

Deadline for the Next  
*Northern Light* is  
**March 8, 2019**

# This is YOUR Newsletter



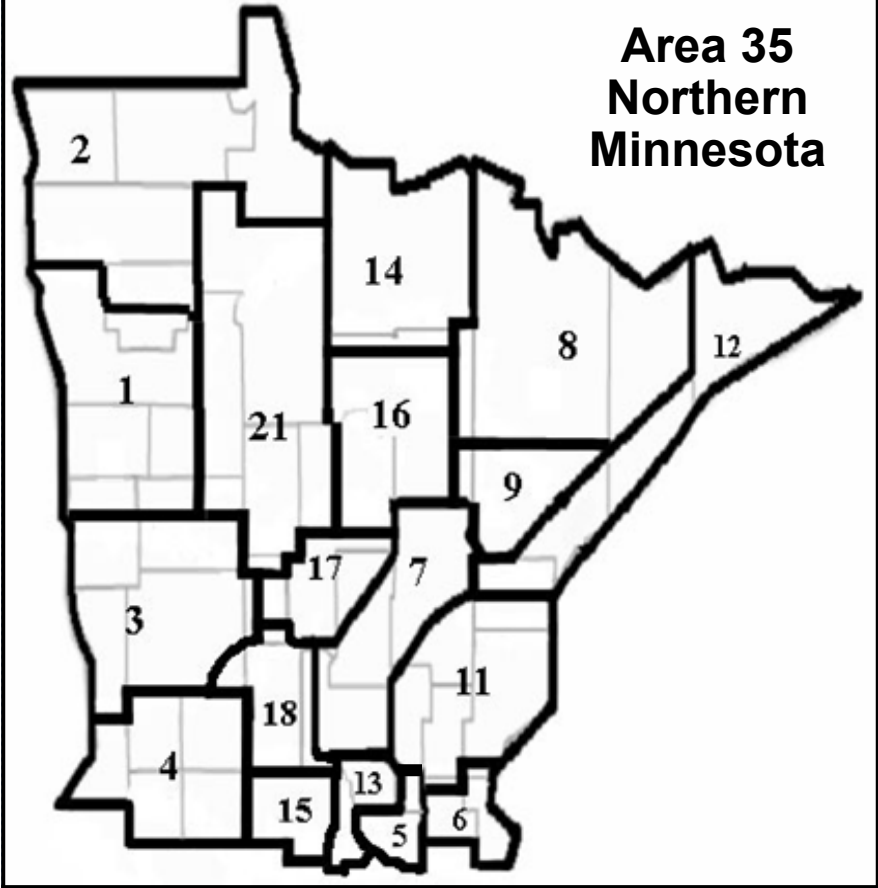
Send articles and comments for publication to  
Steven L. — [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org)  
Bring this copy to share with your Group!

2018-19 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\*, Malmo, McGregor\*, Palisade, Pierz, Pilager\*, Wahkon
- District 11** - Finlayson\*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley\*, Lake Lena, Moose Lake\*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Willow River
- District 13** - Kimball, Rice, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Foley
- District 17** - Backus, Cross Lake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pillager\*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Little Falls\*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

**Zone IV**

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

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

**District Meeting Location Information**

- District 1**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.  
Fertile Community Center  
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
- District 2**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 3:00 p.m.  
Thief River Falls Alano Club  
614 Davis Ave.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- District 3**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.  
Alano Club  
827 Summit Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- District 4**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location (It Rotates)  
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.  
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.
- District 5**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m.  
Freshwaters Church  
12475 273<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398
- District 6**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.  
Spring Lake Lutheran Church  
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.  
North Branch, MN 55056

- District 7**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Congregational United Church  
415 Juniper Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401
- District 8**  
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.  
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”
- District 9**  
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.  
Hibbing Alano Club  
3725 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Hibbing, MN 55746
- District 11**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
Peace Lutheran  
2177 Hwy 18  
Finlayson, MN 55735
- District 12**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for meeting location  
(It Rotates)
- District 13**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.  
St. Cloud Alano Club  
127 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

- District 14**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30pm  
Coffee Landing  
444 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
International Falls, MN 56649
- District 15**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.  
Albany Community Center  
741 Lake Ave.  
Albany, MN 56307
- District 16**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
1701 S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking
- District 18**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Long Prairie Alano Club  
21 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347
- District 21**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Bemidji Alano Club  
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601
- District 17**  
Not currently active or unknown

Delegate:

Greetings Area 35,

We continue our work on planning for the West Central Regional Service Conference that is coming March 1-3, 2019 in Moorhead. You can visit [wcraasc2019.com](http://wcraasc2019.com) to register online and book your rooms at the Marriot Courtyard. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work in planning for this event. If you are willing to volunteer your time during the weekend, we are looking for several greeters. Contact Jim, Alt Delegate, or myself and we can get you signed up.

We have the 2019 West Central Regional Forum in Grand Forks, ND on August 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to get to know and ask questions of our GSO Staff. GSO puts this on and this is another example of how group contributions are used. All are welcome and I encourage each person here to attend and bring a GSR or other AA member along.

I attended the January Workshop in Alexandria January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a great weekend and we had the opportunity to learn more about the responsibilities of our WCR Trustee and he also shared his story Sunday morning. I would like to extend a thank you to the Districts that presented. The presentations initiated some good conversations. It is always good to learn and hear where people stand on important issues like Singleness of Purpose and how it relates to our general service work. I saw a lot of new faces and I look forward to seeing all of you again at our upcoming events.

At the time of this report, I am getting ready to head to New York for January Board Weekend. I am attending this because I am the Delegate Chair to the Conference Committee of Policy and Admission. I will have a full report of this experience at our February ACM.

Thank you for all that have replied to my email regarding the General Service Agenda Background material. I will have your requested preference at the ACM in February. The material will also be available on our website and I will send out all the log in information once that becomes available after February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder, we will be discussing this at the Spring Assembly so bring your group conscience.

New Business:

Take back to your groups and we will have a discussion at the Spring Assembly about registered property and does AA ever enter litigation? We have the situation with a website [alcoholicsanonymous.com](http://alcoholicsanonymous.com) and this may be a topic of conversation at our next GSC and I would like to get a good feel of the group conscience how Area 35 feels about how GSB should proceed, if at all.

Please let me know if there is anything, I can do to better serve you or your groups. I am willing to come to your districts.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 35.

In Love and Service,  
Christine G.  
Area 35 / Panel 68 Delegate

Alt. Delegate:

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank you all for making this Annual Workshop, such a memorable day. I enjoyed this workshop as usual. It was great to see how much effort was put into making these presentations. These type of experiences always leave me feeling enthused about what I need to do to fulfill my responsibilities within my current position. I am writing this report Sunday, so I have not read the evaluations at this time, but I am interested to read what you all had to say about the event. Especially what can be done to make the event more enjoyable for everyone and to encourage more people to attend. It was so much fun being able to help out with the ice cream on Saturday night to watch people come through and be able to have some fellowship after a day of information to congregate and get to know one another. To hear the laughter and see the smiles on people’s face is what this fellowship is truly about, bringing us out of the darkness and into the light. One thing I found good to remember while listening to all of what Tom A. is involved in with his position as Regional Trustee to hear his story on Sunday morning, that he is just like us, an alcoholic that came to AA seeking a solution. But, due to what he has done in AA since. He has gotten the opportunity to serve in many positions of service.

I attended a West Central Regional Service Conference Committee meeting over the weekend. It was a punch list filled meeting with plenty of goals to achieve over the next month and couple weeks getting ready for the conference. I am hoping you are all out telling people about this event and encouraging them to attend. It is really something to see 350 to 400 people at a conference. If you have attended one of these you know what I mean, if you haven’t I promise you, you won’t regret attending.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel to contact me either by phone or email.

In Service  
Jim S.  
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

Area Chair:

Happy New Year to all of Area 35.

As we enter this new year, I am grateful for the service you provide to Area 35 as we carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic in the northern half of Minnesota.

For those who attended the November 17 Area35/36 Joint Workshop I would like to thank you for your participation at that event as we strive to work together with our Southern Area counterparts to carry our message. I have included minutes and a summary of the evaluations from this workshop in this report.

I also appreciate your attendance at the recent Fall Assembly in Deerwood MN in October.

I have also included a summary of participant evaluations of this assembly in this report.

This is a busy season for service in AA as we have and will have events in February (ACM), March (WCRAASC) and April (Spring Assembly). I enjoyed attending the Area 35 Service Workshop in Alexandria MN on January 19-20, 2019 and would like to thank the Districts that gave presentations and those of you who participated in this workshop.

I also appreciate the efforts you are making in between these events to carry our message. In fact, this is where the tires will be hitting the roads in 2019.

Area 35 Fall Assembly 2018 Evaluations Summary

Service Position

GSR 47% DCM 22% Other 28%

Is this your first time attending an Area 35 Assembly? Yes 3% NO 89%

Did you like attending this assembly? Average: 2.97%

|                 |               |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Not at all<br>1 | Somewhat<br>2 | Very Much<br>3 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|

Did we meet your needs at this assembly? Average:2.94%

|                 |               |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Not at all<br>1 | Somewhat<br>2 | Very Much<br>3 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|

Do you feel Area 35 was successful in completing Area 35 business? Average: 2.91%

|                 |               |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Not at all<br>1 | Somewhat<br>2 | Very Much<br>3 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|

Which parts of the Assembly did you find most beneficial?

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| GSR Orientation                    | 8.33% |
| Area Committee Reports             | 25%   |
| Action Committee Breakout Sessions | 44%   |
| Old/New Business Discussions       | 42%   |
| Agenda Item Proposals              | 33%   |
| GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions           | 50%   |
| Other                              | 28%   |

Participants indicated Area 35 was successful in completing business at this assembly. They also liked attending the assembly and feel their needs were met. Participants rated the DCM and GSR Sharing Sessions as most beneficial, followed by the Action Committee Break-out Sessions and Discussion of Old and New Business Items.

In service,  
Roger R.  
Area 35 Chair

Secretary:

Greetings Area 35

I hope that all is well within Area 35. Since the ACM meeting in December I have been working on the minutes to get posted in the Northern Light. I have updated the Spring Assembly flyer which should be posted on the Area 35 website. I will be bringing more flyers to the January Workshop, which I look forward to attending. Please remember that the Spring Assembly flyers that you will be receiving have the wrong map on them so please disregard the map on that flyer. I appreciate all that hard work and effort that is done in

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

order to keep Area 35 healthy within Alcoholics Anonymous.  
Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Melissa A.  
Area 35 Secretary

## Treasurer:

Greetings from your Area Treasurer. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Since my last Northern Light report, I have:

- ♦ Reconciled 2 monthly bank statements and prepared reports for review by the Financial Oversight Committee
- ♦ Deposited all contributions received as of January 7<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Paid all invoices and expenses received as of January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ♦ Prepared a balance sheet and income/expense/contribution statements for Period 6 (October/November), Period 7(December), and a year-over-year comparison of income/expense/contributions for 2017 and 2018.

As of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, our checking and savings accounts have a combined total balance of **\$25,117**.

Our calendar year 2018 total income and expenses were **\$37,435** and **\$37,064**, respectively. That means we had a **net income of \$371 for 2018. In 2017 we had a net loss of \$4,413**. This is a tremendous turn around!

Our group contributions for 2018 and 2017 were **\$30,566** and **\$24,961**, respectively, meaning **our group contributions increased by \$5,605 (+22.5%) in 2018!**

In addition to group contributions, we also received income of **\$6,870** from area events, roundups (Heartland, Gopher State), Northern Light flyers, and Grapevine sales.

Interestingly, 53 additional groups contributed in 2018 that had not done so in 2017, and 51 groups that had contributed in 2017 did not contribute in 2018. Of the approximately 530 active groups in Area 35, **211 groups (about 40%) made contributions to the Area.**

For 2018 we operated significantly below our budget of **\$47,786**. Including event expenses and Grapevine purchases, **total expenses were 22.4% below budget**. Our officer and committee chair expenses came in **\$12,241** below budget. Finally, expenses in 2018 exceeded expenses in 2017 by **\$997**.

If you have questions or concerns about our finances or your group contributions, please email me at [treasurer@area35.org](mailto:treasurer@area35.org).

The current 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. I have noticed that most contributions do include it and that makes my job a lot easier. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of Area 35, and thank you for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Service,  
Mike F.  
Area 35 Treasurer

## Archives:

Greetings Area 35,

A few days have passed since our annual winter workshop, I enjoyed listening to the presentations and members different perspectives on the various topics. What I noticed the most is the importance our history is going to play in the future of AA.

Will we use past experience as our guide and continue to try and apply our principles of Recovery, Unity and Service, or are we going to try and cherry pick those principles that we agree with, to suit our own objectives? It seems very evident that our fellowship is divided on our singleness of purpose. Will AA survive these disagreements? I would like to believe that AA will continue to have its doors open to the alcoholic who still suffers, even in the face of the groups who try to defy AA principle.

I strongly encourage anyone to pick up AA Comes of Age, and may you be left with a feeling of gratitude for our founders and the principles that have shaped AA and saved so many lives!

Yours in Service,  
Scott M.  
Area 35 Archives Chair

## Archivist:

Good morning Area 35.

My name is Steve D. and I am an alcoholic. First, I want to acknowledge that our Archives are moved and we are in the process of beginning the task of digitizing archival documents. This would not be possible without the help of the Area 35 Archives Committee. Their willingness to help will give us a working model that we can provide to our members of AA in Area 35.

Today we began the process of scanning and began scanning documents. As we know much of the learning is in the doing and we are finding that our process will need some refining. We need to determine a method that allows all members to participate. From our joint workshop with Area 36, we have a method to scan from a phone app. We tried that out today and it will be acceptable.

Also, we have set up a folder on my outlook cloud folder to temporarily store those documents. That will ensure a level of security needed. We also will need to organize data to make it searchable. I will begin to create a catalog of material that is archived for members to request a copy via e-mail. I will have the catalog at all Area Service functions and whenever I have the Archives Display set up.

I encourage Districts to order an Archives workbook even if you don't have an Archives Chair. The information will help you decide what to keep and how to keep it. If you have documents that need preservation, I can help with that. Joe from District 9 has some original documents that we will work on at the next Archives Committee meeting.

Also, as a reminder, I am very willing to provide an Archives Display at any AA function in your District. The expenses for such displays are the responsibility of the hosting group. Also, I am very willing to travel to your district meeting to talk about archives and the value archives brings to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service,  
Steve D.  
Area 35 Archivist.

**"We shall always have to deal with the fearful forces which are released when the human ego runs amok -- the same forces that are shattering the world of our time. Deliver us from temptation must therefore continue to be a prime ingredient of our every attitude, practice, and prayer."**

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1960, "Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours",  
The Language of the Heart

## Cooperation with the Professional Community:

### **NO REPORT**

**News Scoop a New CPC Chair has been Located**

## Corrections:

Greetings from your Corrections Chair!

