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November 2nd, 2020

This is YOUR Newsletter Area 35

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Would you like a newsletter mailed directly to you - send
request to grouprecords@area35.org

Send articles and comments for publication to
Cindy S-K — northernlight@area35.org

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

2020-21 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

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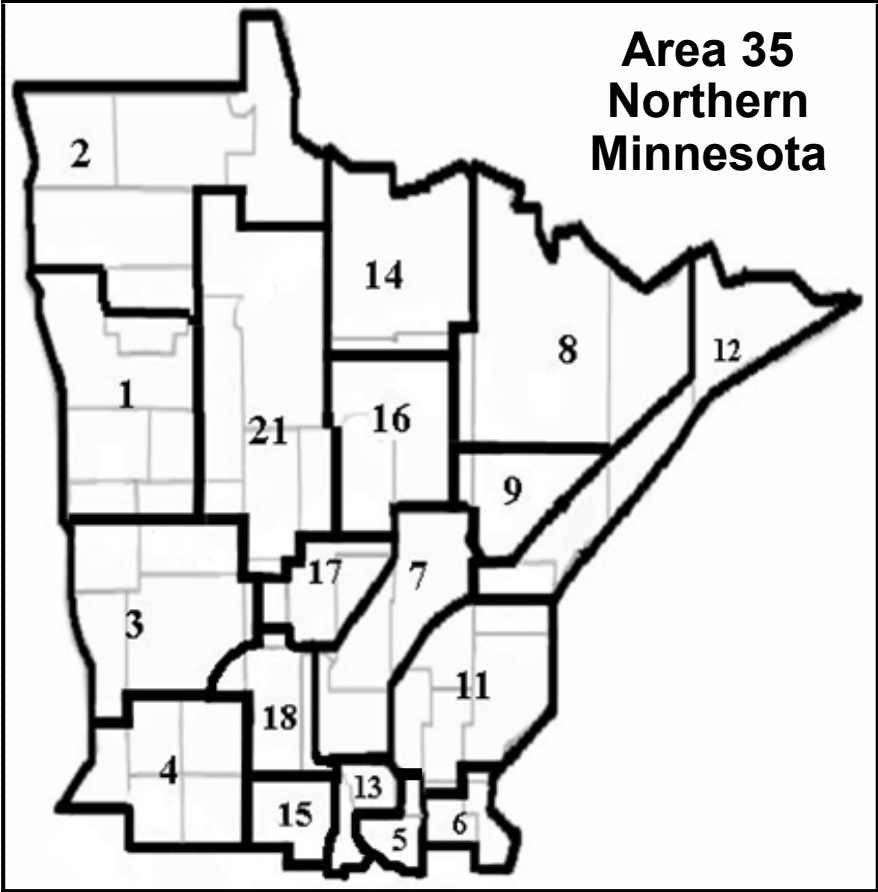
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Zone I

District 1 - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,

District 2 - Badger, Baudette, Halma, Middle River, 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, New London, 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, Barnum, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors

District 14 - International Falls, Littlefork, Rainy River (Ontario,Canada)

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

District Meeting Location Information

<p><u>District 1</u> 2nd Sunday of Even Months, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S Mill St, Fertile, MN 56540</p> <p><u>District 2</u> 1st Sunday of Odd Months, 3:00 p.m. Thief River Falls Alano Club 614 Davis Ave Thief River Falls, MN 56701</p> <p><u>District 3</u> 3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Alano Club 827 Summit Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501</p> <p><u>District 4</u> 3rd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m. Contact DCM for location (It Rotates) Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>District 5</u> 3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. (use side door that opens to parking lot) Trinity Lutheran Church 111 N 6th Ave Princeton, MN 55371</p> <p><u>District 6</u> 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd NE North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p><u>District 7</u> 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church 415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401</p> <p><u>District 8</u> Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”</p> <p><u>District 9</u> Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p> <p><u>District 11</u> 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Peace Lutheran 2177 Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735</p> <p><u>District 12</u> 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. 1100 E Superior Street Duluth, MN Handicap Accessible,</p> <p><u>District 13</u> 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7th Ave NE Saint Cloud, MN 56301</p>	<p><u>District 14</u> 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm Coffee Landing 444 3rd Street International Falls, MN 56649</p> <p><u>District 15</u> 1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave Albany, MN 56307</p> <p><u>District 16</u> 1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 SE 5th Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p> <p><u>District 17</u> Not currently active or unknown</p> <p><u>District 18</u> 1st Tuesday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Long Prairie Alano Club 21 2nd Ave Long Prairie, MN 56347</p> <p><u>District 21</u> 2nd Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 3802 Greenleaf Ave NW Bemidji, MN 56601</p>
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Call to Order: Gayle R. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Recognition of Past Area 35 Delegates in Attendance: Tom A – panel 50, Susie A – panel 48, Kelly D – panel 66 and Christine G – panel 68

Additions to the Agenda:

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

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – Jim S

Good Morning Everyone, If your district has not set up a delegate’s report I would be happy to provide you with one either in person or over zoom. While most DCM’s have heard the report back in June at the ACM, the GSR’s and groups have not. We definitely want to keep the lines of communication open. I encourage all the DCM’s to do the best they can during these times to make certain whether or not their GSR’s and groups do or not want a delegate’s report.

I have presented twice so far in Districts 2 and 4 with 13 attending through zoom. Thank you both so much for the opportunity to come to your districts. Thank you also to District 4 for allowing me time to share my story. District 2 had 5 in person and we had 5 in zoom. District 4 had 9 in person and we had 7 in zoom.

I have struggled with what to do over the past month regarding the delegate’s report. What is the difference between being persistent and overbearing? I will continue to ask about providing a report to districts not to demand you have one, or out of some desire to hear myself talk, but this is the line on communication and how it occurs. An added thought here that I did not share in the committee meeting is, if we start the habit of not having the delegate’s report when we certainly have the ways and means to, what happens next year? Do we get in the habit of not having one? Do we start to see it as something that is too inconvenient to have? Do you think, well not many people show up so what’s the difference? This may be just a small part of what we all do, but when we start eliminating a thing here and a thing there that we should be doing where does it end? Complacency is a dangerous thing for us Alcoholics including myself. That is why I will continue to ask about presenting this report as this is one of my main responsibilities is to carry this information back and forth between the groups and GSO. I believe in times like these it is important to remember that we only keep what we have with vigilance and that sometimes we are asked to be a service at what appears to be great inconvenience to ourselves, but if we do all these things we find out that it wasn’t as hard or as tough as we may think as I often do with myself.

I appreciate what everyone is going through during these times, how confusing and scary it must be. Just the other day my co-worker informed me he lost his dad to what appears to be covid. It was a sobering conversation about the reality of our current times, but also reminds me that I do not have to live in fear but live responsibly.

In Service, Jim S., Area Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Steve L

The Area January workshop is still going as planned. By the Fall Assembly or sooner I’ll have the workshop topics and what Districts turn it is to give presentations on those topics. I am waiting to see if the Covid-19 takes a turn for the worse come winter (hoping not). Is there an alternative way to hold the workshop? Just thinking ahead.

I was hoping to get Racy J. who runs the PI desk at GSO, to be our guest speaker and to give a presentation. Because of the Coronavirus, I received this email from GSO explaining their travel position.

“As you may know in March this decision regarding employee travel was posted on www.aa.org: “As a result of health advisories relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have decided to suspend all upcoming domestic and international employee travel indefinitely. The safety and well-being of General Service Office employees and the Fellowship is of the highest importance. We will continue to monitor this issue and advise accordingly regarding future staff travel. At this time, G.S.O. will not authorize staff travel for face-to-face meetings in January. That may change at some point in the future (next couple of months?), but for now we maintain a “no travel” policy.”

People have given me a couple of tentative names to be our guest speaker to our workshop.

If your District is still holding their meeting by Zoom, please email me at sleread35@gmail.com with the Zoom code and password so I can sit in. If you do not mind. I have lots of time. In Service, Steven L.

