work, fishing, outside projects and agenda items.

With the short time frame, it has been a challenge to put this issue of the Northern Light together. It's been a great team effort. There is a lot of information packed into this issue with a lot of excellent reporting on the upcoming Conference Agenda Items. Along with what people took away from the WCRAASC.

A few things that caught my interest at the WCRAASC were:

- The continuing ongoing concern about who picks the Conference Agenda, the Trustees and GSO or the Delegates. If it is truly our conference and not a horse and pony show, the fellowship side (Delegates) should have the most input in assigning the Agenda.
- Pamphlets, pamphlets, pamphlets again or “Catering to being different”. The one that struck me was the one from England about AA without GOD. On page 25 of the BB in the Chapter “There is a Solution”, it states pretty clearly. “The great fact is just this, and nothing less: That we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe. The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.” So if you need a program to fit you without a Higher Power in it. Go find a different treatment for Alcoholism or start your own and when it fails we will still be here with open arms.
- Great discussion at the Grapevine Breakout Session and I was surprised at how many past Delegates still get a vote at their respective Areas.

Something that's been on my mind is reports (surprise, surprise) in the Northern Light, redundant reports specifically with regards to Area Officers and Action Chairs their respective guidelines state something like this “Report committee activities and information in each issue of the Northern Light Newsletter, all Area Assemblies, and Committee Meetings.” That tells me it is a different report for the Northern Light, Area meeting or Assembly. There tends to be some who give the same report for the Northern Light, Area meeting or Assembly and not only does this redundancy take up real estate it makes for boring reading. I'm trying to come up with a solution. One option is if there are two reports the same just make an entry under that Committee stating same report as Minutes. Leave well enough alone because the readers do not mind the repeats. It's still trashing around my head.

Thanks for reading.

Yours in Service
Steven L.
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

Public Information:

Greetings Area 35,

I attended WCRAASC in Des Moines. It was great getting together with over 400 persons in service. Our Regional Trustee, Tom A. presented information and requests, by the numbers, for the General Service Office in New York and he stated GSO receives about 3,000 requests for Public Information per day. Our newly elected Delegates (and their Area's) from our region are the

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who's who to present on the General Service topics. Our Delegate Christine asked Kevin (District 3 DCM) and Brian (Area Literature) to present Participation in All of AA - Is my Triangle Balanced and they did our Area proud. All of the other presentations were great as well. The agenda items always brings emotional discussions in the West Central Region. I'm sure Area 35 will be just as vocal.

I look forward to having our first committee meeting, with CPC committee. The Public Information Committee has a lot of activities to do within the rotation, to get a firsthand knowledge of the work needed to be done, and when, I have joined my local district's PI committee, led by District 13's PI Chair, Peggy. One person should not try doing it all, having a committee helps gets more work done without over working the PI Chair. Working together with CPC we can get the hand of AA out in the public and to those who refer us.

Thank You for allowing me to serve Area 35.

Gayle R.
Area 35 Public Information Chair
pi@area35.org

Treatment:

I had the good fortune to attend the West Central Regional AA Conference in Des Moines Iowa on March 2 – 4, 2018.

What a wonderful experience this was. Not only did we discuss the Agenda items, on Saturday until 11:00pm, but there were some interesting presentations.

Some of the subjects covered were:

- Concepts
- What do past delegates do
- The Grapevine
- The Webmaster
- Technology and the AA Traditions

One of the areas that struck me, in particular, was the discussion about anonymity and technologies, like Google, Facebook and YouTube. My personal opinion is that I never discuss my AA relationship on line. It was suggested to the delegates both current and past, as well as the trustee that the end results (loss of anonymity) need to be more thoroughly investigated before implementation.

Additionally, there seemed to be an over-abundance of pamphlets proposed. Some of the thoughts covered the loss of identity (we are alcoholics first), confusion to the newcomer and insults to the particular group. For instance, there was a request for a brochure for the Spanish-speaking woman. The AA for the Woman is translated into Spanish already.

My personal opinion is that perhaps in our zeal to include everyone e.g. internet users, women, lgbt+, etc. we may be pushing everyone back into their “terminal uniqueness.”

On March 11, 2018, area 35 will hold its first area meeting. I am looking forward to meeting the district treatment chairs within our area. It is my hope that we will hear from each district about their various approaches to treatment centers. Hopefully we will have times to set area goals.

In Service,
Cathy R
Area 35 Treatment Chair

Webmaster:

I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. I am available to assist any district with reviewing the agenda items. I chaired the Webmaster Break Out session at the WCRAASC and am grateful to have had that experience. Melissa A. was our secretary. The topic was Webmaster: Geek Squad or Carrying the Message. The four questions or topics we came up with and a summary of the discussion follow:

- 1: **Sharing experience on what others have done to effectively get appropriate things on the website.** One person stated they only post meetings that are registered with GSO. Area 35 talked about how we rotate the Webmaster position every two years and use WordPress which helps to post things on the website faster and makes for a smoother transition between Webmasters. Area 35 also talked about cancelling an ACM for the first time in 20 years and how the Area Chair and Webmaster worked (with help from Bob B.) to put a notice on the website regarding the cancelation. Another issue brought up by Area 35 involved a new AA member wanting to have a flyer for an AA golf league placed on the area website. It was decided it was an advertisement and not appropriate for the website. The member was contacted and the AA golf league name was changed to Friends of Bill W. Golf League. How to determine which flyers are appropriate for a website were discussed: areas stated it

depends on the flyer, some areas don't post picnics or golf tournaments. One area's guideline is to ask if GSO would put it on the web; if the answer is no then they don't either. Another area only posts events within their area. Discussion about whether or not district minutes should be posted on an Intergroup website took place. Anonymity in print was discussed. We also discussed what areas are doing to provide information to people asking questions through their district or area website. AAMeetingLocator was brought up as a way questions get sent to both area 35 and 36. One Webmaster provides analytics regarding the number of visits and how many were new or returning users. Another area has a contact us page on their website where the incoming emails are forwarded to the appropriate person depending on the nature of the question and where they are located in the area. Another area is finding most of their question are related to group records.

- 2: **What are the procedures for posting AA approved literature as far as what can be posted and what is considered copy write materials?** One member stated that AA is pretty liberal as long as we give them credit for what they own. This member doesn't put anything on the area website that belongs on another website and will provide a link to the appropriate website. Another member talked about the fact that we can download a pamphlet from GSO for our own personal use. A PI chair stated webmaster is part of his job description. He state they have several AA pamphlets and videos on their site; no one from New York has contacted them requesting they take anything down. Someone suggested searching for guidelines as there is a specific content use policy which is found on AA.org-SMF29.
- 3: **What can be done to prevent contact names from being public but still be able to be available for people to contact us?** One district has its own website and uses generic email address which are connected to personal email addresses. District minutes are removed of personal information before they are posted on the website. Another person has a Google phone number on the area website. Several Areas/ Districts have AA phone hotline. A person expressed concern that with technology we might lose face to face contact and we need to also communicate by paper for those who are not technology savvy.
- 4: **How can AA protect its reputation on line?** When searching AA on line several sites come up that are not necessarily official AA sites. The only official site we have is AA.org. One person stated that if we associate our district or area website with AA and fail to follow AA principles we hurt AA as a whole. Someone brought up the issue that Webmaster is a subcommittee of Public Information and perhaps it should be a standing committee in our service structure. The Communications Services Coordinator at GSO informed us a new website will kick off on March 12th.

Thanks for allowing me to be of service.
Rillis E.
Area 35 Webmaster

CIRCLE OF CHAIRS

Recently I overheard a comment about the Area just changing people in positions, this got me thinking. Why do we accept several positions in service before stepping aside? Even within our group we take several positions, sometime the same position more than once, or even for multiple years. Why do we do this? Why don't we just sit back on the bench and let others do the work that needs to be done.

It is my belief we learn every job we do, not because we are well trained but because we are growing in our own sobriety. I have not ever seen anyone go from Greeter or Coffee Maker to Area Delegate, even in service it's like the steps. Greeter or coffee maker to group chair, perhaps sponsorship chair to GSR-A, to GSR or group Treasurer.

Each position we grow, we make a step. From our group level some of us go to the district, usually we are introduced when we become our groups GSR, sometimes our sponsors take us along on a district committee. Sometimes we will be a committee chair one rotation than a district secretary or treasurer the next rotation an Alt DCM or no ALT about that the next rotation. Then stepping down to the Area level of service doing multiple chairs to better understand being the Area Chair or Delegate.

I have heard throughout my sobriety that I have a greater chance of staying sober if I am in the middle of AA and being of maximum service. I have seen within my homegroup those with 30 plus years of sobriety taking a group service position with several years between positions. When I was DCM I had a guy with 25 years sober as a GSR and a guy with 30 years sober as CPC Chair, 8 years later that GSR is currently the groups treasurer and that CPC person just finished a rotation as the District PI Chair. Do we have term limits in AA? Do we need them?

(Continued on page 11)

**"No self-pity, no anger, no jealousy, no hate.
What had this program done to me?"**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, June 1978
"That's My Sponsor!," One on One

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.

BLAST FROM the PAST

In this edition from Blast From the Past is an article from the fourth issue of the Northern Light printed April of 1983. Called
REALITY: A SHOVEL OR HAMMER

When I became old enough to realize just what people meant by a person having responsibility in life, I was already to a point where I really did not care. To me reality was a thing I avoided from the start. I hid from it in my own world and in my books. In discovering alcohol at a very young age, reality became a shovel of fear. Fear ruled my life. Fear of being "different" from my friends, fear of failing or succeeding, fear of God's wrath. I had a great fear of people and of being "crazy."

Slowly, with my shovel of fear, I began to dig a hole. As I became older, and my mind more soaked with alcohol, reality demanded more of me. I felt as if the people around me, my family especially, wanted more than I could give. Not trying anything became a way out of my reality. Drinking and digging, digging deeper and deeper into my own world. I'd tell myself, "everything is all right. You'll grow out of this stage, sooner or later". I did. Everything got worse. Friends disappeared and problems came.