It's been a busy couple months. First of all, at the Area Committee Meeting we discussed the pink can plan for Area 35. The Corrections Committee approved to go ahead and bring it to a vote at the ACM. It went to a vote at the ACM with Area Officers, Committee Chairs & DCMs voting. The vote was 9 for and 14 against having the pink can. I believe that the vote should have went back to the Groups first. The DCM's could have informed the GSR's and made more of a Group decision.

I believe we need this in our Area, I've had several requests for books from inmates and Correctional facilities. We need money for books to get into these facilities so I would like to make you all aware. This may go to a vote again at the Spring Assembly, please bring this up in your business meetings we need to get books to the jails to carry our message.

We met on January 17<sup>th</sup> for the State Wide Corrections meeting. We discussed the temporary contact program, and that Sherburne County Jail is looking for people to bring meetings into their jail, They have rules and regulations we failed to meet before. We are dissecting this with Skip D. the outside contact on how to pursue this matter and will give an update later. This could be very exciting for our Area as well as Area 36 who are willing to help out. This is great work done by both Areas. I also attended the January workshop in Alexandria. The presentations were awesome and I learned a lot. Tom A. did a fantastic job explaining what he does as a Trustee, and told his story. Thank you Tom! I want to say thank you to Miss tube top for putting up with him! Lol this is AA and I love this place!

Yours in service,  
Paul M.  
Area 35 Corrections Chair

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

## Grapevine:

Hi, I'm Jerry B. & I'm an alcoholic serving as your Area 35 Grapevine Chair.

After holidays and the New Year, Wintertime is a pretty slow time of the year. The Grapevine subscription challenge for 2018 is over as is the free shipping for 2018. Look for these and other programs offered by the Grapevine throughout the year. I'll try and keep you posted.

Sometimes my memory is not to good. I've been asked by Alt. Delegate Jim S. to bring Area 35's Grapevine display and set-up at the WCRAASC coming up in Moorhead, MN. On March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. I ordered additional material for this event and I am looking forward to attending another West Central event. I recently attended the Area Workshop held in Alexandria and felt low attendance by both DCM's & GSR's. Something we all have to pay attention to. Bring someone along if you have the room. The Spring Assembly is coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup>&7<sup>th</sup> in Duluth at the Holiday Inn. Start saving your pennies if that's what it takes to get you there.

Just because the subscription Challenge is over, it is NO reason not to subscribe to the Grapevine. Subscription Forms are available through me or available on the tables at all Area Events. Still no 2019 catalogs available but I'm working on it.

Yours in service,  
Jerry B.  
Area 35 Grapevine Chair

## Group Records:

Greetings, Area 35.

I attended the annual Area 35 Workshop in Alexandria January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It was an interesting workshop with a lot of discussion about Tradition Three and anonymity on the internet. We also learned about the beginnings of the AA Big Book. We were reminded of the line in the Big Book that we are to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people around us, and that SERVICE IS GRATITUDE IN ACTION!

Tom A., West Central Regional Trustee, gave an excellent presentation about the General Service Board and what goes on there. He also gave an update on the new computer system being installed at GSO. There are still some bugs that need working out, so the launch has been postponed until later this spring. There will be some changes to how things operate, so there will be changes in my responsibilities as Group Records secretary. Districts and GSRs will be given the capability to make their own changes on the system if desired. It will be interesting to see how the new system works and what my responsibilities will be.

The monthly update to aaMinnesota.org were completed at the beginning of the month. Area 36 has a new Group Records Secretary, William, who I have been in touch with a little bit.

I am planning to attend the WCRAASC in March to go over the agenda items. I look forward to that.

In service,  
Sally L.  
Area 35 Group Records Secretary

## Literature: NO REPORT

## Northern Light:

BrTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT Area 35,

Had a nice lull, time now for action for the next two issues of the NL. With the Conference Agenda Items now in full season and being top priority. I've been busy and focused on the WCRAASC coming March 1<sup>st</sup>. Now is the time to register because there is a meal package being offered at the Hotel. You are ONLY offered this package by pre-registering by February 22<sup>nd</sup> either by mail or on line at wcraasc2019.com.

I attended the Area Workshop, I had some great discussions with some of the attendees. I thought all of the presentations were well thought out and with good presentation. Having said that, I also thought some of the presentations troubling and could have used a more thorough understanding of "Singleness of Purpose". There are intense opinions and feelings on the meaning of "Singleness of Purpose". One side says only *REAL* Alcoholics (whatever that is) and the other side says, "a drug is a drug is a drug and anyone is welcome". Which I believe is the single leading schism in AA. If this does cause a purge in AA I truly hope the core principles of AA survives. So AA still welcomes the new person (possibly my grandkids and great-grandkids) and that there is hope and a way out from the alcoholic pit of loneliness and despair. We do a disservice to AA and other Fellowships in the belief that both the disease alcoholism and drug and medication addition are the same.

The workshop ended with the question in the ask-it basket which created intense discussion with a few people having their feathers ruffled by the content of an article published in the latest issue of Box 459 The Only Requirement.... Even a past Delegate of Area 35 stated he had correspondence with GSO about this Article. Most people there had not read the article. So in this issue is a reprint of the article from Box 459.

Only five more issues left, anybody wanting to take over NL Editor or any other Area Chair now is the time to ask questions of that Chairperson to see what the position entails. This year will fly by, like all years lately.

Thanks for reading.

Yours in Service  
Steven L.  
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

## Public Information:

Greetings Area 35,

I have been mostly working on the West Central Regional Service Conference Committee work. We have an amazing Committee that is getting the job done. I would like to thank every one of you who said yes, when asked to read or be timers, and for those helping with registration and to be greeters at the door. We could still use more. See Jim or me for details. Thanks to all the behind the scenes people that get things done by those we don't see. Our Delegate and Alt-Delegate (and the rest of the host committee) will lead us to a successful conference....

I look forward to working with the incoming CPC Chair.. Thank you for stepping up..

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service.

Gayle R.  
Area 35 Public Information Chair

## Treatment:

I am sad to say that I will be missing a few of the next exciting and big events happening in Area 35. I will be having complete shoulder replacement surgery. Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. So I can officially be called a bionic women.

It is always interesting to attend the quarterly Area 35 meeting. This last one in 2018 was attended by Districts: 16, 8, 5, 21, 7 and a drop by - District 15. We discussed a number of very interesting topics.

Among them were: recruiting Treatment Chair persons, making sure that there were enough speakers for the Treatment Centers that invited AA in to speak and fakers volunteering for Bridging the Gap (someone's x-boyfriend's phone number was given out, he wasn't very happy).

I have asked the Group to consider what their District attitude and/or policy is about deaf (or hard of hearing) and blind or seeing-impaired alcoholics. Further on in the Northern Light there is an article by a deaf alcoholic from Area 36. It is my belief that Area 35 will begin to have hearing/sight impaired folks coming to our part of the world. We should have discussions about this topic ahead of their migration.

We also discussed alcoholics in the Service and Veterans. There is a Grapevine book that has all kinds of stories about alcoholics in the Services. We also talked about dropping by the Veterans locations. There are a number of small offices around the state.

Although when you read this we'll be in the new year please know that I am wishing you all a sober and wonderful 2019.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve,  
Cathy R.  
Area 35 Treatment Chair

## Webmaster:

Greetings,

Since the December Area Committee Meeting, I have put several flyers on the website calendar. There is a lot of opportunities for service, fellowship and enrichment of our sobriety. I have been working on guidelines for flyers being placed in the Northern Light and on the Area website. The guidelines are the meant to help members make flyers that follow our Tradition of Anonymity and provide accurate information such as the address of the event, who will be presenting/speaking etc. I hope to have that finished soon. I purchased Norton Antivirus software for all Area computers. The cost, with tax, was \$107.37 for five computers for two years.

I attended the Service Workshop the third weekend in January and enjoyed each of the presentations. I found the talk on the history of how the Big Book was written very interesting and the presentation about Clarity of Purpose gave me a lot think about as far as how I carry the message both in and outside of AA. Another thing I heard was that in today's world the Big Book, the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and promises have not changed but my experience with them has changed. One group talked about how in sobriety we create a new life where it's easier not to drink and we need to share that with the newcomers by including them in fellowship and encourage them to take part in service work. Another group talked about Traditions One (Common Welfare) and Two (Unity) and how the Group conscious brings us to solutions. I would like to thank all of the presenters for their presentations. I would also like to thank Area 35 for letting me of service.

In service,  
Rillis E.  
Area 35 Webmaster

## Inclusion of Deaf Alcoholics in A.A.

When I first came into AA about six years ago, there were only two AA meetings that provided American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter. I was so desperate to stop drinking and I was new, I wanted what you all had and I was willing to go any Length to get it. I could not stay sober with only two meetings a week and I was scared, lost, confused and felt hopeless. One day, I was blessed with a hearing non-signer sponsor who was by my side and she would not let me give up and would not let me use my being Deaf as an excuse to just leave the program and screw up my life. She pushed me hard to show up to meetings without an interpreter to show the groups that I WANTED THIS and to ask for interpreter for the meetings. She saved my life and because she cared so much, she was hard on me. Today we now have eight meetings with interpreters in the Twin Cities! There is an ASL interpreted meeting EACH DAY of the week! This was the beginning of a new chapter for our AA Community to increase inclusion of Deaf Alcoholics.

A new chapter was formed for inclusion of Deaf Alcoholics and the Deaf Alcoholics' chance to be part of the AA as whole. Looking back over the last six years, seeing how far we have come in connecting both Deaf and Hearing members, shows Tradition 5 at work - "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Groups recognized that if they wanted to apply the spiritual principle by carrying the message to the Deaf Alcoholics, they can use Tradition 7 to help pay for ASL interpreters. The message started to get out to the Deaf alcoholics and more Deaf members came into the meetings because they had the desire to stop drinking and started to work the program. As time goes, we have more Deaf alcoholics who are staying sober and want to be more of service to the group as well. Both Deaf and Hearing alcoholics wanted to work together and it was uncomfortable at the beginning because of two different languages and we slowly started to learn how to communicate with each other. Tradition 1 says, "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us would surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." My life and other Deaf alcoholics lives are getting better. We are not dying, we are thriving because the members in AA see that we are part of a great whole.

With more Deaf alcoholics staying sober and more are getting involved with service inside the meetings, we all were learning how to work together, carrying the message together, joining in fellowship and being of service. The Deaf members were getting the spiritual experiences and want to be part of the AA as whole which means we also want to be part of the District level and Area level service. This became more of a sticky issue within the General Service structure, money became an issue for funding for ASL interpreters and it became a barrier for the group to be willing to be open and see that the Concept 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." If we exclude our Deaf members by failing to make General Service accessible to them, we risk cutting ourselves off from good leaders.

Deaf members have valuable contributions to make to the group and we have the ability to be of service in a wider range. I often hear members in AA saying how grateful they are that we have ASL interpreters, how grateful to see Deaf members in meetings and how much we learn from each other. We both benefit from each other, which is Concept I. "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." This is a beautiful concept! Imagine how inclusive the meetings will be for everyone! Not just for the Deaf members but for other members who are from different backgrounds and different accessibility needs! This is the beautiful part of the spiritual principles that will be put into practice! Instead of looking at money, because money takes us away from the spiritual principles, we can shift our views on being open-minded and see that Deaf members are part of the AA as whole and see how beautiful it would be for both Hearing and Deaf AA members to work together. We do not want fears about money to take away our spiritual principles.

From my last six years in AA, I have been of service by greeting at doors in meetings, helping set up meetings and cleaning up after meetings, setting up coffee, attending many workshops, advocating for ASL interpreters, creating service projects to connect both Deaf and Hearing members, being of service at conferences, being part of District meetings, serving as the Accessibility Committee Chair for District 7 and being part of Area Committee meetings. Not only do I want to be part of General Service, there are other Deaf members who also want to be of service. We do not want to see the money become a barrier for our access to the AA as whole, we want to do this WITH you. We want to help carry the message out to everyone! We want to stay sober, we don't want to just show up to meetings and not be part of General Service because honestly, it gets boring and it feels Like we are pushed aside. We know many AA members want to see us be part of the whole! Tradition 2

states, "for our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." This is our spiritual principle: inclusion.

I do want to share what changes I have seen in the last six years in Twin Cities showing the spiritual principles of providing inclusion for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing alcoholics:

1. An increase from two to eight ASL interpreted AA meetings each week.
2. Our Minneapolis Intergroup webpage has Deaf specific link to offer ASL translation of English text on the website and clearly shows which meetings have interpreter provided.
3. Many workshops and conference provide ASL interpreters
4. Two speaker meetings are recording the interpreter during meetings and making the recordings available via free email subscription. We have the same access as speaker tape!!!!
5. Many hearing AA members are including us in their fellowship activities and some hearing members are learning ASL! Three districts in Area 36 provide an ASL interpreter at their monthly meetings, and each has Deaf members representing them to the Area's standing committees.
6. For the past 3 years, the Area's Accessibilities Committee has staffed a display table at the annual Deaf Awareness Day conference in St. Paul.

We hope to see that the Area 36 General Service structure will welcome us in by providing ASL interpreter so we can be part of General Service and continue to be of service to the suffering alcoholics who are still out there, who needs our hands to help them.

By Ashley R.  
Reprinted with permission from the Area 36 SMN Pigeon

## Forums vs Service Conferences

I would like to touch on two upcoming AA events that are a great way for people to experience a little more of what AA has to offer. First of all, Area 35 has the wonderful opportunity to host the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) March 1<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Moorhead, MN. This is an annual event where we get together with the other areas in the West Central Region and give our West Central Trustee a sense of how our Region feels about the items that will be discussed at the 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference in New York. It is also a place for us to learn more about the agenda items, look at what the background material means so we can see how these items line up with the principles of the program.

At the WCRAASC, we will hear a report from our Region Trustee, Tom, and hear Area Highlights from the new incoming Panel 69 Delegates and get to meet them. I remember my attending my first WCRAASC as the DCM for my District and the experience and opportunity I had to hear and learn more about what the Fellowship wanted to see happen in AA. I learned so much more about the agenda items that it prepared me to take this information back to my District and share it with them so they could share it with their groups. I would encourage any and all GSRs to talk to their Groups. Explain to them the value of this experience. Ask your Group to consider sending you to this event so you can be the link to share this information to your Group, get their conscience and bring that conscience to the Area Spring Assembly in April so I can take an informed Group conscience to the General Service Conference in May.

We also have a West Central Regional Forum coming up this year August 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> which will be held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. This event happens every other year and is put on and funded by the General Service Office (GSO) through Group contributions.

I found this description of the Forum from a pamphlet about GSO. "Representatives of the General Service Board and G.S.O. and GV staffs participate in each Forum with A.A. members living or visiting in the Region. The purpose of the meetings is to provide better communication among all levels of service for the Region concerned. Planning and coordination, in conjunction with regional trustees and delegates, are handled at G.S.O. Local Forums."— Your AA General Service Office. — f6

When I attended my first Regional Forum, it was held in my home district and I was a brand new GSR for my Homegroup. I was in complete awe to get to hear and meet some of the staff members. I had the opportunity to learn more about what they do and how they serve the Fellowship. I was given the opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding how the structure works. It got me more excited about general service work.