AREA CHAIR – Gayle R

Good Morning Area 35. I have signed the contracts for the Spring and Fall Assemblies for 2021. Spring Assembly will be in Zone IV Crookston and the Fall voting Assembly in Fergus Falls. Looking at 2022, Spring will be in IV, so thinking Duluth-Virginia area, and Fall Assembly will be in Zone I, so thinking Grand Rapids, Bemidji area. Will keep you-up-to date.

I owe the Area an apology, the Northern Light delay is because I asked Cindy to extend the deadline. We all know how important deadlines are. I picked up the extra Northern Light’s on Friday, and the mail copies were almost ready to ship. We should get them Monday or Tuesday. This copy is very light, and I would encourage us to write in our thoughts about our struggles, our accomplishments and even our disappointments that this rotation has endured because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

My thoughts on the upcoming Fall Assembly, I would really still like to try to meet in person. I think the space is great for social distancing, I would also like to have ZOOM access at the same time, for those who can’t. I would like to ask Greg and Brian to come prepared for their PI/CPC presentation.

I have also attended a national Area Chair Zoom Meeting.. Thank you all who has helped set up a meeting today, you would think by now I would have this down.

2021 Budgets are printed in the Northern Light and will be voted on at the Fall Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve as your Area Chair. Gayle R

SECRETARY – Heidi B

Greetings Area 35, It’s been a quiet couple of months. My husband had another spine surgery 3 weeks ago so we’ve been focused on that. My home group is still meeting via Zoom and I continue to host an afternoon women’s meeting each Friday at noon via Zoom.

DCM’s, thank you for continuing to send your district minutes to me! I enjoy reading about what everyone is doing in their districts.

Please send me your reports for the meeting minutes, which will also be published in the next issue of the Northern Light. Reports are due Sunday, Aug 9. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service, Heidi B.

TREASURER – Justin W

Greetings Folks, I sure do miss getting together in person with all of you. I guess they say something like... ”you don’t know what you had until it’s gone.” I was hoping we could find a way to meet in person and host the ACM over zoom this time. Maybe next time. I sure hope you’re all huggers for when we can get back together.

I’m going through some personal things at the moment and I can clearly see how every little thing I’ve ever done in Alcoholics Anonymous has amounted to the daily reprieve I now have, 24 hours at a time. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to serve you all.

Contributions to the Area are picking back up; \$1605 this month compared to \$750 last month. While it’s less than half of what we received last year in July, it is an indication that things are going a bit better for the groups in the area. Overall for the period, we’ve seen a loss of about \$600, compared to about a \$5k gain for the same period last year. This is partly because we received less than half of the contributions and had significantly higher expenses. The Delegate’s Fee for the GSC was paid this period, as well as the mailing Sally did and a new computer for the NL Editor.

Since there was an agenda item regarding “the mechanization of contributions to the entities”, I thought I’d share a little about what I learned in my home group a few years back. Our group treasurer at the time had a really clever way to figure out what we (the home group members) needed to contribute to the group on an individual basis each week, which really cleared up my confusion at least. We took our group budget for the year and divided it by 52 weeks, then divided that by the number of home group members, and viola.... \$7 per week. If we take this same idea and apply it to the area, it looks like this....

$\$64,346.88 / 52 = \1237.44 per week / 277 groups (# of contributing groups from 2019) =

$\$4.47$ per week per group $\$19.36$ per month per group $\$58$ per quarter per group $\$233$ per year per group

The groups (once you approve the budget) will have agreed to contribute along these lines to Area 35 so we can render the services you have asked for. We have about 540 registered groups in Area 35, but only 277 of them are “home group members” for the Area. That’s 51% of known groups contributing to the Area from 2019. This is at least a good starting point, certainly better than anything we could ask for in a pamphlet that couldn’t possibly take our budget into consideration. Obviously understanding the financial reports will further help with the decision. When deciding how much to send to the Area, my home group will always ask the question, “How is the Area doing financially?” Hope this helps.

Thanks so much to all of you for this opportunity! It saves my life on a regular basis. Justin W (see page 8-11 for financials)

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC – Brian P

We had 10 People attending CPC and PI.

Mike of Dist 6 – Donated Big Books to the jail. The jail said they would not be able to allow the books for a period of time.

Phyllis – Dist 9 Struggling to get accessibility to potential Clients

Kathy – Dist 4 Working with libraries in the Dist

Brochure list for Social Services.

Mary - Dist 16 Getting list of area meetings

Chad – Dist 13 Getting flyer and meeting guides to Hotels

Tim – Dist 7 Shared how the helpline has been working for their district

Ricco – The district had reviewed the option of adding a website to supply info

To district members and meetings in the area. They chose not to go ahead with the website at this time.

Some discussion was brought up about how Social Services is re- evaluating Alcoholism as an Alcohol Use Disorder. New treatments may work towards “Harm Reduction.”

Labeling Alcoholism and Substance Abuse as a disability.

DISTRICT 9 – Ricco R

GSR SERVICE WORKSHOP COMMITTEE MEETING 7/19/2020. We had six people that attended the meeting. We picked the topics for the workshop that we are presenting on 9/19/2020. They are Sponsorship, Traditions and singleness of purpose, Working the steps; How they have changed our lives. We will also be listening to speaker Dan H. from Grand Rapids at 3:00 pm. It will be held at the Triumphant Life Church in Bovey MN and on Zoom also. The address of the church and the zoom numbers will be on the flyer. The workshop starts at 12:00 noon and runs till 4:00 pm. It has been a pleasure working on the workshop with District 16. We had some fun times and we felt the unity working together.

I attended both zoom meetings presenting the Conference report back given by our Area 35 Delegate Jim S. Thanks Jim. I previously sent the slide show report to every group GSR or contact person in our district. I contacted four groups last month that do not attend meetings on Zoom. One I have not heard back from yet. I gave their reports during the GSR part of the District 9 meeting.

In Unity and Service, Ricco

**DISTRICT 4 – Colleen S NO REPORT
WEBMASTER – Thomas H**

Hello Area 35 - this last month or two has seen a slow-down in the requests for updates in the Area 35 website. I have received only one request for an event to be added to the calendar, which is obviously expected.

During our committee meeting we decided that in order to stop duplicating efforts between me and the group records Sally, we will remove the list of Zoom meetings from the Area 35 website. AAMinnesota.org is an excellent resource and the most up to date list of meetings.

I have received numerous emails from individuals requesting information on meetings in specific areas - I have forwarded these requests to the local DCM and aaminnesota.org.

A new computer was purchased for the Northern Lights editor Cindi - this will be delivered to her shortly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Thomas H.

**LITERATURE – Bruce M NO REPORT
DISTRICT 14 –**

**DISTRICT 3 – Tom O'M NO REPORT
NORTHERN LIGHT – Cindy S-K**

Hi Everyone! The newsletter was mailed late due to the deadline being pushed back. I apologize if you did not receive your copy before the August Area 35 meeting. This issue has the 2021 budgets and the delegates report from the general service conference held this Spring. Deadlines are made so that there is enough time for me to put the newsletter together and then send to JoAnne N. to proof. Changes are then made and finally it is sent off to the printer for printing and mailing. All of this done between my responsibilities of work and home.

I cannot stress enough, this is YOUR newsletter. I need YOUR submissions to fill the pages. All area officers, area chairs, district chairs and general service reps have an opportunity to submit ADDITIONAL happenings between the area meetings. I understand there is not all that much going on during this pandemic but, isn't our responsibility to make things happen? We need to put the hand of AA out for all to grab on to. We must make a very conscious effort to make things happen, not just sit back and wait. What ideas have worked or failed, please share. I know there are others out there that could benefit from your successes and even the failures.

I want to put a challenge out there for each of you to find 5 people that would like to receive the Northern Night newsletter in the mail. All YOU have to do is get their name and mailing address and submit it to Sally, our group records chair, she will gladly add them to the list!