People tried to help me. My parents found me a psychologist. My school counselors found me drug and alcohol counselors, and the drug counselors got me to treatment. Finally, a break in my digging. I put down my shovel and tried to climb out of the hole I had dug. Again, people tried to help, but I wanted to do it alone. I didn't need anyone!

As you may have guessed, fear struck again and I picked up my shovel. I started to dig again, this time faster and faster. The break I had taken only made me want to catch up for lost time. There was a difference now, though, I knew where I would end up at. The people in Alcoholics Anonymous had told me. The thought that in some way I would be the exception, that things would turn out different than A.A. predicted, kept me going double-time.

Suddenly it happened; rock bottom. I had reached the end, just as A.A. had said I would. I couldn't dig anymore. At the very bottom of the hole I had dug myself into, I sat in utter despair. As the walls started to crumble, I gave up all hope. I wanted to be buried in my self-dug grave. I had nothing left.

Then came the light, and the hand of A.A. I grasped it with both hands and held on. It led me to a staircase of 12 steps. Steps that would lead me into a new Reality; one of hope, not of despair, one of self-respect, not self-condemnation.

In working the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, each day, to the best of my ability, and practicing the principles of A.A. in all my affairs, I now have a reality that is hope; a hammer. Now I can build a new life for myself with my Architect, my Higher Power, and with my assistants, the A.A. fellowship, to help me. I can build this new, wonderful, sober, real life.

ONE DAY AT A TIME.

Lisa V.
Hibbing, MN

Interesting sidebar:

Area ending balance as of Feb 13, 1983 was \$2,788.05



"I've been working on Harry to join the group. He makes the best coffee in town."

(Continued from page 10 Circle of Chairs)

I have heard that 10 percent of all AA members do 90 percent of all the service work. How can we get the other 90 percent of the members to become active in service work? A quick answer in the group is to show the newcomer that service work is worthwhile work, be willing to be of maximum service. For us the willingness to step aside when that newcomer is willing to serve. Such as become a GSR-A, when your group does not have a GSR, that way your group is still informed but the GSR position is still open for someone to step up. We can bring a sponsee to our district or area service functions. When these functions are close to our groups location, we can go just to be a member of AA.

A few years back I started a new job that prevented me from committing to a service position, I hated those three years. I was irritable, discontent and literally miserable. I love service work almost as much as I love being Sober, at the first available opportunity I rejoined the service community at my district as a Corrections Chair. By taking that commitment I found I enjoyed taking in a meeting to the county jails, which I do to this day. No matter how long I am in Alcoholics Anonymous I will continue to be of maximum service, whether it be in my group, my district or even my area, that way I ensure my own sobriety.

Gratitude in Service-
Gayle R.

Thursday 8:30pm Candlelight Group (St Cloud Alano Club)

WHAT IS IN YOUR SPIRITUAL TOOL KIT?

At the start of my early journey in recovery and throughout my years in A.A. Spirituality has been in my life even though I may not have been aware of my Higher Power's Spirit.

One of my earliest lessons was being around and watching our A.A. elders carrying A.A. message of hope. Each of these elders through the living grace of God, uniquely touched me and many of new members by their communication of identification. This gift got me through the doorway and into our fellowship. My lesson was and still is, our founding fathers lead us through their example rather than mandate.

Continuing to cultivate my spiritual program is part of my daily prayer and meditation life.

Fast forward to a month ago, I was asked to serve as DCM for District 3. Is God playing a prank? Over the many years I've been in A.A. I've served in many service level capacities. I felt like I had every reason to turn down this request. What hit me like a ton of bricks, was my view of the way I was thinking about A.A.'s belief of "Rotation".

Is rotation preventing me from serving as DCM. The answer is I need to continue to serve to grow spiritually.

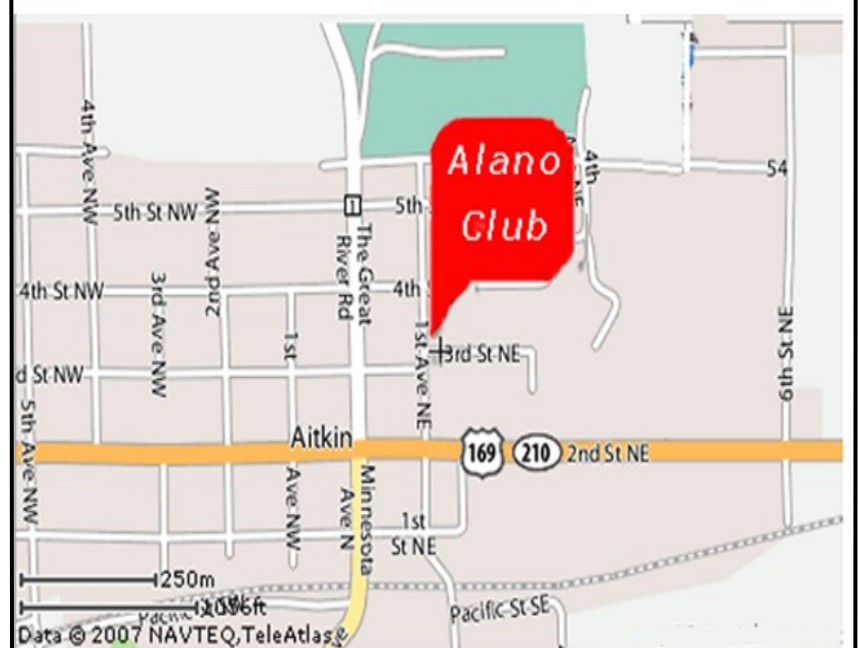
God Bless,

Kevin K.
Moorhead Thursday Night Group
Moorhead, MN.

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

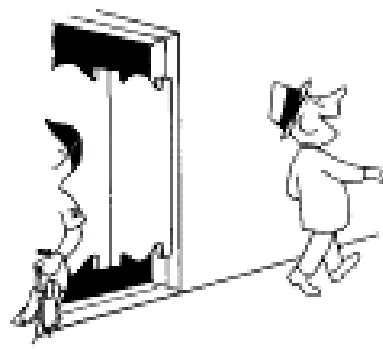
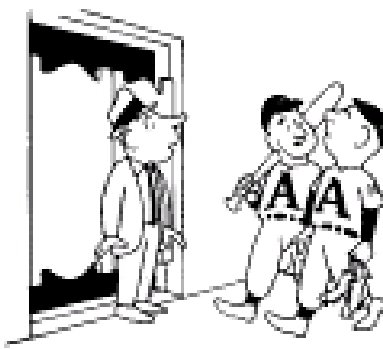
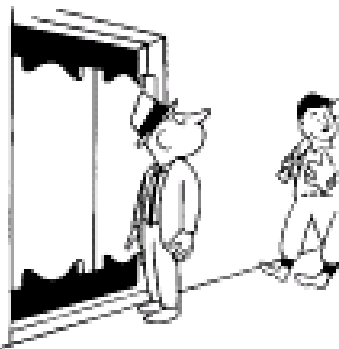
*See area35.org for printable flyers

Service Events

- April:** **7th– 8th : Area 35 Spring Assembly ***
Holiday Inn
5637 Hwy MN-29,
Alexandria, MN
- 14th : District 8 Workshop (Traditions)**
11am-3:30pm Speaker at 7pm
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1111 8th Street S
Virginia, MN
- June:** **3rd : Area 35 Committee Meeting ***
Alano Club 9:30 am –2 pm
322 1st Ave. NE
Aitkin, MN
- 9th: Delegates Report**
1pm
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Ave.
Hibbing, MN

Fellowship Events

- April:** **21st– 22nd: 73rd Superior Roundup**
Superior Fairgrounds Curling Club
4700 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI
- May:** **4th– 6th: 48th Iron Range Get-Together**
Hibbing Park Hotel
1402 East Howard Street
Hibbing, MN
- 19th: Gilbert Open Meeting**
6pm Food 7pm Speakers Ester K. & Pat G.
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
515 Summit Street
Gilbert, MN
- 19th: St. Cloud Round-Up**
Moose Lodge
1300 3rd Street N
Waite Park, 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

Christine G.
Area 35 Panel 68 Delegate
delegate@area35.org
763-670-8303



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) 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.

1st Weekend in March March 2-4, 2018

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

1st Weekend in April April 7-8, 2018

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

3rd 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

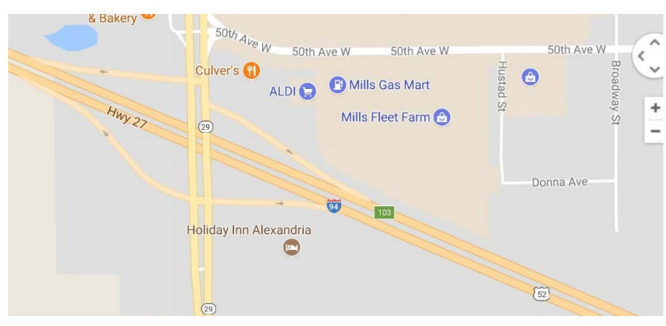
Area 35 Spring Assembly
April 7-8, 2018

Holiday Inn
5637 Highway 29 South
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-6577

Room Rates: King, non-smoking: \$109.99. Two Queens, non-smoking: \$99.99. Poolside, non-smoking: \$199.99. Deadline to register for group rate is March 7, 2018.

Saturday, April 7
9:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, April 8
9:00 AM Assembly Reconvenes



All DCMs, GSRs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Past Delegates are encouraged to attend as well as all others interested in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The only requirement is a willingness to serve. The 2018 General Service Conference Agenda Items will be discussed so GSRs please bring your group's conscience to this Assembly.