Please come to these events and bring a friend along. I will be forever grateful for my Sponsor I had that taught me about service work and taught me how to get involved. She brought me to events and introduced me to General Service. Come join us and see a little of what we do.

In Unity and Service – Christine G.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

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

### Service Events

- February:

24<sup>th</sup> : Area 35 Committee Meeting \*

Alano Club 9:00 am –2 pm  
322 1st Ave. NE  
Aitkin, MN
- March:

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> : WCRAASC

Courtyard Marriott  
1080 28th Ave S,  
Moorhead, MN
- April:

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> : Area 35 Spring Assembly

Holiday Inn & Suites Duluth Downtown  
200 W 1st St  
Duluth, MN
- August:

16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> : West Central Regional Forum

Alerus Center  
1200 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Grand Forks, ND

### Fellowship Events

- February:

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> : 38th Annual Winter Warm Up \*

Dilworth Community Center,  
709 1st Ave NW  
Dilworth, MN
- March:

15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> : 15th Annual Big Ole Roundup

Holiday Inn Alexandria  
5637 MN-29,  
Alexandria, MN
- March:

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> : Winter Rap-Up

Mountain Iron Community Center  
8586 Enterprise Drive  
Mt. Iron, MN
- March:

23<sup>rd</sup> : Stearns County Round-Up

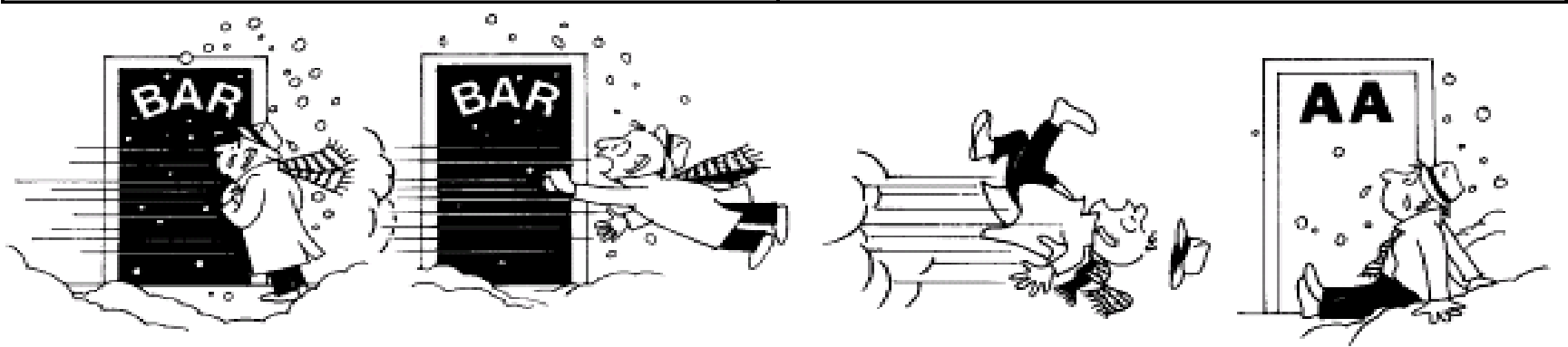
The Landing Supper Club  
18527 County Road 154  
Avon , MN
- April:

26<sup>th</sup>– 28<sup>th</sup>: 74<sup>th</sup> Superior Round-Up

Superior Fair Grounds  
4700 Tower Ave.  
Superior, WI
- May:

18<sup>th</sup>: St. Cloud Round-Up

Moose Lodge  
1300 3<sup>rd</sup> Street N..  
Waite Park MN



### Area 35 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<sup>th</sup> 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 Spring 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.

### Agenda Deadline Dates

- December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

along with the “Hot Topic List” from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>**

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.

**1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in March**

Agenda Items are discussed at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in February**

Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD

**1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in April**

Agenda Items are discussed and voted at the Area 35 Spring Assembly with the Area 35 Delegate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Week in April**

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Christine G.  
Area 35 Panel 68 Delegate  
[delegate@area35.org](mailto:delegate@area35.org)  
763-670-8303



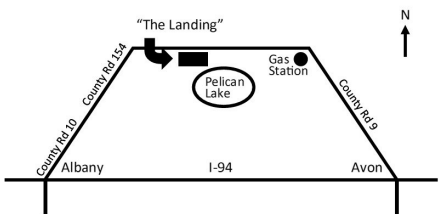
### Stearns County Round-Up

The Landing Supper Club  
St. Anna, Minnesota  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

|        |         |                 |
|--------|---------|-----------------|
| Social | 5:30 pm | \$11.00 Advance |
| Dinner | 6:30 pm | \$12.00 At Door |

8:00 pm  
Open Meeting

Guest Speakers:  
Al-Anon: Vickie A. - Blaine  
AA: Kelvin D. - West Fargo  
*Ice cream will be served between speakers.*



For more information, call: Nick @ 320-292-0090 or Pat M. @ 320-241-3909

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

### Winter Rap-Up

March 22-23, 2019

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

### “Gratitude in Action”

Friday, March 22, 2019

|         |         |          |            |
|---------|---------|----------|------------|
| 7:00 pm | Al-Anon | Kathy T. | Duluth, MN |
| 8:00 pm | AA      | Doug H.  | Edina, MN  |

*Ice cream social to follow*

Saturday, March 23, 2019

10:30-noon Workshop Don H. & Charlie C.

*Lunch on your own*

|         |         |          |            |
|---------|---------|----------|------------|
| 1:30 pm | AA      | BR B.    | Motley, MN |
| 2:30 pm | Al-Anon | Nancy H. | Edina, MN  |

*Dinner on your own*

|         |         |           |            |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 7:00 pm | Al-Anon | Tracie B. | Motley, MN |
| 8:00 pm | AA      | Scott C.  | Fargo, MN  |

*Ice cream social to follow*

Holiday Inn Express  
218-7417411  
On Hwy 169 across from Community Center  
Conference rate \$100/night, reserve before 03/01/19

AmericInn  
218-741-7839

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

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

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

Adult registrations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Youth registrations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Send payment to: Winter Rap-Up  
504 Hampshire Drive  
Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750

Preregistration encouraged.

### ST. CLOUD ROUNDUP'S



Celebration  
Of Recovery

SATURDAY

MAY 18, 2019

MOOSE LODGE

1300 3<sup>rd</sup> Street N Waite Park. Mn



Pre-Registration and On-Line Tickets Must  
Be Purchased By May 13, 2019

Speaker Tickets

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Pre-Registration and On-Line | \$12.00 |
| At the Door                  | \$15.00 |

Ice Cream Social After  
Speakers \$3.00

Information:  
320-761-4137  
[stcloudroundup@gmail.com](mailto:stcloudroundup@gmail.com)

Make Checks Payable To SCR  
Pre-Registration Must Be Purchased By May 13, 2019

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](http://www.stcloudroundup.org)

"Serenity is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it."

"Short Takes," Tacoma, Washington, April 1984, AA Grapevine

### Area 35 Spring Assembly

April 6-7, 2019

Holiday Inn and Suites Duluth Downtown  
200 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Room Rates: Two Queens, non-smoking: \$119.00.

To make **reservations** please call: (218) 722-1202  
Area 35 Room Block Group Code: A35  
Cut off Date is: **MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Saturday, April 6

9:00 AM Registration  
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, April 7

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.

## BLAST FROM the PAST

In this edition from Blast From the Past from Volume 8 Issue 3

### Sometimes We Are Who We Aren't

Because P.I. committee work often puts A.A.s in the public eye, members try to keep the anonymity tradition firmly in mind. How well it works in all our affairs is illustrated by the following scenario:

After speaking at an A.A. meeting one evening, a P.I. Committee member was stopped by a woman who said, "Because of you, I am in A.A. and I've wanted to thank you although I didn't know your name."

The speaker did not recognize her and asked how he was responsible. "You spoke at my son's high school five years ago with two other members," she replied. "About a year later, when I was in trouble with drinking and needed help, my son said he knew what to do. He called A.A. and I've been sober ever since."

The speaker began to feel very good. "What school was this?" he inquired. "Exactly what year?" The woman named the school and the year. The speaker realized he had not lived in that part of the country at the time.

"On my way home," he remembers, "I grinned. I had just learned something very valuable about humility and 'principles before personalities.' It was an exciting step forward in my own understanding of anonymity. Credit is not what we're after in P.I. work or any other twelfth stepping, is it? We're after spiritual growth in our sobriety."

To be honest, I don't know who sent this in or where it came from, but thought it good.

GG



*"Poor George Washington. He never got Lincoln's Birthday off!"*

### January 19, 2019 43<sup>rd</sup> Area 35 Service Workshop GSR Sharing Session Report Minutes

The session was led by Dan K. Co-Chair. There were nineteen GSRs in attendance. There were five new GSRs.

**The Group came up with four topics to discuss.**

- 1.) Singleness of Purpose and how do you deal with it.
  - a. Use the Blue Card that GSO prints explaining the difference between Open and Closed meetings.
  - b. When you see fliers for other 12 Step programs, take pictures with your phone for future use.
  - c. It is up to the individual Groups to decide what they will allow.
  - d. Remember the difference between Tradition 3 and Tradition 5.
- 2.) Principles before personalities and getting people involved in service work.
  - a. Always remember Love, Tolerance and Attraction.
  - b. Make service work appealing to members of the Group.
  - c. Sponsoring into Service work. Being "Voluntold" by a Sponsor.
- 3.) What is our roll as a GSR?
  - a. The GSR is the link that keeps the Group connected to District, Area and GSO.
  - b. Give reports to the Group and make sure to ask if the Group has any questions that they want answered.

Before closing, Don read "Why do we need a service conference" on page S20 of the AA Service Manual.

Yours in service,  
Sue H.

## Acronyms

( Spaghetti Soup)

AAWS - Alcoholics Anonymous World Service

ACM - Area Committee Meeting

BB - Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous)

BTG - Bridging the Gap

CCS - Corrections Correspondence Service

CFCP - Correctional Facility Contact Program

CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community

DCM - District Committee Member

FNV- Fellowship New Vision Database

FOC - Finance Oversight Committee

GSO - General Service Office

GSC - General Service Conference

GSR - General Service Representative

GV- Grapevine

GVR - Grapevine Representative

ICYPAA - International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

NL- Northern Light

NMAA - Northern Minnesota Area Assembly

PI - Public Information

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

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)

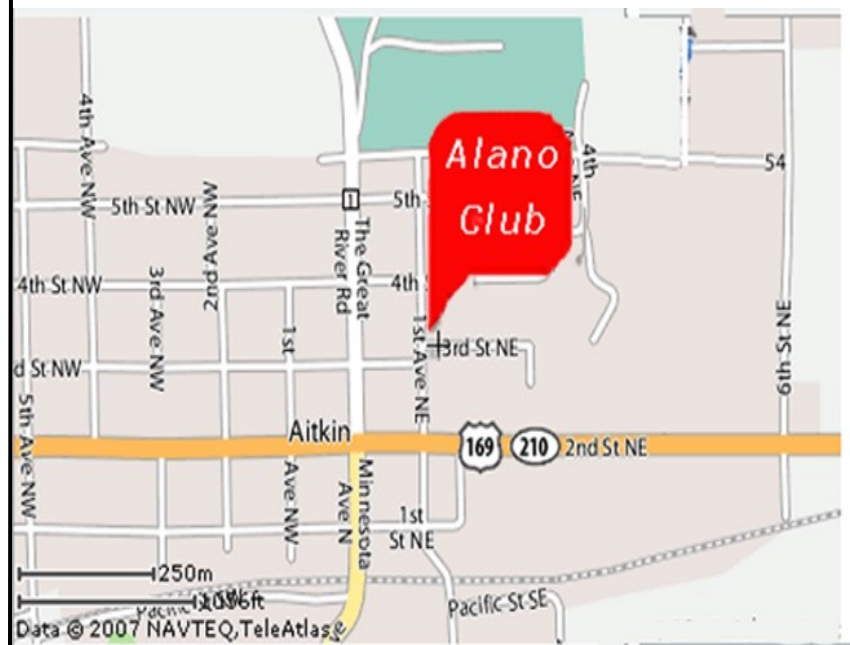
**"Sponsorship is a bridge to trusting the human race, the very race we once resigned from. In learning to trust, we are strengthening our sobriety."**

"A Means to a Beginning," Grand Island, Nebraska, February 1984, One On One: AA Sponsorship in Action

## 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.





## AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Area 35 Committee Meeting Minutes

Aitkin, MN

December 2, 2018

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

**Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance:** Kelly D. (Panel 66) Mike J. (Panel 64) Bruce B. (Panel 44) Susie A. (Panel 48) Tom A. (Panel 50)

**Additions to the Agenda:** Nothing was Added

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

### OFFICER REPORTS

#### DELEGATE-Christine G.

Greetings Area 35,

Since my last report in the NL, I have submitted the two proposals from District 13 that Area 35 approved to support at the Fall Assembly. I have received notification from Patrick, the Conference Secretary that the YouTube proposal has been forwarded to the AAWS Technology/Communication/Services Committee for discussion at the December Board Meeting and the request for large print AACOA has been forwarded to the AAWS Publishing Department.

I attended the Joint Workshop at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on November 17<sup>th</sup> and we had some great discussion on our officer's Meeting about how often our Area's meet to discuss business and what the format looks like. I would encourage you to visit a neighboring Area event if you have the opportunity. It is a great way to see how others operate and to meet with your counterparts.

We continue our work on planning for the West Central Regional Service Conference that is coming March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Moorhead. You can visit [wcras2019.com](http://wcras2019.com) to register online and you can also book your rooms at the Marriot Courtyard. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work in planning for this event.

We have the 2019 WCR Forum in Grand Forks, ND on August 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. I would encourage all Districts to communicate this to their groups and suggest that any major District events not happen on this weekend. This is an opportunity to get to know and ask questions of our GSO Staff. GSO puts this on and this is another example of how group contributions are used. All are welcome and I encourage each person here to attend and bring a GSR or other AA member along.

I sent out a letter from Greg T., GSO General Manager, regarding Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., licensing the Meeting Guide technology. There are instructions about how to connect with this new resource at <https://meetingguide.aa.org> and on the right hand side there is a contact form that you can ask your questions. Participation in the Meeting finder is open to all General Service Areas, Districts, Intergroup/ Central Offices, and International General Service Offices listed on "A.A. Near You" that is located on AA.org. Currently, Area 35 is linked using [aaminnesota.org](http://aaminnesota.org). My understanding is as long as Group information is current through [aaminnesota.org](http://aaminnesota.org); it will appear on the Meeting guide.