Your Northern Light editor, Cindy S-K

DISTRICT 8 – Nels P

Greetings Area 35. We continue to conduct our district meetings via Zoom and have barely had any participation, an average 4-5 people. I have reached out and asked to be updated on meeting changes, in person and Zoom and have not had much response. I am hearing that some meeting attendees are not honoring the mask mandate during the meeting.

We need always remember that we are guests in churches and it's at the discretion of the church to take away our privilege to meet if we are not going to observe laws. I will be reaching out more to groups to get more accuracy on this and will remind them we are the only example of AA that someone might see.

Yours in Service, Nels P.

GROUP RECORDS – Sally L

Greetings, Area 35. I have received spreadsheets from GSO about group contact information and service positions currently listed in the new NetSuite database. This current information does not necessarily reflect all the changes that have been submitted as they are still behind on the processing. I will send out reports of the current info to each district. DCMs, please see which are correct and which are not. I will try to square up the not-updated info with the changes that have been submitted to get everything current.

I will use the reports from GSO to update the Northern Light mailing list. If you know anyone who wants to be added to the mailing list, send me their address.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. In service, Sally L

DISTRICT 2 – Danny W

District 2 held its last District meeting July 12, 2020 at the Twin Rivers clubhouse in Thief River Falls, MN.

Attendance was down with only 1 GSR present along with the District DCM, Treasurer, Area Delegate, and another TRFs AA member.

Jim S. Area 35 Delegate presented his Delegate's report from this year's virtual General Service Conference. There were also other District attendees participating via Zoom.

District business was conducted as best as possible with the low District attendance. Some groups are still meeting, but others are not due to their meeting facility's Covid-19 protocols. Most meetings are experiencing lower attendance but there is hope that attendance will pick back up once Covid-19 rules are relaxed.

There was some discussion about how the still suffering alcoholic can be reached in District 2. Some opportunities might be distributing literature to different facilities, updating the group's contact list for outside entities such as law enforcement, clinics, and treatment centers. This will be discussed more in future District meetings.

Upcoming events such as the Fall and Spring Assemblies and Area Workshop were discussed along with the dates and locations where they are being held.

In service, Danny W.

DISTRICT 15 – Lori L

How do you do Area 35!! I am Lori and I am an alcoholic - an excited and grateful alcoholic who is now serving as the BRAND NEW DCM for District 15. As some meetings in my district begin to open up again, due to Covid, the general consensus is thankfulness. Members who I have talked to are so grateful to make the human connection again. Zoom meetings are very important to keep the connection so we can stay sober.

But our Fellowship thrives on the personal contact. In June, our District 15 had the district meeting via Zoom. In July, our District meeting was in person at the Albany Senior Center. Going forward, I pray that God guides me in my new position. Covid has proved to be a huge obstacle for us AA's, but we are stronger. We will take it one day at a time....

Humbly yours in service, Lori L.

TREATMENT – Melissa A

Greetings Area 35. **Break out session: 1 person in attendance District DCM 13**

-Denise R. District 13 stated that their meeting schedule is inaccurate at the moment, so their PI chair made a flyer stating that as of right now A.A. members should turn to the meeting guide app due to it being more accurate. DCM Denise stated that she has been in the process of verifying meeting information. Denise stated that she has been in communication with several meetings and has been updating the meeting information with Group Records. District 13 is in the process of getting correct information to the treatment centers so that they are aware of what meetings are currently open and allowing face-to-face meetings to occur.

John District 13-(not in attendance)- has had communication with Centracare to send them information. John also has been asked to help provide and or set up a meeting at the Dream Center on Saturday nights at 6pm, which is currently closed. Denise and myself discussed having a Treatment Committee Breakout Session on: **November 1st, 2020 via Zoom at 10am** prior to the ACM meeting in December. I will be getting the login information for Zoom from Denise and email that out to all the treatment chairs and or DCM's.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Melissa M.

DISTRICT 13 – Denise R

Greetings from District 13, Thank you Jim S. for making his Delegates report available to us via Zoom while presenting to District 4. We had about 7-8 in Zoom attendance from District 13.

Last month our District meeting was held via Zoom and there were some that had difficulty logging in so we lost a few. This month August 3rd, we will be meeting via Zoom and in person. This new "hybrid" type meeting and we will see how that goes.

We decided our printed meeting schedules from last year are not very accurate so we are encouraging people to use the Meeting Guide App. Our PI committee made a flyer concerning this to be distributed to Treatment Centers and other places that our PI Committee would normally distribute our printed meeting schedules.

We continue to stress to groups to update any changes to their meetings with the District so we can have accurate information.

Our Beginner's Meeting is back up and running with many in attendance.

I received a request from GSP to assist a local counselor with some AA information. Turns out they needed a Spanish speaking gentlemen to be able to assist an alcoholic trying to stay sober and they only spoke Spanish. Grateful that we were able to find one man that would take that commitment! I also had to wonder why we don't have any Spanish Speaking meetings in our District that we know about?

Our financials are okay, we are still receiving some contributions and our expenses are of course, less than normal. We continue to pay for our AA Assistance line and rent for the Beginner's meeting as well as our own. I have also been stressing to groups and individuals to send contributions to GSO.

Other than that, all is well in District 13! In Service, Denise R.

DISTRICT 18 – Janie F NO REPORT

ARCHIVIST –

ARCHIVES – Peter T

Hi my name is Peter and I am an alcoholic. This is going to be a short report. Because not a lot has been happening with the archives since the June 14th meeting. My shop is working with the city of Waite Park on the new Amphitheater and are pushing for parts to get ready for galvanizing, that with the 4th of July holiday the time seems to vanish.

I am still downloading District meeting minutes when I receive them and hopefully when things get back to a more normal life and scheduled meeting I will get more response from all the districts.

Today I have hosted my second Zoom Archives Committee and in attendance were Diane R. District 9, Dave C. District 16, Shelly H. and Dawn W. District 12, Tom and Susie A. District 13. We all shared a little about how our district and home groups are dealing with the covid-19 situation. How we are having in person and Zoom meetings or a combination of the two. Shelley H. talked about not being allowed into the building and some were having parking lot meetings and the Serenity club annual picnic Aug 16 in the park (contact District 12 for more information. At the June 14th meeting we talked about having a once a month Zoom Meeting. Diane R. mentions that there is still concern about having in person meetings but more are happening. Tom A. talked about that we should be writing down a history what meetings are like during the covid19. We will record our Zoom Archive Committee meetings. Dawn W. mentions that she has a lot of Archive information from Jimmy N. (Fish) and will bring it to the Fall Assembly. The Archives committee will try and revive the question and answer section of the Northern Light. The Archive Committee will have a monthly meeting. I thank the Archive committee for being patient with me as I learn what I am doing.

I would like to remind all DCM's to send me monthly meetings of any Archive materials.

I am still learning the ins and outs of the Area 35 Archives computer, but I have many great friends in the AA community that will provide me with the education needed to do the best service I can.

Yours in Service, Peter T.

DISTRICT 16 – Katy P

Greetings from District 16, my name is Katy and I'm an alcoholic. We are still having a lot of zoom meetings and a few open, in person meetings. Some churches are starting to open with small group meetings and some outdoor meetings available. Mary S. has also done a wonderful job updating our meeting schedule, which has been sent to Sally and Thomas to be put on the website.

We are going to host a workshop with District 9 on September 19, zoom and in person at Triumphant Life Church in Bovey. I'll be sending the flyer to get put on the Area 35 Website.

I look forward to things getting back to a little bit of normal so we can all get together soon. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Katy P

DISTRICT 12 – Shelley H

Greetings from District 12, (Twin Ports area).