48th Annual

Iron Range Get-Together
May 4th, 5th, 6th, 2018
Living Past the Past

New Location: Hibbing Park Hotel
1402 East Howard Street • Hibbing, MN 55746
218-262-3481 • 800-262-3481

"Tropical Shirt Night" JOIN IN.
Friday, May 4

6:30 pm ... Registration Opens
8:00 pm ... AA Speaker, Mark L., Jefferson, SD

Saturday, May 6

10:00 am Out State Panel
1:00 pm ... AFG Speaker, Joanne H., Blaine, MN
3:00 pm ... Call Up Meeting
7:00 pm ... AFG Speaker, Chuck L., Superior, WI
8:00 pm ... AA Speaker, Sandy L., Superior, WI
??? till 11:00 pm ... 7th Tradition Ice Cream Social, Poolside

Sunday, May 7

8:00 am (Open) BB meeting
10:00 am AA Speaker, Reid H., Sioux Falls, SD

IRGT Pre-Registration Form

AA \$16.00	AFG \$16.00
Alateen \$6.00	Other \$16.00
Name _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Group Name _____	

IRGT Pre-Registration Form

AA \$16.00	AFG \$16.00
Alateen \$6.00	Other \$16.00
Name _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Group Name _____	

ST. CLOUD ROUNDUP'S



Celebration
Of Recovery

Saturday
May 19, 2018
Moose Lodge
1300 3rd Street N Waite Park, Mn



7:00 pm Speakers
Kayla S Alateen
Albany, Mn
Shanna G Al-Anon
Urbandale, Iowa
15 Minute Break

8:30 pm Speaker
Scott G AA
Urbandale, Iowa

Pre-Registration and On-Line Tickets Must Be Purchased By May 7, 2018	
Speaker Tickets	
Pre-Registration and On-Line	\$12.00
At The Door	\$15.00

Information: 320-761-4137
Make Checks Payable To SCR
Pre-Registration Must Be Purchased By May 7, 2018
stcloudroundup@gmail.com
Mail To: St Cloud Roundup
PO Box 125
St Cloud, Mn 56302

Pre- Registration Form

Copy as needed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

On Line Pre-Registration
Now Available with PayPal
www.stcloudroundup.org

39th Annual

Keep It Simple Weekend

Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth, Minnesota)
Theme: More About Alcoholism
August 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2018
WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

** NOTE: due to CAMP POLICY, there is NO ADMITTANCE into the camp prior to 5:30 PM Friday**

FRIDAY	5:30 PM	REGISTRATION
	6:30 PM	SUPPER
	7:30 PM	Al-Anon Speaker – Paula O. (Hibbing, MN) AA speaker – Mike F. (Grand Rapids, MN)
SATURDAY	8:00 AM	Campfire Call-up Meeting to follow the speakers
	8:00 AM	BREAKFAST
	10:00 AM	AA Open Big Book Meeting Al-Anon Open Meeting
	NOON	LUNCH
	1:00 PM	Recreation Time**
	5:00 PM	SUPPER (Bar-B-Q Beef, and Porketta)
SUNDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon Speaker – Mark S. (Duluth, MN) AA Speaker – Liz K. (Duluth, MN)
	8:30 AM	Ice Cream Social to follow the speakers
	10:00 AM	BREAKFAST AA Speaker- Melissa A (Melrose, MN) Planning meeting for 2019 after speaker

SATURDAY
Bean Bag
Tournament
Prizes
Awarded!!!

Adults Tent/Camper Pkg: 2 nights – 5 meals \$55.00 Adult Bunkhouse Pkg: 2 nights – 5 meals \$75.00 (Pkgs. Include all meals, registration and lodging)	Children Tent/Camper Package 2 nights & 5 meals 10 & under \$20.00 11-17 \$40.00 (includes all meals, reg. and lodging.)
General Admission (all events, not including meals. \$18.00 per weekend or \$6.00 per day.	Meals: \$5.00 each (payable before eating) Saturday Supper: \$7.00 per person.
Camping - \$6.00 per person per night (no hookups available) Bunkhouses - \$20.00 Per person per night. (Does not include general admission.)	All accommodations on a first come/first served basis. There is room for all Pre-Registration is not necessary

Bring your own LAWN CHAIRS, BEDDING, FLASHLIGHTS, ETC.

** Activities include volleyball, basketball, canoeing, bocce ball, kayaking, fishing, hiking, campfire and lots of fellowship

For more info, call Heather A. 218-410-4540 or Scott M. 218-410-0807
Sorry, NO PETS ALLOWED.

Area 35 Committee Meeting Minutes
Aitkin, MN
March 11, 2018

Call to Order: Roger R.. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance: Tom A., Panel 50, Susie A. Panel 48, Kelly D. Panel 66, Ted S. Panel 42, Mike J. Panel 64.

Additions to the Agenda: Steve D. Area 35 Archivist would like to add discussion about Archive equipment, computer and scanner.

Approval of the December Area Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve minutes. Minutes were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE-Christine G. (Report read by Jim S.)

Greetings Area 35.

First, I would like to thank Kelly for all her help over the past couple months. She has been very helpful in the transition.

If you have not been receiving emails from me and would like to get added to the distribution list, please send me a request via email. There is a lot of information that I pass along, and I would appreciate it if you shared this with your GSRs and groups.

My report about the January Service Workshop is in the Northern Light. I did forget to mention that I had the wonderful opportunity to have a couple meals with the past Trustee-at-Large, Bill C.. It was a wonderful experience to be able to hear his experience with the General Service Office and at the conference. I encourage each one of you to take an opportunity to spend some time and ask questions when we have the chance.

I have been busy filling out paperwork for the GSC, making travel arrangements, making copies and reading background information. The committee that I will be a part of at the GSC is Policy and Admissions. With the help of Kelly, we have created a Hot Topics list for you to share. This is a list of items that, we feel, may generate a lot of conversation and topics that groups may want to focus on. There may be topics that are not on the list that you find important and that will happen. Rests assure that we will allow discussion on each item at the Spring Assembly, so we can get an informed group conscience.

I will be attending the WCRAASC next weekend and will be getting there Thursday afternoon. There is a Delegate's meeting in the evening that Jim and I will attend. I will need to leave early Sunday morning for a vacation that was scheduled last year. At the WCRAASC, Area35 was asked to present on the topic "Participation in All of AA: Is My Triangle Balanced" which will be at 9am on Saturday. I have asked District 3 to present on this topic. Thank you, Kevin, for your willingness to participate. Also, Rillis will be chairing a breakout session for Webmaster called Geek Squad or Carrying the Message. Thank you Rillis.

I sent out an email regarding the Litigation. Here is some information from the email that GM Greg T. sent out - **The parties have reached an agreement and believe this to be in their best interests. The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous has approved a settlement and mutual release agreement in order to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of continuing litigation. As the result of the agreement, A.A.W.S. waives any claims to ownership of the Manuscript and will pay \$135,000 to reimburse a portion of the holder's out-of-pocket costs, expenses and legal fees associated with the action.** I am anticipating some more discussion about this at the WCRAASC as there is an agenda Item under Trustee Item F – Review proposal to reorganize the General Service Board.

We received our Area annual contribution report from GSO and all DCMs should have received their letter along with the breakdown of your groups contributing. In 2016 45.58% of the active groups contributed to GSO versus 45.06% in 2017. We did have decline in contributions this last year and it could be because there are less groups that are active in our area versus what is registered. It is important that the DCMs make sure that all the groups listed in your district are active and communicate any non-existing groups to our Group Records or directly to GSO. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. Preliminary reports regarding 2017 finances with GSO are looking very promising and we are excited to see what the final report looks like.

There is an opening for non-Trustee Appointed Committee Member (A.C.M.). GSO is requesting resumes for Trustees' Committee on Coopera-

tion with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (1-year term or longer depending on length of project). I have information on this if anyone is interested.

We had our phone call with our WCR Trustee and fellow WCR Delegates on Friday night and I was not able to attend the call. I would like to thank Jim for stepping in and participating in the call.

I know there is a lot of information that I have shared and there may be some that I have missed. It is taking a little time to get the hang of the Delegate responsibilities and making sure that all this information is communicated to the fellowship in a timely fashion. If I have missed anything, it is not intentional.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience with the background materials. As with any new position, we have learning curves to work through. If you are experiencing this in your situation, one of the suggestions I would like to make is make a procedure on it. Document the process so that it is available next time and for anyone that may have to perform that duty. I am here to help you get started.

One final thing, DCM's if you have not set up your time for the GSC Delegate's report back, please see me so we can get you on the calendar. My goal is to have all these reports done by September and I need your help to make this happen.

Thank you for allowing me to serve while God qualifies me.

In Love and Service,
Christine
Area 35 Panel 68 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Jim S. Good Morning Everyone,

Friday night I sat in on the delegates meeting with the Trustee for the West Central Region Tom A. First off I would like to say I am grateful for the opportunity but I was quite confused so please bear with me. The biggest discussion point we talked about was the litigation of the manuscript. As I understand at this point the mediation is over. An agreement was not reached between the gentleman and AAWS for the rights to the manuscript. AAWS agreed to pay of portion of his legal fee and both parties are now walking away. The agreement was made with prejudice, which means neither party will bring it up again. AAWS did end up with a copy of the manuscript but not the original manuscript. There is an agreement of confidentiality between the parties that no public statement will be made but AAWS does have the ability to discuss the matter with the fellowship. Communications from AAWS will be coming out but I do not know when or what the contents will be. For more complete information you can ask Tom A to expand on this. You can simply ask Roger our Chair to add this in during new business.

According to Rick Delegate for Iowa, the Service conference looks to be well attended. This year's chairperson is going to meet with Christine, myself and the Delegate and likely Alt Delegate from the Area where the 2020 Service Conference is going to happen. This will be a great opportunity for Christine and I to get moving on preparing for this event.