- We had our WCR conference call on November 27<sup>th</sup>. We discussed some details from the October Board Meeting;
- AAWS is coordinating a I.T. overhaul with a new ERP system that is expected to go live the first of February. FNV will be replaced and a consolidation of databases from records, contributions, FNV plus sales to your group will be in one database. It is progressing very well, and a new on-line portal currently refers to as "MyPortal" will bring new opportunities to the AA Groups. A weeklong shut down is planned at the end of January for planned go-live at the beginning of February. Group Records will be getting more details on a temporary process for registering and changes to groups.
- AAGV had a financial report that illustrated that sales are ahead of projections. The new book, "One Big Tent – Atheists and Agnostics AA Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope" is a success!
- AAGV has now released LaVina in full color.
- Amy B. is no longer GV Executive Editor/Publisher and they are looking for a replacement.

Don't forget to get your Grapevine subscriptions in and know that any Grapevine orders placed through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 will get free shipping. Plus we still have the Grapevine challenges going on so if you have not subscribed to the GV, please get your subscription in. The Region with the greatest increase in subscriptions will be will have a number of articles published on the Region.

I will be sending out an email this week and I would like you to reply your preference on how you would like agenda background material that will be distributed at the February ACM. I will be also asking what date you would like to have your post conference report with your district. I would like to have these all scheduled by our February ACM. Thank you to the Districts that have already scheduled their time.

I will be attending the January Service workshop in Alexandria, January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing lots of new faces. Fill the car up and bring some members who may be interested in learning more about general service.

I am preparing for January Board weekend which is January 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. The Committee I am Conference Chair is Policy/Admissions. I will be having a conference call prior to the Meeting with the Committee Secretary who is Mary C. and the Trustee of Conference Rich P..

#### New Business:

**Take back to your groups and we will have a discussion at the Spring Assembly about registered property and does AA ever enter litigation? We have the situation with a website [alcoholicsanonymous.com](http://alcoholicsanonymous.com) and this may be a topic of conversation at our next GSC and I would like to get a good feel of the group conscience how Area 35 feels about how GSB should proceed, if at all.**

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to better serve you or your groups. I am willing to come to your districts.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 35.

In Love and Service,  
Christine G.  
Area 35 Panel 68 Delegate

#### ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Jim S. Good Morning Everyone,

I wanted to remind everyone that the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop is in Alexandria, MN Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Tom A. will be our guest that weekend. He will share both his experience with service and his own personal recovery. Fliers are on the back table and on the website. Thank you Rillis.

The West Central Regional Service Conference is in Moorhead, MN March 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. I will be looking for volunteers to help out with this event. There will be an incredible amount of volunteers needed for this event so anyone who can help out would be greatly appreciated.

I attended the Joint 35/36 workshop in St Cloud on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a great event to attend. I would encourage others to check it out.

In Service  
Jim S.  
Alt Delegate

#### AREA CHAIR-Roger R. Greetings Area 35 of Northern MN.

Welcome all to a Snowy December 2108 Area 35 Committee Meeting.

For those who attended the November 17<sup>th</sup> Area35/36 Joint Workshop I would like to thank you for your participation at that event as we strive to work together with our Southern Area counterparts to carry our message.

I also appreciate your attendance at the recent Fall Assembly in Deerwood MN in October. I will be delivering a report on the evaluations of the Fall Assembly under new business today.

This is a busy season for service in AA as we have and will have events in October (Fall Assembly), November (Joint Workshop), December (ACM), January (Area 35 Workshop), February (ACM), March (WCRAASC) and April (Spring Assembly). I also appreciate the efforts you are making in between these events to carry our message.

We have a number of reports and a few business items on tap for today. I'm looking forward to hearing your reports and discussion on these items.

Thank you  
Roger R.  
Area 35 Chair

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### Responsibility Statement

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

(Continued from page 11)

**SECRETARY-Melissa A.** Greetings Area 35,

I hope that all is well. I need to make an amend to Area 35 & Area 36 for not attending the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, unfortunately something prevented me that day from being able to attend and I sincerely apologize for that. I have updated the Spring Assembly flyer which should be posted on the Area 35 website. I will be bringing more flyers to the January Workshop, which I look forward to attending. Please remember that the Spring Assembly flyers people received at the Fall Assembly have the wrong map on it so please disregard the map on that flyer. I did get the minutes for the last Northern Light to Steve from the Fall Assembly. I would appreciate it if I could get the reports that are given today turned into me by Monday January 7, 2018 so that I can get them to Steve in time for the Northern Light deadline.

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

**TREASURER-Mike F.** Greetings from your Area Treasurer, It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Since my last ACM report, I have:

- Reconciled 4 monthly bank statements and created reports for review by the Financial Oversight Committee
- Deposited all contributions received as of November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Paid all bills and expenses received as of November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Completed a balance sheet and an income/expense/contribution statements for Period 5 (August/September) and Period 6 (October/November)

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, our checking and savings accounts have a combined total balance of **\$23,119**. Year-to-date total income and expenses are **\$33,807** and **\$35,679**, respectively, leaving a net expense of **\$1,872**.

Year-to-date group contributions for 2018 and 2017 are **\$28,329** and **\$23,441**, respectively, a **21%** increase over last year. Based on the contributions received thus far, we could end the year with contributions approximating **\$31,000**. That favorably compares to the **\$24,961** we received in 2017, and the **\$29,862** we received in 2016. Note that I am talking about group contributions only, as we also receive additional income from area events, roundups, Northern Light flyers, and Grapevine sales. Our groups and their members continue to do an outstanding job of supporting Area 35!

All officers and Committee chairs are operating below their respective budgets for the year. Our total year-to-date expenses are **\$11,729** below budget.

At the Fall Assembly the members approved a 2019 budget totaling **\$46,942**, or about **\$844** less than our 2018 budget of **\$47,786**. However, actual expenses for 2018 should end up being approximately **\$37,000**.

If you have questions or concerns about any of your group contributions, please email me at [treasurer@area35.org](mailto:treasurer@area35.org).

Please remember to include your group number on all contributions. This will ensure that your contributions get credited to your group. I have noticed that most contributions do include it and that makes my job a lot easier. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support of Area 35 and thank you for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Service,  
Mike F.  
Area 35 Treasurer

## COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

### CPC - Myron H. No Report

**District 9- Jim S.** Hi Everyone,

I have not done a lot lately due to my brother Walter's serious illness. I did manage to find time to create an AA helpline through Google Voice that helpline number is 218-262-9986. The Public can contact Hibbing AA by calling that number. Up to six linked phones can be added to answer the calls.

I can also report we finished up our inventory and decided to create a workshop "How to speak at an Open Meeting Treatment Center or Correction Facility and most important to newcomers" we would like to invite Area 35 Chairs to the workshop or anyone else in the area. February is the tentative date.

District 9 has contacted a new Treatment Center in Hibbing called Partners in Recovery with regard to "Bridging the Gap" and sound very receptive to anything District 9 can bring to them.

We are getting budgets done in District 9, first time we have done that.

Yours in service,  
Jim S.  
DCM 9

### District 13- Justin W. Greetings.

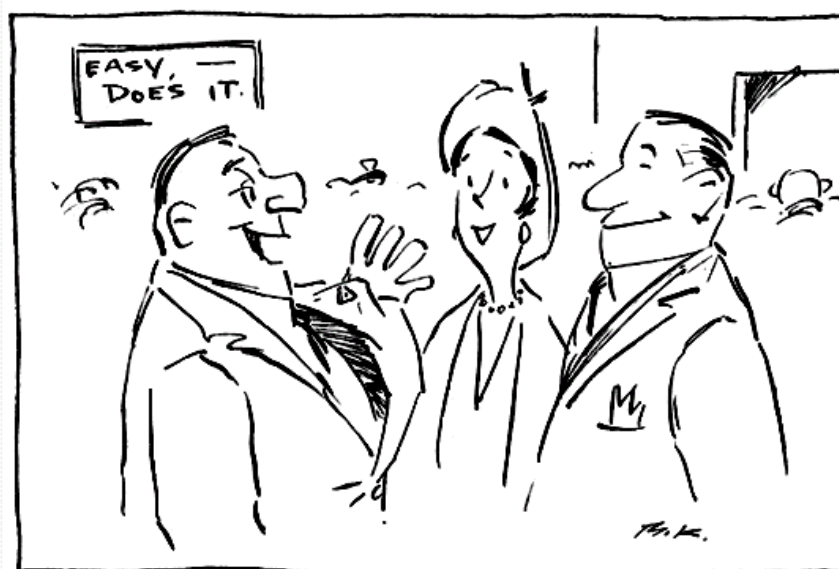
Since our last Meeting I have not been as involved as I would have liked due to extenuating circumstances with work. I lost two employees and consequently ended up wearing two additional hats in order to keep things going. I missed you all terribly at the Fall Assembly and didn't make it to our District Meeting in November. I am grateful to have a committed Alternate who was able and willing to attend both of these in my absence. Both employees have now been replaced and here I am.

Our last financial report indicates that year to date contributions is up from last year by almost 20%. Our current balance includes a prudent reserve that covers our expenses for three months and we are solvent. Our Treasurer is doing a great job.

- We had three new GSR's at the last Meeting and there is a new registered Group in our District.
- We have an active **Archives** Chair and he continues to record the District Meetings which allows for much more accurate minutes by our Secretary.
- Our **Corrections** Chair resigned in the beginning of October, but a new Chair was nominated at the November District Meeting and accepted the nomination. He asked for some time to review the requirements of the position before accepting the position and we appreciate the diligence. He has been heavily involved at the Saint Cloud Prison already and is a perfect candidate for the position.
- **Literature** is moving quickly and our new Chair is committed and continues to be an example for the rest of us.
- The **Treatment** Committee continues to develop relationships with the facilities in our District and we are moving forward. I recently received an email from one of the staff thanking Alcoholics Anonymous for bringing the message into their facility.
- **PI** is extremely busy as usual. The phone line responsibility has been transferred to Gayle, and it sounds like that is going well. They have recently distributed PSA's to Charter Cable. New Meeting schedules are pending and we have our Meeting list updated and accurate. They are doing too much to list here if I'm going to beat the buzzer.

Our District Meetings have been going well. We have even found out that it is possible to close the business Meeting a little early and everyone still likes each other after the Meetings are over.

Yours in service...  
Justin W.  
District 13 DCM



"... And in fifty-seven months and six days, I'll have five years!"

### WEBMASTER - Rillis E.

I have missed several service events due to hip surgery in September so I am very grateful to be here with all of you

I have reorganized the download's page on the website. The pages are in alphabetical order and the documents were updated with the last versions. I also added a link to the 12x12. Committee Chairs please check to make sure the forms on the site are the latest versions.

The Norton Antivirus on all the Area computers will expire soon. I will be updating it this coming week so people who have an Area computer should expect to receive an email from me this week with instructions on how to update your computer.

I will not need to purchase Adobe Acrobat to password protect the agenda items background information as Bob B. sent me instructions on how to password protect documents using Word Press.

Thank you for letting me be of service.  
Rillis E.  
Area 35 Webmaster

(Continued on page 13)



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## LITERATURE - Brian P.

We had seven Literature Chairs attending the Meeting

After a round of introductions we got into sharing about what was going on.

Each of the District Literature Chairs gave a small presentation about a piece of literature that they had read. This is what we are doing to get more informed as to what is in the Pamphlets.

I attended the Joint Workshop with Area 36 and got to share some ideas on how we do our job. In Area 35 vs. how they do things in Area 36. We did not have a lot in common and some of the way they do things might work for us.

The book and literature sales have been good. There is a new Anonymity foam board to address the issue of Anonymity and the Internet. The code is M-77 and is \$11.00 if you are interested in ordering one.

The next Area Meeting will be the Service Workshop in January. It is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. If you need literature or books let me know two weeks ahead of the event by January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully yours in service  
Brian P.  
Area 35 Literature Chair

**District 15- Pat M.** Hi I am Pat M. and I am an alcoholic DCM for District 15.

The District holds its Meetings the first Monday of the month. I found it interesting that thirteen of thirty one Groups send contributions to GSO for the year so far it is the same as the previous year, this is something that we will have to discuss at the December District Meeting.

The District was asked to present at the January Workshop on "Are we diligent of the Big Book" the District has a couple of volunteers so far looking forward to presenting. The District will be having a Big Book Workshop February 15<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>.

I the DCM will no longer be the Treatment Committee Chair as of the first of the year. I hope someone steps up and takes this commitment over, it has been a very rewarding commitment. The people I have met, the friendships that I have made are unbelievable.

I am almost done with updating Group Records. Now I need to get new Meeting Cards out. The District is starting to work on plans for the Stearns County Roundup that will be held at the Landing supper club in St. Anna on Saturday March 23, 2019. Lets remember that still suffering alcoholic this Christmas season. The still suffering alcoholic might be right in front of us. We won't see them if we are not willing too.

Yours in service,  
Pat M.  
District 15 DCM

## District 3- Kevin K.

Our District meets monthly the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at the Detroit Lakes Alano Club. During November and December Meetings we are taking 15-20 minutes to review the role of our Group "General Service Representative". Using the Service Manual, we read a portion of the chapter on the GSR and discuss.

Our District hosting monthly Round Robin's in one of twenty three communities District 3 serves. Ottetail will host the next Round Robin in December.

Jim S. asked our District if we would present at the Area workshop in January. Our District is pleased to be of service "addressing the needs of the Group"

We have a very active PI/CPC Chair that is taking on grass root efforts with our District Churches, Law Enforcement, and Healthcare Facilities and Media. Gene provides packets of information about Alcoholics Anonymous. He then follows up to make sure if they need any addition information.

Monthly we report on out helpline with tear off slips, hand out hard copy Meeting listings to all attending GSR's.

We have a new Chair for our web master, posting Group and service events.

We elected a new Correction Chair, Jessa from Perham Solutions Group.

We are sad that one of our strong service members from Wadena Glenn passed away from health problems.

My thanks to each of these Groups for their efforts in providing a Meeting place for newcomers to meet, carrying the message of recovery through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Steps & 12 Traditions.

Respectively,

Kevin K.  
District 3 DCM

## NORTHERN LIGHT - Steve L.

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

We had five in attendance at our meeting this morning. With discussion on NL article submissions and fliers. Thanks again to JoAnne she is a great asset to the publishing team by proofing for the NL.

I attended the Area 35/36 workshop. Talked with the new Pigeon editor and there were six in attendance at our table. We discussed the new meeting app discussed in the NL on page six of the Nov/Dec issue. Archiving newsletters, being able to search archived newsletters.

I hope you all received this issue of the NL. It was a short month with a holiday. Did you look at the blast from the past in this issue? Quite interesting Group contributions of \$7.50 seemed to be the rule for Group contributions. With the Area having a working balance of less than \$430.

I started to implement a new procedure for inserting a flyer into the NL. I asked Mike at Coldspring printing to only insert fliers the NL editor approves.