District 12 appears to be gaining momentum and acclimating to the challenges of supporting AA members and groups in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic. The fellowship continues to amaze me and fill me with gratitude. We had 196 AA meetings listed in the fall 2019 District 12 meeting directory. Zoom meetings replaced many of these meetings and by the end of April, there were 64 zoom meetings that were on record and countless, informal “pop-up” backyard and parking lot meetings. Our district 12 intergroup closed in March but thanks to the dedication of some fabulous AA members, the phones continued to be answered and meetings were updated on a regular basis and posted on the Duluth Area People in Recovery Facebook page. Still another dedicated AA member kept in communication with the treatment centers and made sure that people leaving treatment had current meeting information.

We now have 64 meetings that are being conducted in person and another 62 zoom recovery meetings. The Twin Ports Area Intergroup reopened in June and is open from 9am-6pm.

Our District 12 meetings are also making the adjustment. We are meeting over zoom with a number of people choosing to attend in person at my place of employment since the church is still closed.

We have cancelled many AA outings and PI opportunities this summer as most have and it's been hard to watch these fairs, picnics, and summer gatherings pass by as I'm sure it has been for many others. Meanwhile, we have plans to start a website, place new literature racks, host the Area 35 delegate and attend the Fall assembly.

I am considered essential. Sometimes by the end of the day I feel overwhelmed and alone. My comfortable little routine has been completely upended and it is uncomfortable. But then I remember the first word of the first step. This has been a challenging time for many but remembering that we don't have to do this alone helps. I am truly grateful to be a part of this fellowship. Thank you all for being here.

Yours in Service, Shelley H.

CORRECTIONS – Butch R

We discussed about what is going on in our Area as to being allowed inside to hold meetings. All are not allowing AA to participate but there are hopes that this will change in the near future. Although there is talk of Zoom meetings being set up. Sandstone has inmates only going on as they are Registered with GSO. We all hope things will change in the near future. Contact is being made so we can get the word GO when we can resume. Some bad news though the Togo Facility and Lino Lakes will be closing. All are Ready, Willing and Able once we get the clearance.

In Service, Butch R.

DISTRICT 1 – Laura C NO REPORT**DISTRICT 11 – Kurt N**

Greetings from District 11!

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we are beginning to resume some activities: 1. Our monthly District Meeting is in person again and making regular reports. 2. We are re-establishing limited connection with some correctional institutions to resume meetings, if only via internet or limited in-person contact. 3. We have purchased some Big Books for distribution to meetings. 4. Financially, donations are beginning to come in “ones and twos”, but we are doing okay as expenses are next to nothing.

Many AA meetings in the District are re-opening on a limited basis, though by no means all-as of yet. Attendance is not up to former levels. There was concern expressed in the District Meeting about members of AA becoming disconnected from meetings and activities that they had participated in formerly-will some start drinking again? Will some meetings not resume at all? We touched upon mandatory masking and how we feel about it as it applies to groups and clubs. What traditions might we apply as we grapple with various issues as they arise? Internet video meetings continue, though participation seems to be somewhat diminished as “in-person” meetings open up again.

Through this may seem a tough time, on we go regardless! Alcoholism is was it always has been, and Alcoholics Anonymous offers a solution that has worked for us. Communicating this solution to the still suffering alcoholic as a UNIFIED membership is not only how keep our Fellowship effective, but it is (I must keep reminding myself) how we all stay sober ourselves.

Yours In Service, Kurt N, DCM, District 11)

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Greg C NO REPORT**DISTRICT 7 – Tim V**

Good morning everyone. Dist 7 met in person on July 16th we had 6 in attendance. Our main topic of discussion was on Dist 7 telephone help line and the limited printing of our meeting list. Our treasurer reported that we have stayed about even for the month contributions equaling our expenses. I attended the PI/CPC meeting this morning. I had talked with the jail coordinator of the Aitkin jail they have set up a possible zoom meeting for inmates I forwarded the information to the group that was taking meetings in to the jail. I have not followed up with them to see if it is happening. Our next Dist. meeting will be Aug. 20th at 7 o'clock at the FCUCC church Brainerd, MN.

Yours in service, Tim V.

DISTRICT 6 – Mike U

July has been a busy month. I have started visiting groups again and finding out how they are doing. Some groups need literature which is being sent through our Literature chair ,thank you Clair for a great job. Our district has donated Big Books to the county Jail which was much appreciated. On August 16th from noon to 3:00 the district will be hosting along with District 5 the Delegate's report. We are looking forward to seeing Jim and hearing the report. If anyone is interested you are welcome it is being held at the Isanti Alano. Sorry I'm late on this report. Thank you for letting me serve. Mike U

District 6

GRAPEVINE – Pat M.

Greetings Area 35, Grapevine Chair, Pat M and I am an alcoholic. There were four of us that attended the Area 35 committee meeting. District Six Grapevine chair Scott said that they are trying to get the message out with the Grapevine magazine and other literature of Grapevine and it's been slow. District 5 DCM talked about gathering up old Grapevine magazines and taking them to places of need such as detoxes, wet houses in their area. District 15 literature chair talked about the sales of literature has been slow but picking up. Have purchased 13 copies of the Best of the Grapevine. District 15 also has a new member that would like to be the Grapevine chair for District 15. His name is Corey, welcome Corey. Look forward to working with you in Grapevine literature.

I have had the privilege a presenting at districts 3 ,5 and 12. Three and 5 we're in person and 12 on zoom. It was nice to meet in person and I was also able to sell some Grapevine literature when I am in person. Thank you districts 5 ,3 and 12, I had a great time. The Fall Assembly is coming up October 3rd and 4th in St Cloud if there is anything you or your District needs let me know please. If you do not know what to do with your old Grapevine magazines, bring them to the Fall assembly. I will find a place to go with them.

Hope to see you all at the Fall Assembly. Looking forward to sharing ideas on how to carry the message through Grapevine, the still suffering alcoholic and you.

Yours in service, Pat M.

DISTRICT 5 – Terry P

The District 5 meeting returned to the in-person variety for July. Probably not coincidentally, attendance was up to approximately 12 people. We are continuing to offer Zoom for foreseeable future for those not comfortable meeting in-person or wearing masks, which the facility requires. Our Area 35 Grapevine chair, Pat, gave a great presentation about our meeting in print, including it's history and discussion of the related literature that is available. Pretty sure we bought out his supply of at least one item. Most all meetings in the area have returned to in-person in some capacity, with varying policies and restrictions. Many committees are still facing significant challenges when it comes to facilities allowing anyone or anything inside. Our CPC chair thought outside the box and presented an idea to carry the message to places like wet houses, shelters, or tent cities where we can still get face to face and has set about drumming up some interest. We also discussed an initiative like this as a possible good use for old, unused Grapevine issues. Looking forward to things slowly returning to normal and it does sound like there have been some early rumblings of facilities reaching out to start discussing how we can get things going again. Hopefully next month will provide some openings to move forward with the work we all expected to undertake when this rotation started.

Yours in service, Terry P

DISTRICT 21 – John W NO REPORT**OLD BUSINESS****NEW BUSINESS**

FOC Committee – Everything is settled. Checking account balance has decreased 44% for the year. Christine G.

Fall Assembly – Please reserve rooms, flyer will be made and distributed.

We discussed being more prudent with expenses since contributions are down, per guidelines. There is a significant decrease in contributions, as well as expenses. DCM's please bring back to groups that Area could use some contributions.

Literature Shipping Costs - Pat M. (Literature Chair) discussed shipping costs to send literature to groups now that Area isn't meeting in person. Should Area be picking up the shipping charges? Area doesn't make money on literature so shipping to groups is added expense. Is it appropriate to let groups know that they should pay shipping charges when asking for literature to be shipped. Why do we have Lit/Grapevine Chairs if we don't distribute literature. We have a Tradition that each group is self-supporting. Area gets free shipping when ordering \$500 or more in literature and pass that savings on to the groups for pickup at Area functions. Groups that are now meeting in person need to start contributing to Area again. We will continue to ship literature to groups at no charge until we can discuss with the Area.