We discussed the idea of delegates being more involved in the selection process of agenda items coming from a motion made last year to include delegates in the process. There will be more information coming out and I'm sure that Christine will get that out to us as soon as she gets it. I have contacted the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes about holding the Annual Workshop there next Jan 11th and 12th as they are not available the following weekend which is the one I wanted. The prices are fantastic, the hold up I have and would like committee input on is that they will not book a block of rooms off for us more then ten at a time. Meaning, we would get ten rooms blocked off; once those are taken another ten would be blocked off. My concern is that if this weekend turns out to be a hockey tournament weekend and the fellowship doesn't book rooms far enough in advance we may run out of rooms and people would have to find different hotels. This isn't the end of the world, but pretty close to it. My other choices are the Holiday Inn in Alex, which we are going there in April for the Spring Assembly, the Big Woods Convention Center in Fergus Falls and the Marriot in Moorhead. I have not gotten proposals from those three yet. I will bring that information to the Spring Assembly in April.

Lastly, I will be in attendance at the Service Conference this coming weekend. I will do my best to gather as much information as possible to bring to the Spring Assembly. If a district would like me to attend to provide any help in going through the agenda items please feel free to contact me and I will make every effort to accommodate you.

In Service
Jim S. Alt Delegate

AREA CHAIR–Roger R. Greetings Area 35 of Northern MN,

Thank you again for the opportunity you have given me to be of service to
(Continued on page 15)

Responsibility Statement

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

(Continued from page 14)

Alcoholics Anonymous as your Area Chair for 2018-2019. My top priority is to assist you as members, GSR’s, DCM’s, Area Chairs and Officers in carrying our AA message to those who are out there and still suffering from alcoholism.

The Area 35 budget for 2018 is published in the current edition of the Northern Light and will be presented at our Spring Assembly. Your group contributions are very important and needed by Area 35 as we work to carry our message in 2018 and beyond.

Up next for Area 35 is working together to prepare and inform Christine G., our Area 35 Delegate to represent us at the upcoming General Service Conference in April 2018. Background information on the items on the agenda for this conference are available on the Area 35.org website and through your District Committee Member (DCM).

These Conference Agenda Items were discussed on a regional level, with AA members from the eight states at the West Central AA Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa, from March 2nd-4th. I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to this conference. I learned a lot from the discussions on key agenda items and went to the microphones several times to represent our Area. Several members mentioned a concern that the Area Delegates do not have any real input on vetting the agenda items that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference in NY in April. The agenda for this conference constitutes “what is important” for AA’s future. At the conference, the body of Delegates, GSO staff and AAWS Trustees decides what do (review, discuss or consider) about the agenda items or what our Trustees have determined to be important for AA. This suggests to me that we as a fellowship do not have critical input into” what is important for our future”.

I enjoyed Area Presentations at the WCRAASC on topics similar to the ones that Districts in Area 35 presented at our January Service Workshop. IN fact Area 35 did a fine job on one of these presentations at the conference on “Unity, Recovery and Service: Is My Triangle Balanced”.

I also enjoyed the opportunities for 7:15am breakfast meetings with officers from Area 35 and Area Chairs in our region.

I would like to encourage the Area 35 Officers and Chairs who were able to attend the WCRAASC to make themselves available to meet with Districts and Groups to share their knowledge of the Agenda Items. I’d also like to encourage Districts and groups to invite these individuals to their meetings in which agenda items are discussed.

We will also be discussing Agenda Items of the 2018 General Service Conference, at Area 35’s Spring Assembly on April 7th-8th in Alexandria MN (see Area 35.org). Your groups and District’s informed group conscience on these Agenda Items goes a long way in preparing our Delegate for the national conference. I am confident that Christine will do a great job in carrying the group conscience of Area 35 to the General Service Conference.

The 2018 rotation is off to a good start. Let’s work together to most effectively and efficiently carry our message to those who are still suffering and in desperate need of our AA solution. As we move into this rotation I am going to be talking with Area Chairs and Officers on what our goals are for this rotation.

In service,

Roger R.
Area 35 Chair

SECRATARY-Melissa A. Greetings Area 35,

This year has started off as a busy one, trying to learn all of my roles and responsibilities as your incoming secretary. I have a pretty detailed report that will be in the Northern Light discussing what information I have gathered from the West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference. If anyone is interested in receiving my minutes/notes from the conference please get in touch with me via email or today and I will get that information to you. If you are in need of someone to help your district go over the agenda items please let me know and I will do my best to be available. I look forward to the Spring Assembly. There are still some flyers left over that are on placed on the back table if you are in need of more. Reports will be due Monday by 5pm in order for me to get the reports done and sent to Steve for the Northern Light by Tuesday.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Melissa A.
Area 35 Secretary

TREASURER-Mike F. Greetings Area 35,

Hello, my name is Mike F., and I am serving as your Area 35 Treasurer. This is my first report as your treasurer, and it is a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

I attended my first West Central Region AA Service Conference in Des Moines the first weekend in March. More than 400 members were in attendance. Four presentations and eight breakout sessions were held on various topics having to do with the Traditions, the Concepts, and how to best carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic.

During the rest of the conference we discussed the agenda items for the General Service Conference. We were able to complete list of 78 items by 11pm

Saturday evening. It was a long day, but everyone in A.A. has a voice and those voices were heard.

Our officers met for breakfast with the officers from Area 36. We set a tentative date of Saturday, November 17, 2018 for our next Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, to be held in St. Cloud. We also discussed the content and purpose of the workshop, AA Meeting Locator, and the State Fair booth.

Since I began this rotation, I have managed to accomplish the following tasks:

- Filed the Area’s annual IRS form 990-N for tax year 2017
- Successfully reconciled 3 months bank statements
- Made deposits of all contributions received as of March 9th
- Completed financial reports and bank reconciliation statements for review by the Financial Oversight Committee
- Completed balance sheets and income/expense/contribution statements for Period 7 of 2017, Period 1 of 2018, and to-date Period 2 of 2018
- Compiled preliminary budgets for calendar year 2018

On the back table you will find copies for you of 1) the balance sheets and income/expense/contribution statements for Period 7, which contain 2017 year-end totals, and 2) the same statements for Period 1 (January 1st through February 15th) of the current year. I encourage you to look through the contribution section, find your group’s contribution line, and let me know if you have any concerns about the amounts listed.

To summarize last year, we ended with a cash balance (savings and checking accounts) of \$24,991 and a net loss of \$4,413. So far this year (as of March 9th) we have a cash balance of \$22,708 and a net loss of \$2,283. I’d like to point out that our year-to-date expenses include a \$1,000 deposit for the venue for the Fall Assembly, and an \$1,800 contribution to the General Service Board for the GSO Conference. Not including these future event outlays, we would have a year-to-date net income of \$517.

We are solvent and are maintaining a prudent reserve. As always, we need to be self-supporting and not rest on our laurels. It is truly amazing to go to the post office box and collect so many contribution checks. Keep up the good work.

I have deposited all contributions and paid all expenses received as of March 9th. Group contributions year-to-date are \$7,300. For all of 2017, group contributions totaled \$24,961. If we continue at our current pace, our contributions for 2018 will exceed \$35,000. That would be an outstanding level of self-support!

This past week I was made aware that our QuickBooks 2015 software version will no longer be supported by the developer, Intuit, as of May 31st, 2018. We will need to address this issue by either purchasing a new desktop version or by moving to their online version. I will conduct some research and come up with a recommendation in time for the Spring Assembly.

Written acknowledgment letters to the groups for contributions are still forthcoming. I apologize for the delay. You will receive them prior to the Area Assembly. Your group’s total contribution for 2017 will be included in the letter, and if you note any discrepancies, please bring them to my attention. Please note that the new address for mailing contributions is:

**NMAA
PO Box 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-0114**

Please remember to include your group number on all contributions. This will ensure that your contributions get credited to your group.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Service,
Mike F.
Area 35 Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC - Myron H. Good morning, My name is Myron H. and I am an alcoholic.

As CPC Chair, I along with PI chair Gayle R conducted our joint committee meeting this morning. Districts 2,13,7,4 were represented. We discussed what the purpose and goals for our group would be this rotation. While we want to educate and inform the professional community about AA, we also realize we need to become educated and help other AAs involved in our work, understand CPC and PI. One of our first goals is to bring a few more people to our committee. Any district that would like a CPC presentation, please contact me.

Yours in service,
Myron H, CPC chair

District 9- Antonette F. (Report read by Mike J.)
Greetings from Northern MINNESOTA.

We in District 9 are off to a grand start! We thought our positions were filled.... We are currently in need of a PI/CPC chair and Literature/ Grapevine Chair. We will be having a district inventory and we continue to

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present a concept each month. We are currently the agenda items before our next district meeting sending our thoughts for the delegate. We are currently scheduled to have our delegates report on June 9th, 1pm at the Hibbing Alano Club. Those districts that are interested in teaming up for this, please contact me. You know who you are. It certainly takes a village to get things done. As alternate DCM, who takes over for the alternate when they can't do the job? Thanks to Phyllis, our district secretary for taking care of things for our district and thanks to Jake for giving this report. WE meet the 4th Sunday @ 6pm at the Hibbing Alano Club.

Thanks for allowing me to serve

Antonette
Alternate DCM 9

District 13- Justin W. My name is Justin and I'm an alcoholic, District 13 DCM.

I attended the WCRAASC and it was amazing. The overall message I heard was "we are not as responsible as we should be". This message is only discouraging if we are unwilling to or apathetic.

District 13 has been busy here in the beginning of the year and we have our work cut out for us. Our last rotation was a rocky one due to a lack of participation, leadership, and unity. It almost feels like we're forming a new district in that we don't have much experience being passed along from the previous rotation, but instead are having to re-build with regards to our responsibilities, and how best to fulfill them. We'll need the experience the Area has to share this rotation. We have asked the area PI and CPC chairs to help us host workshops in our district and will make the same request of the Treatment and Corrections Chairs as well. Also, we have asked the Area Literature Chair to bring GSR and Committee Workbooks sand he has complied on very short notice, Thanks Brian.

All of our officer and committee chair positions are filled, and we have four or five GSR's sitting on each the action committees who are actively participating.

I had expressed some concern to the Area previously about keeping order in our business meetings and it was suggested to me that I might bring a gavel. Being a typical alcoholic, I thought I could do a little better than this and am happy to report that our meetings have been much more pleasant with the handgun sitting on the table in front of me. In all seriousness, these first two meetings have been a pleasure.