I'm currently courting a replacement for the next rotation. With this being the middle of our rotation its time to start looking for replacements for you, this year will fly by.

Thanks for reading

Yours in Service  
Steven L.  
Area 35 Northern Light Editor

## GROUP RECORDS - Sally L. Greetings, Area 35.

I attended the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop on Nov. 17, 2018. Our Committee included Area newsletter people from both Areas, Area 35 Group Records, and technical people from both Areas. There was discussion about using the Meeting locator app for smartphones. Areas 35 and 36 are synced up to this service, which uses the aaMinnesota.org database.

I asked Bob B. if it would be possible to add a field in aaMinnesota.org to add building names of where Meetings are held as well as the addresses, which would help people find Meetings easier. He said he would see if that is possible.

I also asked Bob if it would be possible for Groups to have Meeting descriptions such as 12 x 12, Big Book, Speaker, Women's Group, Open, Closed, etc., added to the Meeting locator from the FNV database. There is not a way to do this. The only way to get this information added to aaMinnesota.org is to enter it by hand in the notes on the website editor. This process would need to be completed every month when the database is updated. It is not practical to do this.

The Northern Light mailing list is up to date. There was only one address incorrect on the last mailing, and that was because the recipient had moved out of state.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Sally L.  
Area 35 Group Records Secretary  
grouprecords@area35.org

## District 4 - Greg C.

New officers took their positions at the District Meeting/Round Robin in January. Happy to announce that we have filled DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, Literature Chair, Corrections Chair, Treatment Chair, CPC Chair and PI Chair! We have a passionate, energetic group. Lots of proposed projects for the coming year including an out-reach program targeting Seniors being designed by our new PI chair Kathy H. There are a couple of Groups in Alexandria that are suffering lack of attendance and funds. But GSR's from elsewhere around the District are reporting strong numbers and solid finances. Lots to be joyful and excited about here in District 4!

Colleen S. is the new District DCM.

Greg C.  
Dist 4 ALT/DCM

## District 8- Heidi B. Greetings from District 8.

Sally T., our District PI/CPC Chair, has finalized our Public Information Meeting (formerly the Beginner's Meeting) for Range Treatment Center in Virginia. The 'What is AA' presentation will begin in January and will be held the first Wednesday of each month. Groups are signing up to give the presentation with brief training prior to each District Meeting. A Group must have training prior to signing up. We had our first training session at the November District Meeting. We continue to provide speakers to Range Treatment Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month and bring a Meeting to the detox and Treatment Center weekly.

The Cook Sunday Night Group hosted a Past Delegate Workshop on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> with five past delegates from District 8. I enjoyed hearing each delegate's service experience and it was a great time for fellowship.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

District 8 continues to bring a Meeting to Northeast Regional Corrections Center in Duluth once a month, Meetings to Sandstone Federal Prison twice a month and a monthly Meeting to Thistledeew Correctional Facility in Togo.

I attended the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop in St. Cloud on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. I've attended this workshop over the past two years and have found it helpful and informative. I sat in on the Webmaster, Newsletter and Group Records Committee. We shared ideas and discussed ways to better communicate between the two Areas.

Carey A. suggested that we create a list of the past DCM's for District 8, so I will be starting that this month. I will be going through the archives for information and will send out an email to the District asking for your help. I am continuing to go through our District archives sorting and archiving the material.

Our District is still looking for an Archives & Alt Archives Chair and a PI/CPC Alt Chair. I am excited to say that we have someone interested in the long vacant Grapevine/Literature Chair. This person will be attending our District Meeting Monday night to be nominated for the position.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,  
Heidi B.  
District 8 DCM



**District 18- BR B.** My name is BR B. DCM for District 18,

All is well in District 18,

Round Robin in Little Falls is on February 2, 2019 and Drunks on Ice is on February 16, 2019. District 18 looks forward to presenting at the January Workshop.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,  
BR B.  
District 18 DCM

## TREATMENT - Cathy R.

This past quarter has been exciting,

A couple of Districts have taken me up on my offer to speak about Bridging the Gap (BTG), accessibility and veterans.

I'd like to thank Sally L., the Group Records Chair. I received a BTG request for a person coming out of Treatment back to Mahnommen. This town is in District 1, they don't have a DCM and I missed their District Meeting and they have nothing listed online. I called Sally and asked her if she had any contacts listed for this Area. She gave me a person's name in Ada, which is close. I called the person and she said yes she would contact the person. Without Sally's assistance we would not have been able to offer the hand of AA. Thanks Sally.

I had the opportunity to attend the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop. Our Treatment table was full of participants, GSR's, DCM's, outgoing and incoming Area 36 Treatment Chairs, and an Accessibility Chair.

If the purpose of this joint workshop is to learn- WOW I sure did learn. There was a lengthy discussion about deaf Alcoholics. I received an article, which will be reprinted in our Northern Light from a deaf AA person in Area 36. There were a number of suggestions to assist the deaf, hard of hearing and sight impaired/blind. I will be sharing these ideas with the Treatment people who attend the quarterly Area 35 Meeting.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

In service,  
Cathy R.  
Area 35 Treatment Chair

## District 16- Glenn M.

At our last monthly District Meeting we had twelve in attendance. We'll meet again Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> so I'll need to get my report back ready by then. Even when the District Committee Chairs and GSR's aren't able to attend the Chairs email their report and the GSR's fill out the GSR District Report and send with someone or email in. Good responses usually.

We have a Saturday February 16, 2019 date for our District Winter Workshop on Steps 3, 7 & 10. Focusing more on the Spiritual aspect after Katy P. our Alternate DCM attended the Fall Assembly would reach more and make a difference in more peoples lives, fliers are coming.

We had the most attendance at our weekly City Jail Meeting with fifteen. That's more than we've had in quite a while which is encouraging and even had four for Thanksgiving and James requests to work on temporary sponsors for them. Our Corrections Chair James S. is working on this and reminded us that attendance really fluctuates as most inmates are short term and he asked for more volunteers to get approved. We don't go in without two volunteers.

Treatment Chair Bruce M. says our Treatment Facility speaker requests are filled until next year.

We had a new and innovative Halloween pot luck Open Meeting event put together by our Sunday Night Candlelight Group with costumes, candy and family that had a good first time turnout.

Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Night Solutions Annual year-end Open Speaker Pot Luck was its usual success with great speakers, food and a large turnout. Our literature Chair Mark A. set up displays of books and pamphlets as well as Meeting directories for this event to make them available to newcomers and all who attended.

Our GSR's are reporting decreased Meeting attendance we believe due mostly to the weather this time of year and the number of snowbirds we have up here. When it gets this cold, our members head south to warmer Meetings.

All our Groups use the computer for Meetings locators.

Just had our Literature/Grapevine Chairs resign this AM.

I'm glad to be a part of the Area 35 Committee Meeting and learning how to serve at this level.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,  
Glenn M.  
District 16 DCM

## District 5- Skip D.

District 5 is still alive, and doing what we can. We still have three District positions filled DCM, Treasurer and Secretary. We are getting four to five GSR's at District Meetings.

District 5 was asked to do a presentation at the January workshop in Alexandria. I did bring this up at our last District Meeting. Everyone wanted a week to make the decision. I did hear back from two people after sending out an email to all last Thursday. District 5 is willing to serve, thank you for the opportunity. We will be discussing this more at our next District Meeting.

We did set a date for a District Inventory on January 21, 2019. With the lack of District Chairs, we are wondering how to get the Groups that are not participating at this time, the inventory questions, so they too have the opportunity to participate? Knowing that the past five years most District Chair have not been filled, we feel the only way to move forward, is to find out what the Groups need, or expect from the District. On the positive side, District 5 is now able to take a speaker Meeting into one of our Treatment Centers that we were unable to do for the past ten months or so.

At our last couple District Meetings, there has been some interest to take Meetings into Sherburne County Jail, and at the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, the Corrections Chair approached me from Area 36 about taking Meetings into Sherburne County. I was able to attend a conference call with the Area Corrections Chairs from Area 35/36 and a couple other members on how we can move forward with this facility. A whole lot of male volunteers are needed! If this is to come at Sherburne County, we need five to ten male volunteers every night we go into the facility.

In service,  
Skip D.  
District 5 DCM

## ARCHIVIST - Steve D.

Greetings from Area 35,

Good morning Area 35. My name is Steve D. and I am an alcoholic. First, I want to acknowledge that our Archives are moved and we are in the process of beginning the task of digitizing archival documents. This would not be possible without the help of the Area 35 Archives Committee. Their willingness to help will give us a working model that we can provide to our members of AA in Area 35.

(Continued on page 15)

## 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.*

*(Continued from page 14)*  
Today we began the process of scanning and began scanning documents. As we know much of the learning is in the doing and we are finding that our process will need some refining. We need to determine a method that allows all members to participate. From our joint workshop with Area 36, we have a method to scan from a phone app. We tried that out today and it will be acceptable.

Also, we have set up a folder on my outlook cloud folder to temporarily store those documents. That will ensure a level of security needed. We also will need to organize data to make it searchable. I will begin to create a catalog of material that is archived for members to request a copy via e-mail. I will have the catalog at all Area service functions, and whenever I have the Archives Display set up.

I encourage Districts to order an Archives Workbook even if you don't have an Archives Chair. The information will help you decide what to keep and how to keep it. If you have documents that need preservation, I can help with that. Joe from District 9 has some original documents that we will work on at the next Archives Committee Meeting.

As a reminder, I am very willing to provide an Archives Display at any AA function in your District. The expenses for such displays are the responsibility of the hosting Group. I am very willing to travel to your District Meeting to talk about archives and the value archives brings to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yours in Service,  
Steve D.  
Area 35 Archivist.

**ARCHIVES - Scott M.** Greetings Area 35.

Our Committee met December 3, 2018 at the Area Committee Meeting in Aitkin. We had six in attendance. Bob B. District 7, Joe E. District 9, Peter T. District 13, Cindy S. District 11, Steve D. Area Archivist, and myself were in attendance.

It was reported that the Joint Area Workshop proved to be a worthwhile endeavor. We will be implementing an idea to scan documents using a scanner that then can be uploaded to a cloud storage device. This will allow the Committee to scan documents from home. It was noted that we would still need a quality scanner for archival reproduction. We continued to discuss at length the different avenues pro and con concerning the use of a searchable archives database. Steve will be looking into what WCR is currently using and if it would be feasible for the Area to use something similar.

Yours in service,  
Scott M.  
Area 35 Archives

**District 7 - Bob B. No Report**

**District 11- Cindy S.-K. No Report**

**"Although we can borrow from religion, medicine, and psychiatry, we are not any one of them. We cannot run hospitals nor half-way houses, nor marry the group with a religious sect. We cannot send lobbyists to Congress and we don't mix AA with banking enterprises. We aren't educators nor counselors. We cannot lend our name to any other cause except our own. The more we mind our own business, the greater our influence becomes; medicine, religion, and psychiatry start borrowing from our experience and ideas. So do the fields of education, research, and rehabilitation. All kinds of groups based on AA's Twelve Steps have evolved, groups that deal with gambling, eating, drug addiction, mental illness, divorce, etc. They've borrowed from the AA program and made their own adaptations. We didn't have to endorse them or lend our name. This tells us strongly that the more AA sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence."**

*San Antonio, Texas, June 1996  
"Simplicity Works Best,"  
AA Grapevine*

**CORRECTIONS - Paul M.** Greetings.

We had four Districts represented at the Meeting this morning. District 7,8,9 and 12. Brand new Committee member, Jess from District 3. She is on fire for service! All Districts represented are active and bringing Meetings in Correctional Facilities. District 12 has now got back into the Federal Prison in Duluth, that's good news. I attended the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop in St. Cloud and had a great discussion on how we're the same and how we are different.

We had a request to bring Meetings back into the Sherburne County Jail from two outside agencies, which I have been in contact with. On Friday November 30, 2018 we had a conference call with Skip (jail contact) Area 36 Corrections Chair, Statewide Corrections Chair and Jeff and I whose been in Correctional facilities a number of years. We are going to discuss this at our

next Statewide Meeting this month. There is a lot involved with this jail because it's a Federal Facility and has some rules that we had a hard time fulfilling when we were last in there. Any questions or concerns about Correctional Facilities please contact me. Thank you.

Yours in service  
Paul M  
Area 35 Corrections Chair

**District 12- Richard G.** Area 35! Here we are together again. I am so grateful to see you all!

Here is the new activity at District 12.

**Archives:** Cassidy continues to put together a history of District 12.

**Corrections:** Pat is now holding a weekly Meeting at Duluth Federal Prison/camp. Butch District 8 Corrections Chair stated today that he has men state prison approved that are willing to help. I will give Pat this contact information to set things up.

**Intergroup:** Has moved successfully to 320 E. 2nd St. and has the same phone number. Services are going strong and expanding.

**Literature:** Chris is busy getting literature for Corrections, PI/CPC, Treatment Committees.

**PI/CPC:** Justin is busy moving. He managed to set up an information table at Teen Challenge and their community resource fair recently.

**Treatment:** Tammy has consistent AA Meetings at Liberallis. She has started Meetings at the female section at Pioneer Treatment Center. All other Treatment Meetings continue and appreciated.

**District pamphlet:** It is not clear that the new members at District 12 are here due to our District pamphlet. A new 2019 version is being put together and included three new officer changes. All we need is twenty new GSR's and effectiveness will be achieved.

Yours in service,  
Rich G.  
District 12 DCM

**District 14- Paul E.** Greetings to all from District 14.

District 14 hasn't had a Meeting recently. Margie, who is our Treatment Chair, has been keeping in contact with our local Treatment Center and she was able to get into to meet with the clients last week. As of now she will be going into the Treatment Center once a month. We sent a letter to the county's Drug Court team to see if they would allow us to give a presentation to their team about "What is A.A". So far we have had no response. The District should be having a regular Meeting in February and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Aitkin on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Yours In Service;  
Paul E.  
DCM District 14

**PI - Gayle R.** **PI/CPC Committee** Meeting we had Districts 3,9,13 and myself present. I reported on the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop in St Cloud. From the Workshop we discussed the State Fair, the biggest controversy is cost. Manning the booth- "is cost worth the effort?" Area 36 had District sponsor a day. We talked about the duties of a day captain. We also talked about encouraging participation. Mentioned was "If you are not doing Step 11 - you cannot be motivated to do Step 12." "We are not responsible for the outcome, we are only responsible for the effort." "Sponsored into service". "We think AA is just sitting in a Meeting for an hour, isn't it more than that?" We get volunteers but we don't follow through. Don't let your ego stay in that service position, rotate and show enthusiasm. How can we facilitate cooperation between the Area's - COMMUNATION!!

**District 3** Gene has been busy getting Public Service Announcements (PSA's) out to Radio and Cable stations. One Cable station will air the PSA's "My World", "I Have Hope" and "Doors" on a four to six week rotation, in addition will air in their full viewing area which includes parts of Districts 1,3,4,8,13,15,16,18 and 21. He is also writing letters and sending pamphlets to Law Enforcement- Mental Health- Persons of Clergy- Medical Persons and some employers.