Group Changes – DCM recently sent info that GSR's are changing contact info via aaminnesota.org, but the district does not receive this information. Sally L. – Haven't been able to print out updated group information as GSO is still struggling to update info with new system. Can anyone make a group change on aaminesota.org or meeting guide app? Sally doesn't get updates from meeting guide app, only aaminnesota.org or GSO. Sally will pass along group changes that are made directly to GSO to DCM's.

Meeting safety was discussed now that meetings are opening up and meeting in person. There are people that have medical issues, we must follow restrictions with masks and social distancing. We need to be aware of the newcomer. Is there anything from GSO regarding masks and social distancing in meetings? It's up to state and local mandates. Tradition 4 was suggested, but if we don't follow state mandates, what does that say to the newcomer. This might affect AA as a whole.

Calendar of Events-

October 3 – 4 – Fall Assembly, The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

December 6 – Area Committee Meeting, Alano Club, Aitkin

Adjourned: The meeting closed at 1:48pm with the Responsibility Statement

Since the Area 35 committee meeting the work continues...

Good morning Everyone,

I hope this email finds you safe and sound these days. I don't know about you but I was hoping we would have been back to normal by now. But that is not the case.

Since the August ACM, I have presented my delegate's report twice. Once in Isanti, MN with districts 5 and 6 on August 16th at the Isanti Alano club. We had quite a few people there, I would say there must have been around 15 people in attendance and 4 in zoom. We had a lively discussion about the agenda items and had some great food. Thanks to everyone that helped put that event on. Next, I headed over to Duluth for their district meeting. There were 13 in attendance I believe and unfortunately the church's internet was not cooperating so we didn't have any in zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped bring in food as well. I thought both reports went well, and everyone helped create a lively discussion about the agenda items. Most of all, it was simply great to get out and see everyone. I am not a solitary person and much prefer to see you all as I have been so long. I will be off to Albany, MN on Sept 14th for my next delegate's report. I will send out the zoom information for that meeting in the coming week.

On August 15th I sat in on a financial report presented by GSO. It was about 2.5 hours in length. Group donations to GSO have picked up some, while literature sales have but not to the extent as donations have. The 2020 budget has been re worked and about 3 million in expenses have been reduced, such as occupancy expense since no one is in the building, water, electricity, office supplies, etc are down, travel isn't occurring so that is down, some staff have been given the opportunity for early retirement which they had til Aug 31st to make that decision. The staff deciding on retirement is not included in the 3 million reduced budget currently. I emailed about the power point and pdf report of the presentation the following week so I hope you had a chance to see it. I will send it separately to Cindy for her to determine if there is enough room in this edition of the NL for inclusion or not. At the time of the report, GSO believes that 95% of all registration fees for the 2020 International have been returned. There are some checks that they received they have not been able to follow up on. One positive thing that came out in the report is, GSO purchased an insurance policy for the international for \$51,000.00. As a result of the convention, we are in negotiations with the underwriting for a settlement between \$2.4 and 2.9 million, of which \$971,000 has already been paid to us. This will greatly help in paying bills throughout the rest of the year. One thing that was commented on that I was not in favor of, the prudent reserve was recalculated after the reduced budget was created.

The prudent reserve is at 9 months after this recalculation. I am not in favor of this as when GSO reopens at full steam and our expenses go back to "normal", our prudent reserve will be low and a request for donations or rise in literature prices will most likely occur. It seems to me we should have left the initial prudent reserve figures to give the fellowship as much time as possible to address the shortfall from drawing down the 3 million from the reserve earlier this summer. In the end, GSO presented itself as doing ok financially, that doesn't mean we should stop or reduce our contributions. If we want the GSO to continue providing the services we have requested from them over the years, we need to ensure they have the funds to continue doing so.

I hope to see you at the Fall Assembly.

In Service,
Jim S. Area 35 Delegate

Greetings, Area 35.

I have been busy making changes to aaminnesota.org as groups are going back to in-person meetings. There have been a number of other changes happening also. New groups are forming as others are being inactivated, groups are changing meeting places, new GSRs are being added. I sent out spreadsheets to each DCM of service positions as listed in GSO's database. These spreadsheets show what is in the database and do not reflect all of the changes that have been submitted. The numbers shown for each person are personal identification numbers for that person. In the old system, every time a person got a new service position, they got a new number. Now the number will stay with that person no matter what position they hold.

I am working on revising the Northern Light mailing list by including information received from GSO in the spreadsheets I sent out.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

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

Hello Area 35

Since the ACM I have been looking for new subscribers to the Northern Light newsletter. Each new subscription gets this newsletter into more people's hands since they can no longer be handed out in person at the ACM. I am also encouraging people in my area to submit their thoughts about their experiences in AA. As you will read in this issue the range is fascinating. Keep the articles coming. I know times are different but we must move forward to make things happen. What are YOU doing to help the person who is still suffering?

Cindy S-K
Northern Light Editor

Greetings Area 35. I am honored to serve you.. I received a call from the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls and they for some reason cancelled on us for the fall assembly 2021.. So I will be looking for another facility in Zone II, District 3 District 4 or District 15.

I am working on personal protection equipment for the fall assembly.. Ordered masks and making handmade microphone barriers.. I will be working on the Zoom access for each of the breakout sessions. Six committee meetings and the GSR first Sharing Session and that's just 10am. I hope for some small sense of normalcy.

Because of the inability of the internet at the Alano Club in Aitkin, I am thinking we should have our December Committee Meeting via Zoom.. I am not seeing anything really changing with the Covid 19 in our state by then..

I am planning on attending District 18's district meeting this week to give the new DCM a hand if needed.. If any other District would like me or any other Officer or Committee Chair to visit your district, please just ask we will be more than happy to come..

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Assembly whether you will be in person with me or on Zoom...

Thank you allowing me to serve Area 35. Gayle R

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen,

I went outside in the evening a week and a half ago (Aug 28) and felt the first hint of fall in the air. Time sure goes by fast. Are you ready for the season change? The Fall Assembly is coming up fast. It will be interesting to see how many GSR's, DCM's and Area Officers and Committee people feel comfortable attending the Assembly. I know Gayle and the Hotel are doing everything they can to make this event safe for us. I'm registered at the hotel, but I'm still keeping an eye to the Covid stats to see if I will attend. Another possibility is to be able to Zoom the Assembly. I know Gayle is working the kinks out of that scenario.

I recently attended the first Zoom for Alt Delegates meeting. There were about fifty-five in attendance from Alaska to Texas and Hawaii to New York and about half of the Canadian Areas. Quite interesting. It was as chaotic as any AA business meeting, I say that in a loving way. Make a motion and people want to tack on four different ideas. We'll get it together as we go. It was decided to have these meetings on the first of every month and to pass this on to our replacements. One of the interesting threads was how Areas were having their Area Meetings by Zoom. A few were going to have their election Assemblies by Zoom or hybrids in the next few weeks.

Now about the workshop coming January 16th and 17th 2021 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. This was sent to me from the Holiday Inn.

Just so, you are aware, these are the COVID restrictions we are currently facing:

All attendees must be at least 6-ft. apart.

We can seat people classroom style, however, only one person can be seated to every 6-ft. table, and every 6-ft table needs to be 4-5 ft. a part.

Maximum capacity classroom style in our entire banquet hall is going to be 84 people only, so we won't be able to accommodate 125 people if these restrictions don't change by January.

All attendees must be wearing a mask at all times unless seated eating or drinking.

All food and beverage must be individually served. We cannot have water or coffee stations, and all AM break and PM break snacks must be plated and served.

No registration tables to avoid congregating.

After some negotiation, we can have a registration table provided everyone follows the 6-ft separation guidelines. There will be no group water pitchers because the Covid-19 is an air borne pathogen. Water bottles will be available in a cooling trough at a price of \$2.00 ea. Coffee will be available at \$6.00 a carafe on Saturday and we are trying to figure out what to do for Sunday, because that is such a short day.

Because of the reduced capacity imposed by the hotel and possible lower turnout, I am currently renegotiating the hotel room minimums for a discount on the main meeting room. I'll keep you posted.