At our last meeting we had 14 GSR's present, which represents 32% of the 43 groups in the district. I have plans to visit each of the groups, starting with those who are not currently represented at the district, but have yet to actually make a visit. In representing the District at the groups, I feel it's necessary to foster enthusiasm, and encourage them to become involved in the service structure. And I will not be harping on their failure to be responsible to AA, but would rather show them what they're missing by not being involved. Our literature talks about portraying what the service dollar really brings in terms of steering alcoholics to AA, and in terms of our overall unity and effectiveness. As such, I'd like to accurately communicate the district's activities to each of those groups, and need first to get a handle on what our service commitments are, which of them are being fulfilled, and what service opportunities are available that can be offered to the groups. This way we can emphasize the carrying of our message to alcoholics in our community as the basis for their involvement at the district, rather than just asking them for money and then expecting they will be excited about it.

I met with the Bradley, our Corrections Chair and I'm happy to report that this guy is of fire in Alcoholics Anonymous. He mentioned starting a pen pal program, and I hope that he can get some feedback from the area on this. It sounds like we will be joining forces with District 15 as well, as they don't have any jails in their district, and we are happy to work with them on this front. We have three correctional institutions in District 13 at which we are currently facilitating 30 meetings per month. 26 of them are filled, leaving 4 open. This represent 86% of our commitment to bring the AA message into these facilities...great job Bradley!

I also met with Peggy, our PI chair. We reviewed the PI activity during the last rotation, and while much was done in earnest, there are some activities we were involved in that we don't think are appropriate. Peggy and I reviewed the PI handbook, and developed a rough draft of the tasks that PI will be responsible for this rotation. I suspect the PI committee has done a considerable amount of work on this since our meeting. The PI committee is reviewing the feasibility of the AA Hotline and whether or not we can continue to justify in excess of \$1,000 per year for it. I know they are looking to obtain phone records to see how many calls are actually being fielded, but as of yet, we were only able to see outgoing long-distance calls, nothing incoming.

We are about to move our bookkeeping into QuickBooks online, and thanks to Bob B., we will be cutting the cost of this from \$600 per year to \$50 per year by utilizing Techsoup, which helps non-profit organizations receive discounts on technology based on 501(c)(3) Status. We have asked the Area to approve the use of their status for District 13 in the Techsoup registration. These guys are set up to allow each district within Area 35 to register as a "chapter" or "sub-group" under the Area, which is great news because we can all benefit from it. We hope to get the Area's approval today, so that Tiffany, our new Treasurer can get to work. She is eager to get going and I know she will do a good job. The outgoing Treasurer before the end of the last rotation should have handled it, but I've been told he wasn't the most responsible person and hasn't found his balance yet. For those that don't

know, I am the outgoing Treasurer!

I will be meeting with Treatment and CPC this month for organizational purposes, and hope to develop the scope and responsibilities of these committees further in the coming month.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

WEBMASTER - Rillis E. Hello, it's great to see everyone.

As outgoing secretary, I completed the minutes from the December ACM and they are published in the Northern Light which is also available to read on the Area 35 website. I also updated the Area Actions Booklet and it is available on the back table. A total of 200 copies where printed as a price of \$643.75 which about \$50.00 is less than the \$700.00 budget. In order to keep the printing within the budget, a spiral binder was used rather than staples as in the past. I'm hoping this change will be more user friendly too. Please review the booklet and if errors are found please let me or Melissa know so they can be corrected in the next edition.

As your webmaster I am grateful for the help I have received from Rodney S. and Bob B. I'm learning a lot about maintaining our website and have a lot yet to learn. I have changed with the email forwarders so if you are an officers, committee chair or DCM and have not been receiving email from area 35 please let me know so I can make the necessary changes. I have placed several flyers and events on the website. Remember fliers need to include who is sponsoring the event, what type of event or meeting, where it will be held including a physical address, and the time it will occur. I backed up the website and install a WordPress update. The subscription LinkSky, the WordPress hosting service, was renewed for another year. The GSC Background information, complete list of Agenda Items as well as the Hot Topic List are on the website thanks to the expertise of Bob B. To access the background material, go the main page and on the left hand side of the site choose General Service Conference and a login page will pop up.

I attended the WCRAASC in De Moines, IA and am willing to attend any district meeting to help with reviewing the agenda items. I chaired the Webmaster break out session at the conference and Melisa A. was the secretary. My full report will be appear in the Northern Light. I am grateful to been given that opportunity to serve.

At this morning's meeting, it was suggested to add the Financial Oversight Committee and the Sound Engineer to the list of Area 35 officers and Committee Chairs on the website. I will get this up on the website as soon as possible. I will need to assign area email addresses to each and they will need to write position guidelines.

Thank you for letting me be of service.
Rillis E.

LITERATURE - Brian P. (Typed up from the ACM recording)
Good Morning everybody, I am Brain P., Area 35 Literature Chair

We had in attendance this morning District 13, District 16, District 11 and District 7. We are going to start submitting ideas for the year of what we want to get going on and, some projects that we want to get going on through the first start of this rotation. I am new to this literature thing, I am trying to figure it out, through GSO and get things ordered. I found out it takes about two weeks to get most of the stuff so that is when I will be putting orders in, is two weeks before an event, two weeks before the ACM and two weeks before the spring and fall assembly. If you need anything just make sure you get ahold of me two weeks prior to any upcoming event. Tom shared with me; this is something that nobody has seen yet. It is a new piece of literature that we can have; "anonymity is so fragile you can break it with one finger." I went to the West Central Regional also; there were some good presentations. There was a presentation on anonymity and technology and just because of being on Facebook or Instagram we all have friends that are in the program. Just because we might feel a certain way about it, doesn't mean that the other person feels that way, so its always best to be as discrete as possible about what your doing, what you are sharing and what you are putting out there., on somebody else's page. That's always the best-case scenario, instead of questioning what's going on with that, but needless to say that item is going to be available as a PDF online that you can download and you can also get it as a table top item. That's all I got.

Thank you very much.
Brian P.
Area 35 Literature Chair

District 15- Matthew B. Not Present

District 3- Kevin K. After a challenging winter, our District is ready for some old fashion service work. All of our committee positions are filled (awesome). We have a strong core group that attend our District meeting which is held the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Detroit Lakes Alano Club. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.

Service projects underway. Monthly update of Meeting List, monthly review of AA Hot Line, outreach through our Institutions Chair, by contacting community, county and regional law enforcement, in addition healthcare facilities dealing with alcoholism. Monthly we host Round Robin Meetings. A group from the district signs up to have a potluck meal, speakers AA and Alanon.

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Our next Round Robin will be held March 24th, at the Alano Club in Detroit Lakes. The event starts at noon with a soup and sandwich luncheon followed by a Sponsor Workshop present by Gail and Larry N. from Moorhead. Our treasuries have reached our prudent reserve. Seven groups reported (some of the groups are responsible for more than 1 meeting in their facility).

Yours truly in service,
Kevin K.
DCM District 3

NORTHERN LIGHT - Steve L. Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen . I’m Steve L. your NL editor and an alcoholic.

The Northern Light is on a tight deadline for this issue to be out on time for the Spring Assembly because of the rescheduling of the Area meeting. There is only one week to put the NL together. Melissa only gets a day to put the minutes together from this meeting, I only get a few days to put the Newspaper together then JoAnne has a few days to proof this for me to make any changes found. All this to get the NL to the printer in time to get the it printed and sent to the fellowship before the Assembly (I hope). I want to thank everyone for helping; it’s a great team effort.

I received reports ranging from a paragraph to 7 pages long. I should of paid more attention in English instead of having an arrogant attitude of I don’t need this because I’ll have a Secretary do it. God has a sense of humor.

I’m looking for old NL’s any of you pack rats please look and see if you have any in your stash.

I attended the WCRAASC I’m available to help go through agenda items with your district if wanted. Interesting story about how we lost the Circle and Tringle back in the mid Eight’s was told.

Now with the new rotation here all Area Offices and Chairs are suggested in their respective job guidelines to supply a report in the NL. Most guidelines state “Report committee activities and information in each issue of the Northern Light Newsletter, all Area Assemblies, and Committee Meetings.” That tells me it is a different report in the NL then at the Area meeting or Assembly. Now I usually give a few email reminders about the NL deadline. Do you want them to continue or is only one reminder a week ahead of the deadline enough?

There is an interesting AA article in the Washington Post on the sale of the manuscript.

Any bitches or improvements for the Northern Light let me know.

Yours in Service
Steven L.

GROUP RECORDS - (Sally L. has taken over position)

Greetings, Area 35.

My name is Sally and I am an alcoholic. I have been asked to assume the position of Group Records chair. The previous chair Carl had to step aside. I will do my best to keep the records up to date accurately and in a timely manner. I just received the hardware for this position and am awaiting authorization to log on to the records database. As soon as that happens, I will work diligently to learn the software and get busy. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the groups in Area 35, and I am honored that I was considered for this position.

Sally L.
grouprecords@area35.org

District 4- Greg C. All meetings are reporting stable or growing attendance. All are financial stable. 26 total meetings in the District. Total of 24 GSR’s registered. District meetings have been going well with usually 12-20 attendees. Most essential officers in place and our meeting schedules at Treatment centers and Jail are going along pretty good. Always looking for more volunteers! Looking forward to the AREA 35 Spring Assembly in Alexandria in April.

Yours in service,
Greg G.
DCM 4

District 8- Heidi B. Greetings from District 8, I attended the Area Workshop in January and really enjoyed the presentations, including the Saturday night speaker, Bob W. former AAWS Trustee-at-Large. I also attended the West Central Region AA Service Conference last weekend in Des Moines with our new Area Group Records Chair, Sally L.. We will be sharing the information we received with our District at an upcoming agenda items meeting. We have two committee chairs here today; Nels with Treatment and Butch with Corrections. I attended the Webmaster/Northern Light/ Group Records breakout session this morning.