**District 9** Jim is in the process of setting up an AA Helpline. Jim has gone through Google Voice, which is a free service Google offers. His goal is to have a 24/7 helpline

**District 13** Justin discussed the topic "Not enough people to man" stating beginning this rotation District Meeting was difficult to attend it's getting better now. A few Committees don't have Chairs; he is leading some of these Committees, but not chairing them. By doing this he is trying to get the tasks completed.

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

**District 6- Sharna O.** Hi- I am Sharna Greetings from District 6

We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:30pm. I am pleased to announce our District has a new GRS. He brings a lot of enthusiasm to the Group. We average around 5 to 6 people in attendance. I had the privilege of attending my first

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15)  
Area 35/36 Joint Workshop. I'm glad I was able to attend it exceeded my expectations.

Yours in service,  
Sharna  
District 6 DCM

District 1                      Not Present

**GRAPEVINE - Jerry B.**                      Hi, I am Jerry B. and I’m an alcoholic serving as the Area 35 Grapevine Chair.

Hi, I’m Jerry B. and I’m an alcoholic serving you as Grapevine Chair for Area 35. Christmas season, what better time to give a gift or get a little something for yourself. There is FREE shipping for most Grapevine items until the end of the year. I’ve got an idea of what items are available if interested. I recently placed an order for extra Grapevine material to be brought to the WCRAASC to be held in Moorehead the beginning of March 2019. I’ve got 2019 calendars & pocket planners as well as bunch of good stuff set up in the back of the room. Stop by & help support AA by purchasing some of it. Remember the more you purchase, the less I have to bring home. I recently attended the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop in St. Cloud. The attendance was fair, would have liked to see more of you there. I’m looking forward to heading to Alexandria for the Area 35 Service Workshop January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Also to Moorehead for the West Central March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Yours in service,  
Jerry B.  
Area 35 Grapevine Chair

District 2-    Not Present

District 21- Laura C.

Our District meets at 7pm the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at the Alano Club. District 21 had Meetings at the Alano Club, area Churches and the Hospital. The Alano Club has Meetings every night; most of them meet at 8pm. We provide speakers at Pine Manor Treatment Center every Saturday at 8pm in Nevis, MN. We have a total of twenty nine Meetings from Bagley to Park Rapids & Bemidji. We still have Chairs to fill at the District level and some of our Groups don’t have GSR’s. Attendance in some Meetings report that attendance is down. I’m still trying to get volunteers to help at the January Workshop with Districts 1 and 2. I was contacted by a female coming out of Treatment that was looking for someone to aid them in finding a Meeting and we will be attending a Meeting Tuesday.

Yours in service,  
Larura C.  
District 21 DCM

OLD BUSINESS

**Christine G.**– What should we do if Alcoholics Anonymous.com does not remove the website. What are the Areas thoughts on entering into litigation or taking legal action? It does state that it is an unofficial website.

**Roger R.**- Asked by GSR to examine the process we use and the GSR orientation. We are asked to look at that, Jim and I met with some of the GSR’s from that sharing session.

**Roger R.**- We are going to change the orientation where we have 20-25 minutes of orientation and then the GSR’s will have the rest of the time to do a GSR sharing session, that way they will have one GSR sharing sessions in the morning and one in the evening.

**Roger R.**– New sound equipment, due to our sound equipment failed at our fall assembly, we decided that we purchased a new PA system for \$130.00. Roger made a right of decision. The new system is capable of Bluetooth and recording and we did purchase a couple of wireless microphones. This equipment will be easy to use for future use.

NEW BUSINESS

FOC Report- Mike J:

Area 35 financial reports are in good shape.

Fall Assembly Report:

Roger read the evaluation from the assembly.

Area 35 Fall Assembly 2018 Evaluations Summary

Service Position

GSR 47%                      DCM 22%                      Other 28%

Is this your first time attending an Area 35 Assembly?  
Yes 3%    NO 89%

Did you like attending this assembly?                      Average: 2.97%

Not at all                      Somewhat                      Very Much  
1    2    3

Did we meet your needs at this assembly?                      Average:2.94%

Not at all                      Somewhat                      Very Much  
1    2    3  
Do you feel Area 35 was successful in completing Area 35 business?                      Average: 2.91%

Not at all                      Somewhat                      Very Much  
1    2    3

Which parts of the Assembly did you find most beneficial?

GSR Orientation    8.33%  
Area Committee Reports    25%  
Action Committee Breakout Sessions    44%  
Old/New Business Discussions    42%  
Agenda Item Proposals    33%  
GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions    50%  
Other    28%

Participants indicated Area 35 was successful in completing business at this assembly. They also liked attending the assembly and feel their needs were met. Participants rated the DCM and GSR Sharing Sessions as most beneficial, followed by the Action Committee Break-out Sessions and Discussion of Old and New Business Items.

Corrections Proposal :

Paul M. made a motion to develop a Pink Can Plan within Area 35 and the motion failed.

**Calendar of Events:** See the Northern Light and Area 35 website calendar. Email your events to [webmaster@area35.org](mailto:webmaster@area35.org) for posting on the website and [northernlight@area35.org](mailto: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 too. The preferred way to send the flier in a PDF or JPEG format. Other formats received might be unable to convert.

**Adjourned: The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement.**

Why Do I Need ...

At the West Central Regional Service Conference there will be read an opening statement, first delivered by the late Bernard B. Smith...former Chairperson for Alcoholics Anonymous Board of Trustees...entitled; “Why do we need a conference?” This short speech was first delivered in 1954 and is as relevant today as it was then. You can read it on page S20 in the AA Service Manual. I read it several times over a few weeks ago and began to ask myself the same question about our Area, District and even individual Meetings. Why do we do it? And why do we do it in a repeatable, predictable way? The answer is the same for my Home Group meeting as it is for a World Conference.

“WE MAY NOT NEED IT TO ENSURE OUR OWN RECOVERY. WE DO NEED IT TO ENSURE THE RECOVERY OF THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL STUMBLES IN THE DARKNESS ONE SHORT BLOCK FROM THIS ROOM. WE NEED IT TO INSURE THE RECOVERY OF A CHILD, BEING BORN TONIGHT, DESTINE FOR ALCOHOLISM. WE NEED IT TO PROVIDE, IN KEEPING WITH OUR TWELVTH STEP, A PERMENANT HAVEN FOR ALL ALCOHOLICS WHO, IN THE AGES AHEAD, CAN FIND IN AA; THAT REBIRTH THAT BROUGHT US BACK TO LIFE.”

The only thing I disagree with is that for me, I **DO** need all that AA has to offer for my own recovery. All the way back to the beginning, it has been about listening and helping others so that WE can stay sober! By being a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I am entrusted with the responsibility to be of service...to carry a message...to identify and unite with other alcoholics. What better way to do that then to be at a Meeting. To go to District and Area events. To strengthen my message and my service by listening and learning from others. When I stay in my own little world...making my one Meeting a week, in the same town, with the same individuals; I do a dis-service to myself and to all of AA by not participating in all Three Legacies of the program...whenever and wherever I can. Whether I like it or not, I am part of a bigger AA family than any individual Group I attend.

Some days I think it would be easy to just say, “I’ve got my sobriety, I’m happy, joyous and free. I’ll let someone else go do all that other stuff.” However, history has shown us, that without Unity; we fail. As a Group and as individuals. So it is essential for MY sobriety and the CHANCE for sobriety of those yet to come, that I practice-preserve-and participate in EVERY aspect of the successful program of Alcoholics Anonymous. So I ask you all again; Why do you do it? What is your message? How will you carry it to-day.

Greg C.  
Dist 4 ALT/DCM



## GSO's News Letter Box 459 The Only Requirement...

When Area 35 had it's Yearly Workshop (Jan 12&13<sup>th</sup>) it ended on a controversial note. From a question from the Ask-it Basket about an article published in the latest issue of Box 459 called The Only Requirement.... It created intense discussion where a few people had their feathers ruffled by the content of that article. Even a past Delegate of Area 35 stated he had correspondence with GSO about this Article. Most people there had not read the article yet. Most of the discussion centered around the sentence ,“ The Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states that anyone who wants to join A.A. can.”

Following is a reprint of the Box 459 article followed by comments at the end from the primary people who had thoughts on this article. Please read the whole thing and if you want to make a comment please write me at Steven L. NL Editor northernlightnmaa@gmail.com and I'll print them in the next issue of the Northern Light.

### The Only Requirement...

*...for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.* This is perhaps one of the most inclusive statements ever made by an organization — and one that is lifesaving for alcoholics caught in the deadly grip of their disease. The Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states that anyone who wants to join A.A. can. No dues, no forms, no initiation; no dress code or badges or funny hats. But the founding members of Alcoholics Anonymous were by and large also members of the most privileged class of the day — predominantly white, male and Christian — and quite often the exclusivity that characterized their social and business settings spilled over into their A.A. gatherings. Some thought “the fairer sex” could not be *real* alcoholics, and that people of color were better off “staying with their own.” Gay, bisexual and transgender people — considered aberrant by the medical profession — were ignored. The mentally ill were shunned for fear of wreaking havoc on groups. Atheists, though tacitly accepted, were often condescended to by others who assumed they would soon “see the light.”

Even as more women joined the ranks of A.A. and as meetings became more integrated, there was still, in more cliquish groups and provincial areas, an unspoken and subtle resistance to those who were different. Sadly, some of this continues to this day, perhaps not in the explicit use of racist, sexist, homophobic or gender non-conforming slurs, but with silence — a silence that can be just as alienating as hurtful words. Dennis, who is African-American, says that at non-urban meetings he is often met with reticence and not openly welcomed. When Deirdre is honest about her atheism, no one is rude — they just say nothing at all, and she is rarely invited out for coffee. Roland, meanwhile, has been snubbed by those who, unlike him, believe in an anthropomorphic “god.” Jesse, a transgender man, often feels invisible at meetings and is turned off by the gendered language in A.A. literature. He is concerned about the dearth of literature for transgender people — another form of silence. Nola, a gay woman, was uncomfortable at straight meetings when she was a newcomer and then experienced real prejudice during the AIDS crisis. Janice, who is black, was offended by a speaker at a predominantly white meeting who said she had been mistreated by black people her whole life. Roland was once told by someone to pull up his jeans, which he took as a not-so-subtle racial slur. Dennis is also concerned that A.A.'s striving to make the literature race-neutral discourages people of color to share that racism is indeed a part of their story and fears that removing that truth could lead to a drink.

Although most members acknowledge that marginalization due to race, gender and other factors occurs less in A.A. than it does elsewhere, it does occur, and, in the spirit of the Third Tradition, it is essential to continue practicing love and tolerance with people whose skin color, language, sex, orientation, beliefs and social status differ from our own. Janice is adamant about this: “Welcoming people and making them feel comfortable is not something that comes naturally to some of us, but it has to be done.” Her point drives home the importance of greeters at meetings, the literal hand of A.A. reaching out as someone first walks through the door. It is hard enough for an alcoholic who has just hit bottom, who is sick and terrified, to take that enormous step. But if that person looks or sounds or acts differently from most of the people in the room, it is imperative that someone make them feel welcome at once. Janice says that her sponsor drilled it into her head that “There should never be a stranger at a meeting.” And it's not just words that welcome, but actions. The offer of a cup of coffee can be a life saver: it encourages the new member to stay — and perhaps even to stay sober.

Some lateral attempts at inclusion in A.A. are “special meetings” — for example, women's, LGBTQ, and atheist and agnostic meetings — but often-times the very groups formed to be more accommodating can end up being insensitive themselves. Deirdre went to a gay women's meeting where there was a lot of complaining about bisexuals. At a largely African-American meeting, Angela was offended by people saying how terrible it was to drink and drug with “lowlives in Harlem.” When attending men's meetings, Jesse is hurt by careless comments about transgender men and the use of the T-slur. Nola says two of her dear friends in A.A. were ostracized from a Christian A.A. group because they were lesbians.

“When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there...” The A.A. Responsibility Statement is one of the cornerstones of our Fellowship, but it is critical to remember how different the hand that reaches out may be from the one that reaches back. Although

special meetings do serve their purpose in making certain members feel more comfortable, it is each member's responsibility to make every meeting as open and welcoming as possible. A.A. is indeed a program of progress and not perfection; still, the progress needs to be steady, taking into consideration that society's conditioning and our own apathy at times can be deterrents to helping another alcoholic.

Recently, A.A. published four new or updated pamphlets: “Women in A.A.,” “LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and their sponsors,” and “The ‘God’ Word — agnostic and atheist members in A.A.” There is also a new Grapevine book, One Big Tent, with stories by atheist and agnostic members, which has been a real comfort to Deirdre. Dennis is passionate about the pamphlet on mental health issues: “So many people who are suffering with depression are terrified to talk about it because of the judgment of others, be it vocal or silent.” Janice concurs, “Nearly everyone I'm close to in A.A. is getting outside help.” And although Jesse appreciates the LGBTQ pamphlet, he still feels there should be one specifically created for transgender and gender-non-conforming members.

Criticisms notwithstanding, A.A. has a laudable track record with respect to inclusion, especially when compared to dues-paying and induction-requiring organizations. Although he wishes there were more stories in the Big Book about people of color, Dennis has always found A.A. to be extremely accepting: “It is rare that I feel like an outsider.” Deirdre says that the question of what she believes or doesn't believe regarding a higher power never comes up in the meetings she attends, but she observes that sexism is everywhere — even in A.A. Jesse feels most comfortable in meetings that use gender-neutral language and loves that A.A. is open to whatever kind of meeting someone wants to start — as long as the primary purpose is to stay sober and help others. Angela feels lucky that she has always loved meetings and early on found friends of all colors and types to “trudge the road” with her.

Janice has attended meetings where, she says, “The moment I walk through the door, I have been greeted as a true ‘fellow’ member. The smiles seem genuine, and there is a curiosity and interest in who I am and why I'm there.” Unfortunately, she points out that this is not the case with all meetings, white or black: “Harlem meetings can feel just as exclusionary as some on the Upper East Side.” Although Nola may have felt uncomfortable at some meetings due to her sexual orientation, she adds, “No one was ever rude or unwelcoming ... I can think of no organization more accepting than A.A. Like many of my fellows, I believe the world would be a better place if every human being attempted to live by A.A.'s Twelve Step principles.” But she is also aware that getting sober in an urban area may be a very different experience from doing so in other parts of the country. Roland agrees, with an important caveat: “A.A. is more accepting on principle; however, principles are only as good as the practitioner's understanding of their importance — and their willingness to actually practice them.”