The topic of the 2021 workshop will be "A.A. in a Time of Change". The Saturday night speaker will be Ken B., past WCR Trustee from Nebraska. Racy J., who runs the PI desk at GSO, will give a presentation by Zoom on Saturday if everything goes right. Districts asked to give presentations this year are Districts 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 18, 21. I will be calling the DCM's or talking to them at the Assembly on what their topics will be.

In Service
Steve L.
Area 35 Alt Delegate

Group Contributions

	Jun 14 - Jul 27, 20	Jan 1 - Jul 27, 20		Jun 14 - Jul 27, 20	Jan 1 - Jul 27, 20
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · Group Contributions					
4000-01 · District 01 Contributions					
618425 · 110281-Erskine High Noon Group	0.00	100.00	609418 · 67938-Serenity in the Pines	50.00	100.00
676989 · 104920-Fosston Thursday Night	0.00	100.00	641020 · 10680-Life Begins Here Group	0.00	68.10
691899 · 103402-Erskine Tues Night Group	0.00	45.00	642096 · 90198-11th Step Group	100.00	200.00
Total 4000-01 · District 01 Contributions	0.00	245.00	652451 · 24947-Monday Night Step Group	0.00	50.00
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions			652706 · Practicing the Principles	0.00	50.00
107529 · 21206-Warren AA Group	0.00	150.00	699165 · Mille Lacs Primary Purpose AA	82.00	196.95
117847 · 110006-Helping HandsGroup	0.00	50.00	705579 · 112000 Isle Big Book	100.00	150.00
161335 · 33539-Williams AA Group	0.00	75.00	716950 · 14932 Lots of Love	0.00	60.00
723325 · 59124-Roseau Women's AA	100.00	200.00	719598 · 76819 Spiritual Awakenings	50.00	100.00
Total 4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	100.00	475.00	722626 · Road To Recovery AA	0.00	25.00
4000-03 · District 03 Contributions			727272 · 223629 Design For Living Group	0.00	45.00
107624 · Moorhead Thurs. Nite Group	0.00	10.00	Total 4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	382.00	1,428.49
107702 · 104860-The Formers Group	50.00	100.00	4000-08 · District 08 Contributions		
107855 · 26128-Thur Night Group Moorhead	0.00	40.00	107553 · 94034-Aurora Big Book	50.00	350.00
119323 · 103393-Erhard Group	100.00	100.00	107876 · 45232 Orr Tues. Nite AA	0.00	103.00
144731 · 45425-Ottertail Thurs Nite	100.00	100.00	107970 · Virginia Friday Nite Open	0.00	100.00
668537 · 100038-Cookie Monsters Group	50.00	50.00	120255 · Palo Kitchen Table #1	0.00	52.33
Total 4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	300.00	400.00	121792 · 49288 Pike Sandy Group	0.00	100.00
4000-04 · District 04 Contributions			142087 · 84297-Cook Sun. Night Big Book	0.00	137.00
137624 · 5284-Kensington Wednesday Night	0.00	30.00	171078 · 25414 Ely Monday Womens	0.00	39.00
171076 · 92690-Thurs As Bill Sees It	25.00	25.00	674017 · Happy, Joyous & Free Grp Ely	0.00	30.00
647047 · 84237-Sun Night 630 12 & 12	0.00	50.00	716110 · 6836 Lake Vermillion 12x12	60.00	120.00
Total 4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	25.00	105.00	Total 4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	110.00	1,031.33
4000-05 · District 05 Contributions			4000-09 · District 09 Contributions		
107570 · 42545-Zimtown AA Group	0.00	71.00	107762 · Thursday Morning Dntown	0.00	100.00
117918 · 95029-Becker Group	0.00	10.00	107764 · 110172-Hibbing Dntown Group	30.00	90.00
122111 · 77677-Elk River Squad 2	20.00	20.00	107765 · 13824 Tues 8PM Hibbing Alano	0.00	50.00
668617 · Squad 11 Elk River Alano	0.00	80.00	121039 · Zim Group	0.00	150.00
674610 · 96059-Big Lake BB Group	85.00	133.28	128162 · Sunday 12 & 12 Step Group	0.00	40.00
704281 · 5616-The Way Out Group	0.00	100.00	138250 · 110174 Hibbing Sat Morning	50.00	100.00
705752 · 84634-Big Lake Sun Night Sol	0.00	17.00	634677 · Happy Hour 6 pm Hibbing	0.00	25.00
709933 · 35289-Twelve And Twelve On Main	0.00	50.00	646421 · Sunday Morning Daily Reflection	0.00	20.00
724470 · 6019-There Is A Solution Group	0.00	100.00	694149 · 12541 Tues Afternoon Hibbing	50.00	100.00
Total 4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	105.00	581.28	719309 · 8471-Hibbing Thursday Noon Grp	20.00	80.00
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions			Total 4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	150.00	755.00
107681 · 97742-Cambridge Community Group	0.00	30.00	4000-11 · District 11 Contributions		
122300 · 14065-Tues Night AA Isanti	0.00	9.80	107885 · 49354 Pine City AA Group	0.00	50.00
124462 · 77760-Squad 3 Isanti Thurs	0.00	61.48	122533 · 41787 Thurs Ogilvie AA	0.00	50.00
140016 · 85613-Fri AM AA North Branch	0.00	15.00	141987 · QUAMBA Mon. AA	0.00	100.00
142131 · 90338-Forest Lake 12X12 Study	0.00	10.00	173665 · Saturday Sobriety Group	0.00	75.00
167901 · 7282-Thursday Night 7 pm AA	0.00	210.00	685409 · 78656 - Mora Wed Morning Women	0.00	25.00
171884 · 17191-Unity AA	0.00	30.00	724683 · Moose Lake Vision of Hope Group	0.00	10.00
666121 · 24817-Isanti Mon Night Open	0.00	80.00	Total 4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	0.00	310.00
672898 · 70426-Simple Not Easy BB Group	0.00	30.00	4000-12 · District 12 Contributions		
680382 · 100899-Dalbo A.A. Group	0.00	85.00	???? · It's Quitting Time Friday Grp	0.00	25.00
684775 · 91822-A Woman's Way Group	0.00	50.00	107512 · Wed. Afternoon Group	0.00	100.00
684788 · 26582-Wed Nite AA 6 PM	0.00	60.00	107550 · 48069 Peace Church AA	0.00	17.00
Total 4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	0.00	671.28	107573 · 100551 Crossroads A.A. Group	23.00	34.40
4000-07 · District 07 Contributions			107708 · Phoenix AA Group	0.00	25.00
??CLSD · Tuesday Women's AA	0.00	12.50	107719 · Saturday 10 A.M. Group	0.00	60.00
107749 · 106946-Mon Garrison Group	0.00	100.00	114416 · 1609 Group	0.00	71.07
123531 · 71823-Sleepy Hollow Group	0.00	77.00	123391 · 9916 A Vision for You	150.00	150.00
129660 · 16875-Malmo Rhymer Reason AA	0.00	92.00	125933 · Rule 62 Group	0.00	50.00
179367 · 12589-New Hope Group	0.00	50.00	127270 · 94477 Back to Basics	0.00	150.00
609161 · 39348-Wednesday Woman's Work	0.00	51.94	129540 · 78869 St. Scholastica AA	0.00	30.00
			132613 · 67747 Serenity Club Inc.	45.00	180.00
			135592 · Duluth "Nuts at Noon" Grp	0.00	50.00
			140763 · 6615 Thurs.Noon Big book	0.00	50.00
			164917 · Fri. Night Special Topic Group	0.00	55.00
			169328 · Finland AA Group	0.00	20.00
			635620 · Pattison Park Group	0.00	100.00
			637117 · On Awakening Group	0.00	150.00
			643667 · We Aren't a Glum Lot	0.00	10.00
			695769 · Grand Marais Tue Nite 7th Trad	0.00	10.00