We’ve had three District meetings this rotation. We had all positions filled, until just last week when we lost our Archives Chair due to time constraints and our PI/CPC Chair, Sally, who has taken on the recently vacated Area Group Records position. We do have alternates for each committee so we should be able to carry on as needed until we can fill the positions. We have an agenda items meeting for our GSR’s scheduled for Saturday, March 17th in Virginia and a District 8 Workshop on the Traditions planned for Satur-

day, April 14th. We have the 30th Annual Winter Rap-Up Roundup on Friday and Saturday, March 23rd - 24th, at the Mt. Iron Community Center in Mt. Iron with AA and Al-Anon speakers. Please join us for a fun weekend of speakers and fellowship.

In Service,
Heidi B.
District 8 DCM

District 18- BR Borders. Not present

TREATMENT - Cathy R. 1st meeting of the new rotation treatment. We discussed what each district is doing they are: District 16 has three AA meetings and treatment centers, plus two speakers in facilities, District 12 has 3 meetings in treatment centers, District 8 had two meetings in treatment centers, District 5 does not have any meetings and has requested a list of all treatment centers within his district. There was a discussion regarding some treatment facilities not allowing AA speakers or meetings because of concern with our members not being counselors. The area chair will check with the state and see what is going on. Bridging the Gap was discussed and passed our forms and will order more brochures. AA guidelines for the deaf, will order the AA guidelines. Veterans meetings, we need to gather more info and find out about “Veterans Court”, we had a small group but lively discussion.

Yours in service,
Cathy R.
Area 35 Treatment

"Nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous. It just grew -- by the grace of God."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1953,
The Language of the Heart

District 16- Glenn M. Hi, I’m Glenn M. Alcoholic and this is my first Area 35 meeting as DCM for District 16. We just filled our last open office of Secretary when this rotations volunteer stepped down. But due to the nature of this program we had a very able temporary volunteer, Mary R. to handle this duty until Yvonne W. stepped forward. Our district is financially sound with most of our groups able and willing to contribute to the District, Area and GSO levels. Literature/Grapevine Chair Mark A. ordered about \$300 worth from Inter Group and is picking them up today.

At present, over half of our groups have GSR’s and half of those are attending district meetings. Our last district meetings have had great participation (we actually ran out of the printed agenda) with various Chairs ideas like PI/CPC Chair Vic G’s luncheon for professionals and Correction Chair James S. looking at pink can being presented or reporting on their implementation and progress. Currently we have three weekly AA meetings at local treatment centers and volunteers speak monthly at two. Our Treatment Chair Bruce M. is working hard to get more, to get new speakers involved and on Bridge The Gap. Corrections hold a weekly meeting at Grand Rapids jail.

The January Cohassett potluck Open Speaker event was its usual good turnout with great local speakers. Its billing as “the coldest day of the year” might have been correct this year. Tuesday Night Candlelight meetings February annual “Speakers and Ice Cream Social” still happened even in a snowstorm! Both were good! Last night, Lawrence Lake. had spring annual open Potluck speaker meeting. I felt excitement of the group at the district meeting (even with the cold weather) and look forward to serving alongside them this rotation to keep recovery viable and strong in our area.

District 5- Skip D. Good day,

District 5 is alive, but not so well! We have two positions at the district filled, DCM. (District Committee Member) and the Treasurer, We have five GSR’s attending, and two of them represent two different groups.

I am out visiting groups in our District; I have tackled four as of today. I have talked to District 6 and 11 to tag team with the Delegates report back on the GSC (General Service Conference), still working on the availability of the church in Princeton on the dates we have chosen. Should know the week of 03/12/2018. I was able to purchase pamphlets to hand out when I visit the groups in District 5, thank you Brian (Area 35 Literature Chair). I would like to say thank you to District 5 for the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC (West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference), was able to gather a lot of information to share with the district and groups in district 5. Also thank you Pat (District 15) for the shared expenses.

In service,
Skip D.
District 5 DCM

ARCHIVIST - Steve D Good Afternoon.
This is my first report as Archivist for Area 35. I want to thank Area 35 for the opportunity to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. For me service is “Gratitude made visible”.

Currently, I have moved the Archives Display to Fargo and with the help of the Area 35 Archives Committee; we will inventory and move the physical contents of our archive in May.

I have three upcoming displays at Roundups in Area 35. The Big Ole Roundup, the Stearns County Roundup and the Superior Roundup. If there are any non-service events that you know would like the Archives Display at their

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event, please forward my contact information. Since these are not part of our Service functions, expenses are the responsibility of the event.

If you have a District Service Function that you would like me to either present or display, please let me know.

I have developed a list of action items for the Archivist along with the assistance of the Archives Committee:

- Criteria for accepting Area 35 Archives Material
- Develop a procedure for Districts to submit material to Area 35
- Review and update the Area Archivist Trusted Servant Guidelines
- Develop a presentation on how to develop a district archives.
- Assist the districts on disseminating achievable material
- Organize the Archives Display by Decade
- Identify what equipment the archivist needs, eg. Scanner laptop
- Digital Storage options
- Provide quarterly articles to the Northern Light

I am very excited with the enthusiasm of willingness of the Area 35 Archives committee to assist in our Archivist efforts.

Yours in Service
Steve D.
Area 35 Archivist

ARCHIVES - Scott M. Archives had six in attendance this morning. Districts 13, 16 and 11 were represented as well as a past WCR Trustee and our Archivist in attendance. District 11 Peter reported that he is collecting minutes for his district and stated that they are now doing recording of District meeting an accurate record. District 16 Dave is the new archives chair and not having had a previous chair for some years now is looking forward to learning about archives and participating with committee. District 11 Cindy is encouraging discussion of archives in her district.

Our committee has a lot to attend too. We discussed at length the transition we are facing with having a new Archivist. We discussed the need for equipment to digitize our material on the repository. We will be meeting May 12th in St. Cloud to inventory what’s left in repository. We also discussed the need to have a policy of what we accept for archived material and who will have access to digital archive. We also talked a little about agenda items on Archives. I encourage everyone to view background material concerning these, particularly GV Board use of YouTube and policy concerning use of conference recordings. I look forward to hearing your sharing on the agenda items at the upcoming fall assembly, as we develop our group conscious.

Yours in service,
Scott M.
Area 35 Archives

District 7 - Bob B.

- At our January Meeting, we set our schedule for the year.
- We will host booths at Cass, Aitkin, and Crow Wing County fairs.
- We will not request a Zonal this year.
- The District, Meet the committee picnic will not be held this year (The committee is shouldered with too much of the cost of this picnic)
- March 15th, Roger will attend our District meeting as we review the agenda items.
- May 17th, The District will host a Potluck and report from our Delegate.
- Oct 5th, The District will host a Potluck and Correction Workshop with District 18. This is the Friday before the Fall Assembly.
- Members of the District are ready to host the Fall assembly
- The District website is up, updated, and running. Meeting Guide contacted us and asked us to join Meeting Guide.
- We discussed all the different updates a new GSR is asked to do. We looked at all the different meeting database that need to be updated. This is not a simple task.
- Looking at CPC opportunities with St Joseph Hospital.
- Using a Google Voice phone number for publication to reach the DCM
- aaMeetingLocator has not been updated since December.

Bob B.
DCM District 7
218-833-2001

District 11- Cindy S-K District 11 has been kind of quiet over the past two months. We are in a transition period, lost our Literature Chair this month. Vicki R. and myself are working out a schedule to visit all of the meetings in District 11. Hopefully creating interest in service opportunities on the District level, to fill the District Committee Chairs. We are contemplating a workshop possibly on sponsorship. I attended the 2018 West Central AA Service Conference in Des Moines Iowa on March 2nd-4th for the first time- wow! Tiring but packed with information, thank you District 11 for allowing me to go. I am excited to be serving on the Archives Committee.

In service,
Cindy S.-K.
DCM District 11

CORRECTIONS - Paul M. (Report read by Rich G.) I am Rich G. filling in for Paul M. who could not be here due to date change and prior commitments. It was myself and Butch from District 8 that met to discuss corrections, Butch talked about continuing with Sandstone and Thistledue as usual and is looking forward to Transition fairs at both, which will be held soon. In District 12 meeting continues at all nine Correctional Facilities with the exception of the Federal Prisons. They only want Literature and the inmates will conduct their own meetings. District 12 approved literature and Pat S. will handle it.

In Service,
Rich G.
District 12 DCM

District 12- Richard G. I am Rich G. DCM District 12,

All committees are continuing in participation and effectiveness. PI/CPC still has no chairperson but Literature and Treatment members are keeping up with PI/CPC activities. I did attend WCRAASC in Des Moines IA. It was an honor to be there and participate in discussion on Agenda Items for The General Service Conference in April. The information and opinions were from every possible angle and always benefits Area 35 to an informed group conscience. I am only two months into serving as DCM for District 12 and am truly excited about what is to come.

Yours in service,
Rich G.

District 14- Paul E. Not present

PI - Gayle R. (Typed up from the ACM recording) Hi I’m Gayle and I am an alcoholic and your Public Information Chair

From our small committee meeting this morning with CPC we had five persons present and that includes Myron and myself. One of the members who attended that was a GSR brand new, 11 months sober and from District 7. District 13 DCM asked for a PI Workshop and that will be scheduled at a later date. I had a District 13 PI Chair that was unable to attend and she emailed me her report.

The purpose of the PI Committee is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We achieve this in two ways through reaching that third person who may know someone with an alcoholic problem. Second to provide a clearinghouse of information in the area with respects to PI coordinating the exchange of ideas with resources between the Districts, present PI Training and Workshops to Districts as necessary, provide experience and assistance in developing projects that will further carry our AA message through PI and this is from the Servants Guidelines for PI. The question that was raised this morning was what do we want to accomplish as a Committee? One of the things we said is we need to set obtainable goals and some of the ways we can do this is by getting more people to the Area Committee Meeting by bringing at least one more person. I too attended the West Central Regional Service Conference and my report is in the Northern Light.