Beyond literature, what other actions can be taken with respect to promoting inclusion at meetings? Dennis feels that a regular part of the announcements should include the statement from the Big Book, “We are not doctors...” so that newcomers with mental health issues are not afraid to seek outside help for their problems other than alcohol. He also feels A.A. is not inclusive enough regarding prayer — that it should be a neutral space with respect to beliefs, because “A.A. is fluid and people are ever changing.” Jesse finds the “men with the men/women with the women” language of sponsorship announcements in meetings estranging, because any concerns in choosing an appropriate sponsor should have more to do with sexuality than with gender. He also feels that adapting meeting announcements to be non-binary would be more inclusive. On the other hand, some people, both cis and transgender, appreciate hearing language in meetings in the pronouns that they identify with. Deirdre thinks that local Intergroups should be taken to task when they stop listing agnostic or secular A.A. meetings — that “atheists, agnostics and freethinkers can and do have profound recovery in A.A. without G-O-D” — and that, in this matter, A.A. needs to widen the door of inclusivity even further. Roland feels strongly that no one should ever be judged or criticized for their clothing style, and he would like to see more focused literature and discussion in meetings about our willingness to practice A.A. principles in all of our affairs, and what actions we are taking to that end. Angela is forgiving yet cautious: “Slightings and stupidity have more to do with ignorance than with trying to offend. In fact, I do think people try not to offend ... but we need to keep the rooms safe.”

In the new A.A. pamphlet “The ‘God’ Word,” there is a quote by A.A. co-founder Bill W., who, on the subject of diversity in A.A., brings it home: “We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all ... Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A. so long as he or she [or they] declare.”

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(Continued from page 17)

## Comments and Replies about the Box 459 Article

In the first paragraph, the article states Tradition 3. However in expressing the authors view of Tradition 3, and I quote "The Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states that anyone that wants to join A.A. can." end of quote. Which in my view is taking liberties with Tradition 3. As we know all are welcome that have a desire to quit drinking. But not anyone can join A.A. We need to be careful to protect our Traditions as written. The idea of welcoming anyone into A.A. who has desire to quit drinking is alive and well in our meetings. I believe the way the Third Tradition is written, is as open and welcoming of any statement and protecting this ever-important Tradition and all of our Traditions is everyone's responsibility.

DCM District 3  
Kevin K.

As I started to read the article it occurred to me how grateful I am that I was accepted in Alcoholics Anonymous when I crash- landed at the door. Up until that point I was convinced that I was unique and it was killing me. I was sure that nobody else on the planet had urinated on other people's furniture or crapped their own pants in public. Needless to say, there were other atrocities that I had committed while drinking that contributed to my fancied uniqueness, but I had only to follow the 12 suggestions in the Big Book, the 5th step in particular, and low and behold those obstacles were overcome as well.

But as I read the third sentence here I started to wonder what this article was about, who it was written for, and quite frankly I am embarrassed that the same organization which has given me the principles embodied in the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts would endorse such a message.

The third sentence, "The Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states that anyone who wants to join A.A. can" is absolutely contrary to what the tradition says, and is damaging to our fellowship alone, and the rest of the article is not applicable in AA.

The Tradition says two things:

1. That there is only one requirement. In other words...it doesn't matter if you're a woman, man, gay, straight, in between, old, young, what color you are, religious or not, rich or poor, or anything else... If you are alcoholic we have a solution that freed us from the drink and will definitely free you too. We have the one malady and one solution to it.

(Note: if you're offended because I didn't mention you above, read number two below)

2. It also says that the one thing is required. In other words, if you don't have alcoholism you probably aren't going to be attracted to this program because you don't need it. If the fact that you might not ever have to take another drink doesn't attract you and keep you, that's ok, you don't have to come back and shouldn't until it sounds good to you.

The idea or belief that there is something wrong with AA because "we can't get people to stay" is a fallacy, it's like a brainwashing. People don't stay for one of two reasons, either they don't want what we have, or else they are not willing to go to any length to get it. And both of these are as they should be. In the first case, they don't need to recover from alcoholism and shouldn't be here. In the second case, they aren't ready and hopefully will return when they are. If the message in the group they attended was appropriate, they'll certainly remember it during their research.

This push for "diversity in AA" is, by definition, an effort to find ways other than "recovery from alcoholism" to make this program attractive. It is absolutely a diversion for our primary purpose and encourages division rather than unity. If people hear that simple AA message and don't want to stay then they shouldn't. We (those of us that are alcoholic and have recovered) are responsible to make sure that we aren't changing our fellowship and our message to make people feel better.

If you're alcoholic and your feelings are getting hurt in AA (especially by your sponsor) then this program is saving your life. Keep coming back.

If you're not alcoholic and you're feelings are getting hurt in AA, keep looking for ways to make the world behave according to your will, but don't do it here.

We're always going to have human beings that misbehave in AA. Groups that don't really have a message to carry, don't shake enough hands, have little cliques, and talk about everything except alcoholism. But let's not miss the beauty of the whole forest because of the ugliness of some of its trees.

If you are alcoholic, and you have been rejected from an AA meeting for any reason, you haven't been to a decent AA meeting and should keep looking. You are absolutely welcome at my Home Group.

Thank You,  
Justin W.  
Area 35 | District 13

This is the response I received from Ames Sweet Managing Editor, GSO about the Box 459 article.

Thanks for your recent email. Hope you are keeping warm. Please feel free to reprint the article "The Only Requirement..." from the Winter 2018 issue of *Box 4-5-9*. Simply add the statement "Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc." at the end.

In terms of my own participation in the proposed section, I think it best not to add anything more to the discussion.

With all best wishes – and thanks again for sharing your thoughts on the "stir" this article caused in your area. It was very helpful to me in better understanding the nature of some of the fervent responses we received.

If nothing else, at least we can feel grateful that discussion continues on this and other matters of great importance to the Fellowship.

With warm regards,

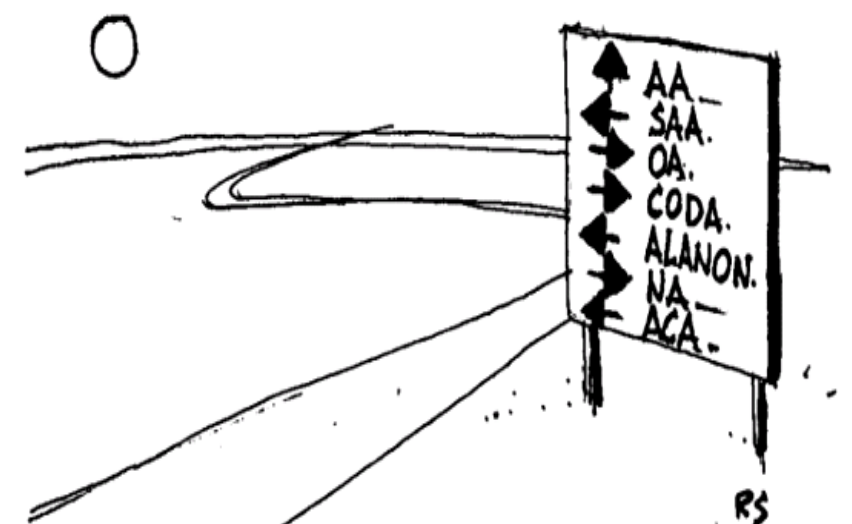
Ames S.  
Managing Editor, GSO

I see what all the fuss is about. There are intense opinions and feelings on allowing addicts into our fellowship (Tradition 3 and 5) in Area 35. One side says only *REAL* Alcoholics (whatever that is) and the other side says, "a drug is a drug is a drug anyone is welcome". When at the GSO, print, "anyone who wants to join A.A. can", it adds more fuel to that fire. Sure, I see the first line in the article states "...for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." The concern is some people will only see the, "The Third Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous states that anyone who wants to join A.A. can" line and use it as a hammer to further the opinion a drug is a drug is a drug side of the discussion, which is what happened.

After reading the whole article, I get that it is talking about how some people of different gender and sexual identity could get the impression of being excluded in AA. People bring all sorts of baggage to the tables of AA. We all are at different levels of acceptance, tolerance and understanding in this fellowship, we call AA. People new to AA have always thought they were different and some people feel that AA should cater to their special needs and feelings.

Living here in the Northern Tundra of Minnesota, we do not have the large diversity of people as the Big Urban City does. We still have the same issue of welcoming the new person and making them feel wanted and accepted in our fellowship and that there is hope and a way out from the alcoholic pit of despair and loneliness.

Steven L.  
NL Editor



I've spent a lot time and emotional energy on this subject because I have very strong feelings about it. I encourage anyone else who does to email Tom A... He can pass your thoughts on to the proper person.

Thanks,  
Bruce

I am a grateful member of AA who was not at the Area Workshop. I read the Box 459 article that is being discussed and all of the comments. After reading, silly as this may sound, I got tears in my eyes. The passion for AA was evident and I found that beautiful. It feels good to know the spirit of AA is so alive. Thank you all.

Kar  
AA member  
Dist. 8



## AREAS 35/36 JOINT WORKSHOP MINIUTES

### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION FROM AGENDA:

- Are we currently exchanging important information between our Areas?
- How are we currently working together?
- How could we be working together to be more effective in carrying our message in Minnesota?
- What are the specific steps we will take to work together in the future?

### BREAK-OUT SESSIONS REPORTS:

#### Officers

##### Jeanne H., A36 Alt. Chair:

Areas 35 and 36 meet on the following shared projects: Corrections; MN State Fair; Breakfast meeting at West Central Regional; Joint Workshop; and AA Meeting Locator [www.aaminnesota.org](http://www.aaminnesota.org).

Areas 35 and 36 Event Calendar differences were discussed: Area 35 has Spring and Fall two-day Assemblies which include GSR break-out sessions facilitated by a DCM; and four (4) ACMs. Area 36 has three (3) one-day Assemblies and four (4) ACMs. In addition, Area 35 has a Recovery Unity & Service Conference (RUSC) beginning on Friday night thru Sunday noon and a one (1)-day Trusted Servants Leadership Training (TSLT).

We discussed how Area Committee Chairs are assigned. Area 35 doesn't have a Structure Committee; but Area 36 does and the Alt Delegate facilitates. Area 36 Alt Chair facilitates the Finance Committee.

#### Newsletter/Technology/Group Records/Web

##### Steve L., A35 Northern Lights Editor:

Area 35 Group Records receives all reviews for [www.aaminnesota.org](http://www.aaminnesota.org) and requests changes to meeting schedules thru the FNV database program. The new aameeting locator app is updated more quickly than what we have for [www.aaminnesota.org](http://www.aaminnesota.org).

Discussed how to update and store information from Northern Light and Pigeon newsletters by saving them and Area minutes digitally as paper newsletters deteriorate and take up leased real estate. Electronic access is much easier to navigate. We will be sure to send newsletters between Areas.

Discussed using [www.aaminnesota.org](http://www.aaminnesota.org) to make something stand-alone and a single purpose site for all MN professionals, medical, treatment or corrections. Professionals do not need to recognize our two different Areas; they only need information from MN as a whole.

Discussed sending Area Chairs to Technology Workshops because this is how [www.aaminnesota.org](http://www.aaminnesota.org) was able to be created.

Discussed using WordPress and how to generate and do these types of things; Area Group Records Chairs

The 2019 West Central Regional Conference (WCRC) will be in Area 35, Moorhead, MN, on March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and everyone now can register and pay online: Website: [www.WCRAASC2019.com](http://www.WCRAASC2019.com).

#### Literature/Grapevine

##### Brian P., A35 Literature Chair:

Areas 35 and 36 discussed different processes and how much Literature Inventory is carried to events. There are two Metro InterGroups in Area 36 that stock and sell AA literature. Area 36 provides and sells literature via table displays at the quarterly ACMs. Area 35 Districts pick up literature at the bi-monthly ACMs and the Spring and Fall Assemblies.

Discussion on how to carry forward information from outgoing to incoming Literature Chairs to get people prepared for the position.

Not much of a need to share info between Areas. Swapped out contact information.

Discussion on Literature banking accounts where checks come in to "Area 35 Literature Chair." Area 36 doesn't change any of the check writing criteria other than the "Ship To" address of the Literature Chair and the invoices get sent to Area Treasurer.

#### Archives

##### William W., A36 Chair

Discussed planning a combined Archives meeting at the West Central Regional in March, 2019.

Discussed technology where Area 36 Archives has now digitized the entire collection of Pigeons in high quality. Will announce this to A36 at next ACM. It took an hour for each year of Pigeons (4 issues) [Achives@gmail.com](mailto:Achives@gmail.com) part of Area 36.

Discussed that AA members only have access to the digitized Pigeons since the Minutes contain last names. Area 36 will put an article together for the Pigeon.

Both Areas recognize a proper Inventory is needed and will contact other AA Areas Archives Chairs on what they are doing relative to public consumption, archives history sites, and cataloging. Will make an inquiry to GSO on what they do since they have an expensive cataloging technology that we do not have access. Whatever we do will be a homegrown thing.

Discussion on Policy on collection. The instinct is to keep everything. What is the purpose and who are we serving? There is ultimately a cost involved. Area 36 has two rooms full of filing cabinets which 80% will never see the light of day to be useful. Who are we serving? The still suffering alcoholic and the Area. Talked about role between Archivist and Archives Chair committee functions. There isn't really a delineated defined role.

Discussed Rotation differences since it takes years for an Archivist to get familiar. Area 35 has an indefinite number of years for the Archivist.

#### Public Information/Cooperation with Professional Communities

##### Erica J., A36 Public Information Chair:

We discussed the MN State Fair booth located in the Education Building where there is a mix of Professionals, Schools and Medical booths (in the past it was located in the Grand Stand) where Areas 35 and 36 jointly work together to fund and staff the booth. Our Areas have been able to keep in contact when defining who will be Coordinator and their contact information. Area 35 funds 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of bill and staff two out of twelve days. Budget is really high and controversial for both Areas and the question is often asked if the monetary investment is paying off. Also, both Areas are challenged with staffing the booth. Discussion for a more clear communication for assigning Day Captains and their responsibilities.

Discussion on handling County Fair booths with display tables and having members manning the booth on what AA is and what AA isn't and clearing up misconceptions. Also discussed the expense for Districts to cover a County Fair AA booth. District 17 has three County Fairs.

Talked about encouraging participation on any level by doing outreach, sponsoring in Service, inviting and being inclusive with enthusiasm. Also posting events on Alano club board's bulletins. There are issues of members signing up for events and not following thru.

#### Treatment/Special Needs – Accessibilities

##### Sooze H., Incoming A36 Treatment Chair:

Collaborated on the Temporary Contact Program. Goal of making a good streamlined program and valuable information. A lot of old contact information needs to be updated to be valuable.

With respect to Accessibilities, Area 36 is working with ASL and bringing into meetings and Area Events and general service events. A35 wants to make this happen as well.

Discussed the challenges of bringing AA meetings into Treatment facilities. Controversy is that these are being billed out to insurance companies. Also, AA not welcome anymore. Talked about reaching out to leaders of those facilities.

Areas 35 and 36 Newsletters have been a valuable way to get information back and forth; exchanged emails and plan to stay in touch.