	Jun 14 - Jul 27, 20	Jan 1 - Jul 27, 20
708011 · Steps at Copper Top	0.00	35.00
711810 · Barnum AA Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
Total 4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	218.00	1,432.47
4000-13 · District 13 Contributions		
107498 · Wed. 6 p.m. Happy Hour group	0.00	50.00
107580 · Early Evening Group (Tues. Nt.)	0.00	87.50
107601 · Thurs. 830 Candlelight Group	0.00	100.00
107914 · 8507 Primary Purpose Grp	50.00	150.00
118117 · 60484-Sauk Rapids AA Group	0.00	75.00
120679 · 30646 West End 12 Step Group	50.00	200.00
123538 · Fri. 10 A.M. Big Book	0.00	30.00
139018 · Older Adult Group	0.00	60.00
146993 · Thursday Morning Big Book	0.00	120.00
164180 · Womens AA Group (Sat. 1030 am)	0.00	50.00
603252 · There is a Solution Fri. Nght	0.00	50.00
670436 · 37950 Wmns Willingness to Grow	0.00	75.00
697239 · Heard it Through the Grapevine	0.00	75.00
718334 · Keep It Simple	0.00	60.00
726022 · Thursday AA Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>35.00</u>
Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	100.00	1,217.50
4000-15 · District 15 Contributions		
167100 · Sauk Centre Thurs. Morning Grp	0.00	50.00
695601 · Cold Spring Mon. Night	0.00	50.00
718858 · Back 2 Basics	0.00	40.00
721677 · Thursday Night Big Book Mtg Grp	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Total 4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	0.00	165.00
4000-16 · District 16 Contributions		
107766 · 110454 Hill City AA Group	30.00	110.00
117890 · 25115 Mon Night BB Grand Rapids	100.00	100.00
118696 · 14449 Fri Night AA Group	65.00	115.00
640458 · Monday Night Big Book Longville	0.00	100.00
665046 · Tuesday Nite Solutions Group	0.00	189.00
696926 · Cohasset North Group	0.00	170.00
697943 · Saturday 6pm Group	0.00	50.00
718339 · Bigfork Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>95.00</u>
Total 4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	195.00	929.00
4000-17 · District 17 Contributions		
?CROSSL · ?CROSSL - Crosslake Thurs AA	0.00	50.00
123762 · Crosslake Tuesday Night Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total 4000-17 · District 17 Contributions	0.00	300.00
4000-18 · District 18 Contributions		
107722 · 102265 Eagle Bend AA	0.00	50.00
107785 · 19219 Little Falls AA	150.00	300.00
107787 · Long Prairie Alano Society	<u>0.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
Total 4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	150.00	390.00
4000-21 · District 21 Contributions		
107658 · Blackduck AA	0.00	40.00
139141 · Spiritual Awareness Group	0.00	208.23
145909 · 38031 Nooners AA Group PR	200.00	450.00
662565 · 13687 Living Sober Group	0.00	30.00
663310 · 77955 Squaw Lake Tues	<u>75.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>
Total 4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	275.00	803.23
4005 · No Area Record	0.00	460.00
4000 · Group Contributions - Other	<u>20.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total 4000 · Group Contributions	2,130.00	11,719.58
4100 · Birthday Contributions		
4100-05 · District 5 BDay Contributions		
B674610 · Big Lake BB	<u>0.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Total 4100-05 · District 5 BDay Contributions	0.00	20.00
4100-06 · District 6 BDay Contributions	<u>0.00</u>	<u>44.00</u>
Total 4100 · Birthday Contributions	0.00	64.00
4500 · Service Workshop Registration	0.00	1,170.00
4550 · Service Workshop Coffee	0.00	295.75
4700 · Grapevine Sales	0.00	443.50
4710 · AAWS Literature Sales	0.00	1,839.27
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	0.00	322.00
4800 · Interest on Deposits	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.58</u>
Total Income	<u>2,130.05</u>	<u>15,854.68</u>
Gross Profit	2,130.05	15,854.68

Area Expenses

	Jun 14 - July 27, 20	Jan 1 - July 27,20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Expense				
5100 · Committee Meeting Rent	0.00	100.00	100.00	200.00
5120 · Grapevine Inventory	0.00	1,527.30	0.00	
5125 · AAWS Literature Inventory	0.00	3,444.29	0.00	
5200 · Service Workshop				
5201 · Coffee	0.00	335.00	150.00	150.00
5202 · Printing	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00
5203 · Room Rental	0.00	1,268.34	886.00	886.00
5204 · Speaker Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>731.83</u>	<u>430.00</u>	<u>430.00</u>
Total 5200 · Service Workshop	0.00	2,335.17	1,541.00	1,541.00
5300 · Spring Assembly				
5301 · Room Rental	0.00	0.00	795.00	795.00
5302 · Coffee	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total 5300 · Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	1,295.00	1,295.00
5360 · State Fair	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
5400 · Fall Assembly				
5401 · Room Rental Costs	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	2,100.00
5402 · Coffee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
5403 · Printing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Total 5400 · Fall Assembly	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	2,625.00
6550 · Finance Oversight Committee				
6550-01 · Meals	0.00	14.75	28.00	56.00
6550-02 · Travel	<u>0.00</u>	<u>18.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>	<u>160.00</u>
Total 6550 · Finance Oversight Committee	<u>0.00</u>	<u>32.75</u>	<u>108.00</u>	<u>216.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,489.51</u>	<u>3,044.00</u>	<u>6,377.00</u>
	2,130.05	7,365.17	(3,044.00)	(6,377.00)

Officer and Action Chair Expenses

	Jun 14 - July 27, 20	Jan 1 - July 27,20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Other Expense				
6100 · Delegate				
6100-01 · Meals	0.00	163.50	224.00	293.00
6100-02 · Travel	0.00	277.04	244.00	1,225.00
6100-03 · Lodging	1,800.00	2,329.37	2,500.00	3,240.00
6100-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
6100-06 · Printing	0.00	997.06	1,350.00	1,650.00
6100-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>399.00</u>	<u>625.00</u>	<u>625.00</u>
Total 6100 · Delegate	1,800.00	4,165.97	4,993.00	7,083.00
6200 · Alternate Delegate				
6200-01 · Meals	0.00	222.75	349.00	513.00
6200-02 · Travel	0.00	106.50	352.00	1,087.00
6200-03 · Lodging	0.00	452.19	604.00	744.00
6200-05 · Supplies	0.00	66.04	150.00	150.00
6200-06 · Printing	0.00	19.51	50.00	50.00
6200-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Total 6200 · Alternate Delegate	0.00	891.99	1,535.00	2,574.00
6300 · Chairperson				
6300-01 · Meals	0.00	127.84	269.00	373.00
6300-02 · Travel	0.00	132.00	319.00	568.00
6300-03 · Lodging	0.00	421.39	610.00	610.00
6300-05 · Supplies	0.00	(13.35)	50.00	50.00
6300-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	205.00	375.00
6300-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>
Total 6300 · Chairperson	0.00	692.88	1,478.00	2,001.00