I need to apologize to District 15, they had asked me to come help with the agenda items and having a service commitment with Benton County Jail I am unable to do that. If anyone here can help them tomorrow is their District meeting, can you please reach out to them.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Gayle R.
Area 35 PI Chair

District 6- Sharna O. Greetings from District 6 - sorry to have missed the meeting, but I had a prior engagement.

As I embark on my new role as a DCM, I had the honor of attending the West Central Regional Service Conference in West Des Moines Iowa. It was an interesting process of how our AA Fellowship works. Our District is having a discussion on the agenda items for 68th General Service Conference on March 17, 2018 from 12:30-4pm, Potluck starts at 12:30. It's being held at the Isanti Alano Club. We still do not have all our officer positions filled. Some of our current officers are doing double duty to help fill some positions.

I look forward to my new adventure in service work.

Yours in service
Sharna O.-J.
DCM District 6

District 1 Not present

GRAPEVINE - Jerry B. Hi, I’m Jerry B. & I’m an alcoholic. Serving as Grapevine Chair for Area 35. This past January, I attended The Area Workshop held at the Radisson in Duluth. I felt it was a fantastic Workshop. Even though the attendance was low. About \$260 in Grapevine material was sold. I most recently attended the WCRAASC held in Des Moines, Iowa. It was an OK conference. Some better, some worse. I enjoyed the presentations put on by various Areas in the seven state region. Might be a little prodigious here, but I thought that Area 35 was the best. I sat in on the Grapevine Breakout Session & found it to be very educational as far as the other Areas and individuals understanding of AA. Were all the same except they talk funny. Also, sat in on Concept 5 for the 2nd Session, some heavy stuff to get in MY head. All in all I thought it to be a good WCRAA Service Conference.

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This morning we had six in attendance at the Grapevine/Literature Committee meeting. I recently received an order for \$426.81 after our 20% discount \$160.00 has been sold this morning. We have lots of Grapevine books, calendars, pocket planners etc. all in the back.

Yours in service,
Jerry

District 2- (Report was given by Myron) (Typed up from the ACM recording) My name is Myron I an Alcoholic,

We have a District meeting today at two o'clock so if someone has a private jet I would like to make that meeting, its up in Middle River. But seriously what we are doing evidentially isn't working, so the meeting today, is possibly I'm not there so I can't decide but possibly changing the location of the meeting from Middle River to Thief River because there is more people there, and maybe the day or time. I think we have got to try something new. I have no idea who is there or how many people, the last time we had a District meeting and we had that workshop in Duluth and I went there after and there was three of us. So we got to try something different and I don't know what that is, but we haven't given up.

Yesterday I went to Fertile to something called a Spring Fling and that's a District 1 event and I talked to somebody there and their idea was to join District 1 and District 2 and I said well I guess we could but then we would have a really big dark District because there is nobody from District 1 either. District 2 is pretty big, so if we put those two together, I guess we could but I don't know what the advantage would be. But if they decide to do that, than they decide to do that. Anyways, we are not giving up on District 2 and we will see what happens.

Thank you.

District 21- Laura C. Not present

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

FOC Report - Mike J.:

Mike J.- New Committee
Neil F.- Old Committee

We reviewed the 2017 end of year financials. Everything checked out. We reviewed the 2018 Period 1 financials and all was copacetic with a few minor changes given to Mike. Area 35 financial reports are in good shape.

2018 Agenda Items- Roger R: That was from a couple of weeks ago but obviously there is a hard copy of agenda items on the back table and also the hot topic items are back there too. I think that Jim S. has covered the back-ground material from anyone needing background material that was ordered, see Jim.

Spring Assembly- Roger R. No new items to discuss except that I would like to encourage everyone to attend and for DCM's to encourage GSR's to attend, its an assembly that we really want full participation in the Area at and we will be approving the Area budgets and we will be talking about agenda items to prepare out Delegate for the General Service Conference.

January Workshop Report- Roger R: Jim talked about the workshop earlier and has a pretty complete report in the Northern Light.

Annual Service Workshop Evaluations- Roger R: Jim sent the Annual Service Workshop Evaluations to Rillis and they are on the website.

Added agenda item from Steve D.

Just as last month I was down in St. Cloud and I had an opportunity to see what archives material was there and in that process, Brad was there and I visited with him a little bit and asked him what equipment do you have in order to catalogue, scan, digitize, any archive material that might come in and he was just using his own so there is no equipment that I'm aware of and maybe Tom or Susie if you guys have any information on that, but nothing that I'm aware of to do that. So what I would like to purpose is let me move forward with putting together a recommendation for the Spring Assembly as to what we may need in archives to do that. If there is a consensus that I can go ahead and put together what it would maybe cost for a laptop or scanner, if we need that. I will also look at what it would cost to outsource to get that material scanned in so it can be digitized I would put that together and just bring it for consideration at the next assembly. Thank you.

Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Question- Does a motion have to be made? Answer-No motion needs to be made, its more of an information thing that I want to do this, and if at the Spring Assembly we decide well we don't need that's fine, but if we want to move forward and continue to catalogue, digitize archive material were probably going to need some equipment to do that.

Vote on Sally L. becoming the Area Group Records Chair-Roger R: One person pointed out to me that the procedure is that the Area Chair does appoint Area Committee Chairs. I have made that appoint to Sally L. but I guess just to cover all of our bases we could ask for a vote, which we didn't do before when I discussed this so all in favor of Sally L. for our Group Records Chair please raise your hand if you can vote. Anyone disapprove of Sally L. taking on the Group records position?

People went to the microphone and expressed their concerns about a hole being in District 8, the current DCM of District 8 is supportive of Sally taking on the Group Records Position. District 8 has an Alternate PI/CPC person who is currently serving and has been working with Sally and feels comfortable taking over that position, so there would be no hole in District 8.

WCRAASC— Reports will be in the Northern Light.

District 13 Request— Delayed until the Spring Assembly.

Calendar of Events-See the Northern Light and Area 35 website calendar. Email your events to **webmaster@area35.org** for posting on the website and **northernlight@area35.org** 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 also. Please send the flier in a PDF format that would be helpful, if not that is okay too.

Adjourned: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Acronyms
(Spaghetti Soup)

GSO - General Service Office

GSC - General Service Conference

AAWS - Alcoholics Anonymous World Service

WCRS - West Central Regional Service (Conference)

WCRAASC - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (same as above)

WCR - West Central Regional (Forum)

WCRAAF - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Forum (same as above)

ACM - Area Committee Meeting

NMAA - Northern Minnesota Area Assembly

CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community

PI - Public Information

DCM - District Committee Member

GSR - General Service Representative

GVR - Grapevine Representative

BB - Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous)

GV- Grapevine

NL- Northern Light

FOC - Finance Oversight Committee

BTG - Bridging the Gap

CCS - Corrections Correspondence Service

Panel -The Two Year Rotation a Delegate Serves (Ours is an Even # Starting with Panel 2 in 1952)

"Now that we no longer patronize bars and bordellos; now that we bring home the pay checks; now that we are so very active in AA; and now that people congratulate us on these signs of progress -- well, we naturally proceed to congratulate ourselves. Yet we may not be within hailing distance of humility. Meaning well, yet doing badly, how often have I said or thought, 'I am right and you are wrong,' 'My plan is correct and yours is faulty,' 'Thank God your sins are not my sins,' 'You are hurting AA and I'm going to stop you cold,' 'I have God's guidance, so He is on my side.' And so on, indefinitely.

"The alarming thing about such pride-blindness is the ease with which it is justified."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1961
"Humility for Today," The Language of the Heart

WCRAASC Breakout Session 2 Concept 5

Minorities are not encouraged; we throw apples and veggies at them to get them off the stage.

In what ways are minority opinions are encouraged? Has anyone put this concept in action?

- One of the things that I have found in my home group that helps encourage minority opinions in my group conscious meetings, is that we have a script that whoever is chairing that business meeting goes off of, when we have a motion we get a second, then we ask if there is a minority opinion, then we listen and we talk about it and see if someone wants to change their vote. Voice your opinion in the discussion earlier.
- My group recently had a situation come up that the district made a decision that my group did not agree with, we drafted a minority opinion and brought it fourth to the district meeting, we had a great discussion, and we were encouraged by feeling welcomed and it was taken very seriously, we don't know where that is going to go.
- In Area 40, its not that we actively encourage, when you are area chair and you are chairing an assembly and you forget to ask minority opinion you will be reminded that it has to be heard, it is a good reminder especially to the new people that it is part of the process here. It is a unique part of the process, I had some conversations with the communication chair of trustees, and he shared with me on nearly every phone call, just how the impression of AA had on him, about the importance of the minority opinion, he said you don't see this our there in the corporate world.
- I rotated out from DCM last year, we had a situation that we voted on, there was a group that disagreed with our decision in the process that we made, they said so to myself and to the chair of our area at the time, Alternate DCM and I went out to dinner with these folks, and we listened to there concerns, was not done at a formal district meeting, listened to them and took it back to the district, nothing changed as a result of it but it was expressed.
- Home group, through Box 459, we heard from our GSO that a decision was made to do away with printing the directories, home group disagreed with that action, our minority opinion was hey this is what you say you do for us, we withheld contributions for a while, we verbally wrote something and the power of the purse, conversations were had.
- Whenever there is a vote and the goal is 2/3rds there is always that pause for minority opinion.
- Hearing some of the discussion, I'm thinking about the difference between encouraged and allowed. The things that I have seen, the minority speaks but the horse is already dead, I'm just wondering how am I acting when I'm in the majority, am I still open minded enough to encourage them their points of view, actually listening and giving that minority opinion merit rather than oh here we go again.
- We need to make sure that we are taking this home to our groups because the next group of service is coming out of that group of people. I was trained up. We have to make sure that the concepts are being followed.
- I had an experience at one of my first district meeting, there was motion made that there was an idea we read a Concept, there was motion made instead of doing the concept to read a Tradition instead and to read that every month, everyone thought it was a good idea, and then the minority came up and said "in my home group that I go to we discuss the Traditions but we never hear the Concepts" and you can see the light bulbs going on, the person who actually made the motion withdrew it, maybe what we are doing is the right thing to do.
- This involves a lot of opportunity for spiritual growth, I'm often in the minority, in our district and even in our area and even here I am, the question how can we encourage that minority opinion? What I need to do for myself because I will get really closed minded when I get around the majority, I have to get right sized and really ask my higher power to open my mind. For me I have to do that and lead by example, thank goodness we have groups that we can come to and talk about.
- When people really listen and hear more information they change their vote, living within AA and the service structure and letting go of myself, that vote is not about me, I don't need to get my way, a lot of it is just letting go of the ego, watching the process of AA in action, service in action to see how things happen, I don't know what's best for me, and I'm also going to trust God in the process no matter what the decision is that is the group conscious.
- If we are not listening to the minority then we are not listening to the voice of God. Why am I here? Its not for me, its not for me to get my voice heard its for me to be a part of this collective consciousness of God through everyone in this room and if I'm listening to the minority opinion then there is something wrong with me at that point in time.
- If you are in service long enough you have been involved where a minority opinion has been expressed and it changed that vote, if you talk about it and let people know that story, and it is valid and pass that message on to other people, that can take away some of the edge and fear from them wanting to express that minority opinion at that point in time.