#### Corrections

##### Craig H., A36 District 07 Corrections Chair and MN Statewide Corrections Chair:

Statewide is the cooperative Bridging the Gap (BTG) between Areas 35 and 36 where we get outgoing inmates hooked up with AA when they are released. Some people residing in an Area 35 facility are being released to Area 36 locations.

Discussed Districts' interests in bringing meetings to county jails.

Transition Fairs are being staffed at Shakopee, Stillwater, Lino Lakes, Red Wing and St. Cloud. Getting people to work those fairs – also part of BTG efforts.

Areas 35 and 36 handle correctional facilities AA literature differently where Area 36 provides literature by utilizing the Pink Can Plan contributions and Area 35 Districts take care of the AA literature needs. There is a St. Cloud call-up meeting that does have a Pink Can.

Correctional Facility Contact Program (CFCP). Area 36 maintains a database of AA volunteers in the A36 area and if an inmate is being released to Northern MN, Area 35 will send those inmate requests to the appropriate District the inmate will reside in.

Discussion on BTG challenges where there are a lot of regulatory rules with writing to people in the facilities. Also, some AA members have a fear factor as full names have to be given for the written communications part of BTG. We are working on a historical archive on what has happened with different facilities and people as Area 35 has had some challenges there. Need to have continuity and good communication on what is going on in case someone leaves the AA commitment.

(Continued from page 19)  
Area 36 Treatment/Corrections Committees are implementing a new software for more effective Bridging the Gap using geo-locations.

General Sharing and Questions from the Floor:

- Tough to hear in breakout sessions and we could have spread out more in this room.
- Learned a lot today. Learned about BTG databased used by Corrections and Treatment.
- Question made on having Area Newsletters being mailed to counterpart Area Committee Chairs and DCMs as well. Steve L., Northern Lights Editor, responded that sometimes the Committee Chair has already stepped down. Steve L. also shared that he consistently has to remind everyone for their reports and asks for help with providing service experience articles for the Newsletters.
- Area 35 Group Records Chair announced that she had four boxes of www.aaminnesota.org business cards available.
- Area 36 Archives Chair announced the need to use electronic means especially for younger age people. Subscribe for 2 free months of the newspaper. The general direction is going electronic.

Is this your first time attending a Joint Workshop? Yes: 7 No: 17

Did you like attending this Workshop? Yes: 21 No: 1

Did we meet your needs at this Workshop?

I was able to bring a GSR with me and she was really inspired by this Workshop

Do you feel we were successful in achieving our goals of this Workshop? Yes: 20 No: 0

Some Committees benefit more than others

How could we improve this Workshop?

- Have Event mid-year instead of end-of-year when people are rotating in/out (3)
- Focus on direct communication instead between Counterparts
- Allow Incoming Chairs to attend with reimbursement, if needed
- Liked Agenda Questions
- Change the Poster, it's old, out-dated, boring
- Change location to St. Cloud Alano – easier to access, more conducive to break-outs and has better technology
- We need to invite DCMs, and encourage more GSRs and Committee Chairs to attend
- Have more Workshops (2)
- Have Workshop Agenda available prior to Event to both Areas and all Districts
- Provide Map with specific directions to Event (i.e., direct access directions to Church from County Road 15 coming from I-94)
- The break-out tables were too close together

## Statewide Corrections Committee Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2019

Attendees:

Craig Hutchinson – Statewide Corrections Committee Chair  
Paul Mattson – Area 35 Corrections Chair – District 7, Area 35  
Doug Wilhelm – Prison Chair – District 7, Area 35  
Laura Skaalrud – Acting Area 36 Corrections Chair – Area 36  
Gail Stenger – Minneapolis Intergroup  
Chris Hellie – Corrections Chair, District 19

Discussion was focused in the following areas:

**Sherberne County Facility:** We learned that the minimum volunteer requirements for AA to bring meetings into the facility is 6 (5 men's pods and 1 women's pod) and that would be twice a month (the 1st and 3rd Thursday). One of the biggest challenges is that if the minimum number of volunteers to not show up, no one can go in.

**ACTION ITEM: Paul M. will be discussing this with Skip (Area 35) and they will make a determination as to whether they would like to attempt to meet this requirement and bring meetings into the Sherberne facility.**

Gail from Minneapolis Intergroup and Craig/Laura/Chris from Area 36 all indicated that they would be willing to assist with finding volunteers if Area 35 decides this is a service opportunity they would like to take on (the Sherberne facility is not too far from the Area 35/Area 36 border and we believe that some volunteers from Area 36 would be interested in this service opportunity).

**Correctional Facility Contact Program – Outside Contact Volunteer Requirements:** We discussed the challenge of finding outside volunteers who are willing to work with offenders who are incarcerated because of certain offenses (sexual offenders, violent offenders, etc.). We discussed putting

on a joint Area 35/Area 36 workshop to address some of these fears people have.

**ACTION ITEM: Craig and Laura will put together the framework for the workshop for the next Statewide Corrections Committee meeting in April. We hope we can approve something at that meeting and get the workshop on the calendar in late spring to summer.**

**Consistency in Transition Fairs:** We discussed the importance of consistency in terms of how we represent AA and the Correctional Facility Contact Program at each of the Transition Fairs we attend at each Minnesota prison every year. This includes how we discuss the CFCP with offenders and what resource materials we bring to each Transition Fair (ie. Big Books, Daily Reflections, Where and When's, etc.). We also discussed the possibility of having at least one representative from each Area attend each Transition Fair. This would result in consistency of approach and continue to foster cooperation and the sharing of ideas between Area 35 and Area 36.

**ACTION ITEM: Craig/Laura will put together a list of the elements that we currently do include or could include in Transition Fairs so that we can decide on the template of how we would like them to look like moving forward (for both Area 35 and Area 36). We hope to make some decisions on some of these elements at our next Statewide Corrections Committee Meeting.**

**Statewide Corrections Committee Primary Purpose – Bridging the Gap:** We briefly discussed how the primary reason for the Statewide Corrections Committee is to help us conduct our Bridging the Gap efforts (Correctional Facility Contract Program). There are offenders in Area 35 that are going to be released in Area 36 and vice versa; it is essential that we cooperate to make sure we can continue to offer the CFCP to all offenders in Minnesota correctional facilities.

**Next Statewide Corrections Committee Meeting:** Monday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Lynde's in Osseo. I will send out a separate notice regarding our next meeting.

## The Beauty of God...

I recall how years ago I was contacted by the Diocese of St. Cloud. I was shocked that the Bishop's office would reach out to me - but indeed they did. I was asked by the voice on the phone to hold for the Bishop and then to my surprise the Bishop came to the phone. He explained how he had heard that I was willing to help people with alcoholism. He explained how he had a young seminarian with whom he was concerned and he wondered if I would take the young seminarian to an A.A. meeting. I told him, "Yes, absolutely!"

A few days later I took this young seminarian to an A.A. meeting. Unfortunately, I had not done my homework. The meeting was blue with language and blue with smoke. They were carrying more of the mess than the message. I was mortified by their conduct and so was the seminarian. I told him afterward that it would be unfair of him to judge all of A.A. on this one meeting - just like it would be unfair of a catholic to judge the whole church based upon his/her interaction with one priest. The seminarian said he didn't think A.A. was for him and he would talk to the Bishop about it. I asked for the opportunity to take him to another meeting, but he politely declined. I never saw him again.

Shortly after this encounter, I joined the U.S. Army. I was stationed overseas in Germany. One evening, five years later, my phone rang at 3 a.m. I answered it in a fog and the voice on the other end was crying. It was my father calling to tell me my mother had died. She had passed from complications relating to her treatment for cancer. She was 55 years old. My father asked me to return home immediately to attend the funeral. I got dressed, went to see my commanding officer and made arrangements to fly home. 72 hours later I was sitting in the kitchen of my parents' home.

While sitting at the kitchen table, I heard the phone ring. I automatically answered it and the voice on the other end asked if John was there. I thought, "Who even knows I'm home - just 72 hours ago I was in Germany?"

The voice on the other end said, "Hello John, this is Father \_\_\_\_\_".

I said, "hello Father", thinking he was calling to offer my family condolences on our loss.

He said, "I just wanted to call to thank you".

Now I was thoroughly confused. "Thank me? "Thank me for what?", I said.

He said, "I just wanted to thank you for taking me to my first A.A. meeting. I just celebrated five years of sobriety and you took me to my first meeting five years ago".

My eyes filled with tears as I recalled the young seminarian who didn't think A.A. was for him. I told him that his phone call and timing were miraculous because I had just returned home to make preparations for my mother's funeral. He effortlessly slipped on his pastoral counseling hat and helped me with my grief and loss. As I was there for him five years ago, he now was there for me. And that's the power of this program. That's the beauty of God...

John D..



## 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 knowledge MS Publisher, MS Word, MS Excel and other misc. computer programs as needed. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.

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

### **N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

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

## NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:

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

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

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

Northern Light Editor,  
Steven L.

## Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

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

3. Upon approval mail to :

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

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

4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Currently there are 1000 copies printed with @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 2019 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 23<sup>rd</sup> : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 8<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 6<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 8<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 3<sup>rd</sup> : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 4<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

## OUR PAST DELEGATES

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Panel 66</b> <b>2016-2017</b><br>Kelly D.              | <b>Panel 36</b> <b>1986-1987</b><br>Louie H.                          | <b>Panel 10</b> <b>1960-1961</b><br>Bob B.<br>(deceased)    |  |
| <b>Panel 64</b> <b>2014-2015</b><br>Michael “Jake” J.     | <b>Panel 34</b> <b>1984-1985</b><br>Bob P.                            | <b>Panel 8</b> <b>1958-1959</b><br>Pearl N.<br>(deceased)   |  |
| <b>Panel 62</b> <b>2012-2013</b><br>Jim K.                | <b>Panel 32</b> <b>1982-1983</b><br>Tom L.                            | <b>Panel 6</b> <b>1956-1957</b><br>Waldo H.<br>(deceased)   |  |
| <b>Panel 60</b> <b>2010-2011</b><br>Jon C.                | <b>Panel 30</b> <b>1981-1982</b><br>Don M.<br>(deceased)              | <b>Panel 4</b> <b>1954-1955</b><br>Wendell H.<br>(deceased) |  |
| <b>Panel 58</b> <b>2008-2009</b><br>JoAnne N.             | <b>Panel 28</b> <b>1978-1979</b><br>Garfield (Duffy) S.<br>(deceased) | <b>Panel 2</b> <b>1952-1953</b><br>Arthur R.<br>(deceased)  |  |
| <b>Panel 56</b> <b>2006-2007</b><br>Jerry S.              | <b>Panel 26</b> <b>1976-1977</b><br>Vern R.<br>(deceased)             |   |  |
| <b>Panel 54</b> <b>2004-2005</b><br>Charlie C.            | <b>Panel 24</b> <b>1974-1975</b><br>Gordon B. H.<br>(deceased)        |   |  |
| <b>Panel 52</b> <b>2002-2003</b><br>Tim C.                | <b>Panel 22</b> <b>1972-1973</b><br>Frank P. J.<br>(deceased)         |   |  |
| <b>Panel 50</b> <b>2000-2001</b><br>Tom A.                | <b>Panel 20</b> <b>1970-1971</b><br>Clarence B.<br>(deceased)         |   |  |
| <b>Panel 48</b> <b>1998-1999</b><br>Susie A.              | <b>Panel 18</b> <b>1968-1969</b><br>Dave H.<br>(deceased)             |   |  |
| <b>Panel 46</b> <b>1996-1997</b><br>Bill P.<br>(deceased) | <b>Panel 16</b> <b>1966-1967</b><br>Arno A.<br>(deceased)             |   |  |
| <b>Panel 44</b> <b>1994-1995</b><br>Bruce B.              | <b>Panel 14</b> <b>1964-1965</b><br>Donald F.<br>(deceased)           |   |  |
| <b>Panel 42</b> <b>1992-1993</b><br>Greg G.<br>(deceased) | <b>Panel 12</b> <b>1962-1963</b><br>Donna T.<br>(deceased)            |   |  |
| <b>Panel 40</b> <b>1990-1991</b><br>Bob J.                |   |   |  |
| <b>Panel 38</b> <b>1988-1989</b><br>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"><li>Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.</li><li>Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.</li><li>Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.</li><li>Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.</li><li>Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.</li><li>Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.</li><li>Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.</li><li>Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.</li><li>Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.</li><li>Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.</li><li>Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.</li></ul> <p>(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)</p> |
|--|--|

| I 2 Traditions of<br>Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)  | I 2 Concepts for<br>World Service (Short Form)  |
|--|---|
| <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 non-alcoholics. 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>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>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>   |   |

**Area 35 Committee Meeting Agenda  
Aitkin, MN  
February 24, 2019**

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| <div><div>_____ <b>9:00 A.M.</b> Action Chair Committee Meetings<br/>(9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ <b>10:30 A.M.</b> Area Committee Meeting</div><div>_____ Call to Order Open With the Serenity Prayer</div><div>_____ Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>_____ Add to Agenda</div><div>_____ Approve February Area Committee Minutes</div><div><b>OFFICER REPORTS:</b><div>_____ Delegate – Christine G.</div><div>_____ Alternate Delegate – Jim S.</div><div>_____ Chair – Roger R.</div><div>_____ Secretary – Melissa A.</div><div>_____ Treasurer – Mike F.</div></div><div><b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS:</b><div>_____ CPC – Antoinette F.</div><div>_____ District 9 – Jim S.</div><div>_____ District 13 – Justin W.</div><div>_____ WEBMASTER – Rillis E.</div><div>_____ LITERATURE – Brian P.</div><div>_____ District 15 – Pat M.</div><div>_____ District 3 – Kevin K.</div><div>_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Steve L.</div><div>_____ GROUP RECORDS – Sally L.</div><div>_____ District 4 – Colleen S.</div><div>_____ District 8 – Heidi B.</div><div>_____ District 18 –William BR B.</div><div>_____ TREATMENT – Cathy R.</div><div>_____ District 16 – Glenn M.</div><div>_____ District 5– Skip D.</div></div></div> | <div><div>_____ ARCHIVIST – Steve D.</div><div>_____ ARCHIVES – Scott M.</div><div>_____ District 7 – Bob B.</div><div>_____ District 11 – Cindy S.-K.</div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Paul M.</div><div>_____ District 12 –Richard G.</div><div>_____ District 14 – Paul E.</div><div>_____ PI – Gayle R.</div><div>_____ District 6 – Sharna O.-J.</div><div>_____ District 1 –</div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Jerry B.</div><div>_____ District 2 –</div><div>_____ District 21 – Laura C.</div><div><b>12:00 P.M.</b> Lunch</div><div><b>12:45 P.M.</b> Reconvene</div><div><b>OLD BUSINESS:</b><div>_____</div><div>_____</div></div><div><b>NEW BUSINESS:</b><div>_____ FOC Report</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____ Calendar of Events</div><div>_____ Adjourn</div></div></div> |
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**Mail Area 35 Group contributions to: NMAA  
P.O. Box 114  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744**