- Minority opinion that sometimes does and does not get expressed as the item is being discussed, a lot of the reason why its not discussed, there is a lot of fear, they will hear the majority going in one direction that lays out reasons that are complete opposite of how they see things, the importance of that person stepping forward, past delegate "any given item, we can have someone who approaches it from way over it on this side, way over on this side, we desperately need both, it shows us the range of solutions that we need to hear, and we are able to find the middle, workable solution." Concept 3- we need to get all the information available to us, it comes from every perspective and that helps us to find our solution.
- Its really God inspiring to see one minority opinion change things.
- We had money that we had given and we wanted to disperse it, minority opinion came, we actually rescinded that vote and made the GSR's to bring it back to their groups, these votes not have to happen over night. We need to make the correct decision.

"In AA's Eleventh Step I find that I build today the road I travel tomorrow."

Binghamton, N.Y., April 1968
"The Old Fear Had To Go"
AA Grapevine

When Did We Become the Program of No?

When I came into the program of A.A. almost forty years ago I was taught it was a program of "yes". We said "yes" to surrendering and admitting we had a problem. We said "yes" to the concept of God. We said "yes" to turning our will and lives over to the care of God and so on...

Furthermore, I was taught that when the program of A.A. asks we don't have the luxury of saying "no". When A.A. asks for volunteers - we say, "yes". When we are asked to go on a 12th Step call - we say, "yes". When we are asked to do service work - we say, "yes"!

Sadly, that spirit of "yes" seems to have been replaced with the spirit of "no". Or even worse, "no, I won't and you shouldn't either".

Recently I have heard around the tables:

"You can't share A.A. information with professionals – that would be affiliation."

"You can't put on an A.A. function at a treatment center – that would be affiliation."

"We are going to take the summer off from bringing meetings into a sober house."

"Those people in the sober house just need to go to meetings on the outside – they don't need meetings brought into them."

And perhaps most disheartening... One night while cleaning up after a meeting I found a letter. I saw that the postmark on the letter was from 2015, but the letter hadn't been opened. Upon reading the letter I discovered it was from an inmate who was requesting help from A.A. upon his release from prison. He had asked for help over two years ago and his request had gone unanswered!?

I have found it important to remember that service work is not a burden, but rather an opportunity to grow. When professionals in my community want information on A.A., this gives me an opportunity to "carry the message". When the staff of a sober house requests an A.A. meeting be brought to their facility, this gives me an opportunity to "carry the message". When an inmate writes for information on A.A. in my local area, this gives me an opportunity to "carry the message".

So why all this insistence on "carrying the message"? Why is that so important?

Perhaps co-founder of A.A., Dr. Bob, said it best in his story Dr. Bob's Nightmare on page 181 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons.

- Sense of duty.
- It is a pleasure.
- Because in so doing I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
- Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

JD
Big Lake, MN
TNYPAA

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

- ◆ Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what's happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the N.L.
- ◆ Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example "Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN" this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.
- ◆ Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the Grapevine or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- ◆ Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.
- ◆ Listen to comments from the Area on the content of the N.L.

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:

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

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

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

Northern Light Editor,
Steven L.

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

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

3. Upon approval mail to :

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

**With an attn.: Northern Light on the mailing address
Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light**

4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Currently there are 1000 copies printed with @725 pieces to mail. What is not mailed is passed out at the Area meetings.

Number of Copies	Printing Costs		Insertion Fee	Total Cost
	1 Sided	2 Sided		
725	\$ 48	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$ 123/135
1000	\$ 80	\$ 120	\$ 75	\$ 155/195

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 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744**

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

OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 66 2016-1017 Kelly D.	Panel 36 1986-1987 Louie H.	Panel 10 1960-1961 Bob B. (deceased)	
Panel 64 2014-1015 Michael “Jake” J.	Panel 34 1984-1985 Bob P.	Panel 8 1958-1959 Pearl N. (deceased)	
Panel 62 2012-2013 Jim K.	Panel 32 1982-1983 Tom L.	Panel 6 1956-1957 Waldo H. (deceased)	
Panel 60 2010-2011 Jon C.	Panel 30 1981-1982 Don M. (deceased)	Panel 4 1954-1955 Wendell H. (deceased)	
Panel 58 2008-2009 JoAnne M. N.	Panel 28 1978-1979 Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	Panel 2 1952-1953 Arthur R. (deceased)	
Panel 56 2006-2007 Jerry S.	Panel 26 1976-1977 Vern R. (deceased)		
Panel 54 2004-2005 Charlie C.	Panel 24 1974-1975 Gordon B. H. (deceased)		
Panel 52 2002-2003 Tim C.	Panel 22 1972-1973 Frank P. J. (deceased)		
Panel 50 2000-2001 Tom A.	Panel 20 1970-1971 Clarence B. (deceased)		
Panel 48 1998-1999 Susie A.	Panel 18 1968-1969 Dave H. (deceased)		
Panel 46 1996-1997 Bill P. (deceased)	Panel 16 1966-1967 Arno A. (deceased)		
Panel 44 1994-1995 Bruce B.	Panel 14 1964-1965 Donald F. (deceased)		
Panel 42 1992-1993 Greg G. (deceased)	Panel 12 1962-1963 Donna T. (deceased)		
Panel 40 1990-1991 Bob J.			
Panel 38 1988-1989 Scott J.			

Q: Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

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

The Delegate’s Duties

<p>Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate’s job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.
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I 2 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)	I 2 Concepts for World Service (Short Form)
<div><div>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.</div><div>2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div></div>	<div><div>I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.”</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div><div>X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.</div><div>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.</div><div>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.</div></div>
<div><div>AREA 35 EVENTS</div><div>INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE</div><div><div>◆ Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.</div><div>◆ Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount</div><div>◆ Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM’s from respective districts either by email or phone for those that don’t have computers.</div><div>◆ Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.</div><div>◆ Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.</div><div>◆ Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.</div><div>◆ Post procedure in Northern Lights.</div><div>◆ 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.</div></div></div>	

**Area 35 Spring Assembly
Holiday Inn - Alexandria, MN
April 7 & 8, 2018**

AGENDA

_____ 8:00 a.m. Registration
_____ 9:00 a.m. GSR Orientation & Action
_____ Chair Committee Meetings

10:45 a.m. Assembly Convenes

_____ Call to Order-Open with the
_____ Serenity Prayer
_____ Why We Need a Conference
_____ Recognize Past Delegates
_____ Recognize GSRs
_____ Add to Agenda
_____ Approve 2017 Fall Assembly Minutes

11:30 a.m. Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I

_____ Agenda
_____ Cooperation With the Professional
_____ Community
_____ Corrections
_____ Finance
_____ Grapevine
_____ Literature
_____ Policy and Admissions
_____ Public Information
_____ Report and Charter
_____ Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

4:15 p.m. BREAK

4:30 p.m.

_____ GSR Sharing Session
_____ DCM Sharing Session
_____ Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet
_____ Closed AA meeting

5:30 p.m. Dinner (On Your Own)

7:00 p.m. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II

_____ Trustees
_____ Archives
_____ International Conventions/Regional Forums

SUNDAY

7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Big Book Meeting

8:30 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes

_____ GSR Sharing Session Report
_____ DCM Sharing Session Report

OFFICER REPORTS

_____ Delegate – Christine G.
_____ Alternate Delegate – Jim S.

_____ Chair – Roger R.
_____ Secretary – Melissa A.
_____ Treasurer – Mike F.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

_____ CPC – Myron H.
_____ District 9 – Antonette F.
_____ District 13 – Justin W.
_____ WEBMASTER – Rillis E.
_____ LITERATURE – Brian P.
_____ District 15 – Matthew B.
_____ District 3 – Kevin K
_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Steve L.
_____ GROUP RECORDS – Sally L.
_____ District 4 – Greg C.
_____ District 8 – Heidi B.
_____ District 18 –William BR B.
_____ TREATMENT – Cathy R.
_____ District 16 – Glenn M.
_____ District 5– Skip D.
_____ ARCHIVIST – Steve D.
_____ ARCHIVES – Scott M.
_____ District 7 – Bob B.
_____ District 11 – Cindy S.-K.
_____ CORRECTIONS – Paul M.
_____ District 12 –Richard G.
_____ District 14 – Paul E.
_____ PI – Gayle R.
_____ District 6 – Sharna O.-J.
_____ District 1 –
_____ GRAPEVINE – Jerry B.
_____ District 2 –
_____ District 21 – Laura C.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

_____ State Fair 2018
_____ Area 35 Budget
_____ AAWS YouTube Channel

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

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

**NMAA
P.O. Box 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744**