Officer and Action Chair Expenses					Jun 14 - July 27, 20	Jan 1 - July 27,20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
6400 · Secretary								
6400-01 · Meals	0.00	145.35	354.00	528.00				
6400-02 · Travel	0.00	153.11	305.00	510.00				
6400-03 · Lodging	0.00	346.92	510.00	790.00				
6400-06 · Printing	0.00	803.35	120.00	280.00				
6400-08 · Other	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 6400 · Secretary	0.00	1,473.73	1,314.00	2,133.00				
6500 · Treasurer								
6500-01 · Meals	0.00	180.97	268.00	570.00				
6500-02 · Travel	0.00	236.97	372.47	665.15				
6500-03 · Lodging	0.00	402.30	640.00	640.00				
6500-05 · Supplies	0.00	50.52	0.00	319.95				
6500-07 · Postage	0.00	60.98	0.00					
6500-08 · Other	55.00	55.00	0.00	240.00				
Total 6500 · Treasurer	0.00	45.00	25.00	25.00				
7000 · Archives Chair	55.00	1,031.74	1,305.47	2,460.10				
7000-01 · Meals								
7000-02 · Travel	0.00	37.00	169.00	318.00				
7000-03 · Lodging	0.00	28.00	220.00	340.00				
7000-06 · Printing	0.00	120.87	660.00	810.00				
7000-08 · Other	0.00	0.00	20.00	40.00				
Total 7000 · Archives Chair	50.00	350.00	25.00	25.00				
7100 · Archivist	50.00	535.87	1,094.00	1,533.00				
7100-01 · Meals								
7100-02 · Travel	0.00	(6.00)	184.00	258.00				
7100-03 · Lodging	0.00	0.00	500.00	700.00				
7100-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	560.00	840.00				
7100-08 · Other	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00				
Total 7100 · Archivist	0.00	0.00	2,415.00	2,415.00				
7200 · Corrections	0.00	(6.00)	3,809.00	4,363.00				
7200-01 · Meals								
7200-02 · Travel	0.00	239.00	264.00	428.00				
7200-03 · Lodging	0.00	79.00	268.00	596.00				
7200-08 · Other	0.00	222.00	560.00	840.00				
Total 7200 · Corrections	0.00	25.00	30.00	30.00				
7300 · CPC								
7300-01 · Meals	0.00	34.18	89.00	163.00				
7300-02 · Travel	0.00	260.00	407.00	698.00				
7300-03 · Lodging	0.00	238.95	420.00	690.00				
7300-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00				
7300-08 · Other	0.00	15.00	25.00	175.00				
Total 7300 · CPC	0.00	548.13	941.00	1,751.00				
7400 · Grapevine								
7400-01 · Meals	0.00	130.75	179.00	253.00				
7400-02 · Travel	0.00	200.69	220.00	440.00				
7400-03 · Lodging	0.00	452.57	480.00	790.00				
7400-08 · Other	0.00	15.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7400 · Grapevine	0.00	799.01	904.00	1,508.00				
7500 · Group Records Secretary								
7500-01 · Meals	0.00	120.82	354.00	478.00				
7500-02 · Travel	0.00	149.41	270.00	420.00				
7500-03 · Lodging	0.00	346.28	830.00	970.00				
7500-05 · Supplies	0.00	72.80	0.00					
7500-06 · Printing	124.28	124.28	100.00	100.00				
7500-07 · Postage	79.24	79.86	19.52	37.82				
7500-08 · Other	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7500 · Group Records Secretary	203.52	918.45	1,598.52	2,030.82				
7600 · Literature								
7600-01 · Meals	0.00	37.94	346.00	460.00				
7600-02 · Travel	0.00	0.00	202.00	258.00				
7600-03 · Lodging	0.00	0.00	700.00	980.00				
7600-05 · Supplies	0.00	(705.98)	0.00					
7600-08 · Other	0.00	10.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7600 · Literature	0.00	(658.04)	1,273.00	1,723.00				
7700 · Northern Light								
7700-01 · Meals	0.00	90.07	174.00	248.00				
7700-02 · Travel	0.00	112.26	215.00	295.00				
7700-03 · Lodging	0.00	269.76	360.00	500.00				
7700-05 · Supplies	573.88	573.88	0.00					
7700-06 · Printing	0.00	1,038.00	1,125.00	2,250.00				
7700-07 · Postage	0.00	733.69	900.00	1,800.00				
7700-08 · Other	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7700 · Northern Light	573.88	2,842.66	2,799.00	5,118.00				
7800 · Public Information								
7800-01 · Meals	0.00	73.29	234.00	308.00				
7800-02 · Travel	0.00	156.05	404.00	773.00				
7800-03 · Lodging	0.00	435.35	560.00	700.00				
7800-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00				
7800-08 · Other	0.00	15.00	30.00	30.00				
Total 7800 · Public Information	0.00	679.69	1,228.00	2,111.00				
7900 · Treatment								
7900-01 · Meals	0.00	137.00	179.00	253.00				
7900-02 · Travel	0.00	210.50	220.00	440.00				
7900-03 · Lodging	0.00	420.86	480.00	790.00				
7900-08 · Other	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7900 · Treatment	0.00	793.36	904.00	1,508.00				
7950 · Webmaster								
7950-01 · Meals	0.00	123.62	184.00	266.00				
7950-02 · Travel	0.00	115.75	173.00	245.00				
7950-03 · Lodging	0.00	198.10	540.00	960.00				
7950-05 · Supplies	0.00	13.27	0.00	58.00				
7950-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00				
7950-08 · Other	0.00	144.40	145.00	145.00				
Total 7950 · Webmaster	0.00	595.14	1,067.00	1,699.00				
8050 · Audio Technician								
8050-01 · Meals	0.00	0.00	134.00	208.00				
8050-02 · Travel	0.00	43.00	100.00	153.00				
8050-03 · Lodging	0.00	316.00	520.00	800.00				
8050-05 · Supplies	0.00	187.42	0.00	200.00				
8050-08 · Other	0.00	10.00	10.00	10.00				
Total 8050 · Audio Technician	0.00	556.42	764.00	1,371.00				
Total Other Expense	2,725.61	16,517.48	28,128.99	42,860.92				
Net Other Income	(2,725.61)	(16,517.48)	(28,128.99)	(42,860.92)				
Net Income	(595.56)	(9,152.31)	(31,172.99)	(49,237.92)				

“It has only been in the past few months that I have become interested in service work in AA. Before that, I was an AA barnacle, glued to my seat, criticizing the speakers and griping about the coffee. Now I’m on the other side of the squawks and bleeps, and I find, to my delight, I like it.”

“Service,” Tacoma, Washington, September 1974, AA Grapevine

	End of P4 July 31, 2019	End of P5 Sep 30, 2019	End of P6 Nov 30,2019	End of P7 Dec 31,2019
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	17,805.55	18,375.99	17,230.77	20,708.65
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,047.77	6,048.09	6,048.24	6,048.54
Total Checking/Savings	23,853.32	24,424.08	23,279.01	26,757.19
Total Current Assets	23,853.32	24,424.08	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	23,853.32	24,424.08	23,279.01	26,757.19
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	25,362.39	25,362.39	25,362.39	26,757.19
Net Income	(1,509.07)	(938.31)	(2,083.38)	(1,394.80)
Total Equity	23,853.32	24,424.08	23,279.01	25,362.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,853.32	24,424.08	23,279.01	25,362.39

	End of P1 Feb 15,2020	End of P2 March 31,2020	End of P3 June 13,2020	End of P4 July 27,2020
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	19,999.92	12,354.71	12,686.37	11,555.76
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,048.70	6,048.97	6,049.07	6,049.12
Total Checking/Savings	26,048.62	18,403.68	18,735.44	17,604.88
Other Current Assets	0.00	150.00	30.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	26,048.62	18,553.68	18,765.44	17,604.88
TOTAL ASSETS	26,048.62	18,553.68	18,765.44	17,604.88
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	26,757.19	26,757.19	26,757.19	26,757.19
Net Income	(708.57)	(8,203.51)	(7,991.75)	(9,152.31)
Total Equity	26,048.62	18,553.68	18,765.44	17,604.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	26,048.62	18,553.68	18,765.44	17,604.88

The 1000 lb telephone....

I wanted to share with you my experience with making that first dreaded phone call to another alcoholic. If you are like me, when you came to these rooms you hadn't been wanted very many places if any at all while drinking. So, when I first came to these rooms, I didn't feel any different. Why would I be accepted here? I sat in my first meeting with 13 people who were happy, joyous and free. Everything I was not, but so desperate to have. I just didn't know how to get it. At the end of my second meeting I asked this guy, Jim to be my sponsor. He had this crazy notion I should get phone numbers from the other people. Now, there weren't cell phones when I first sobered up, or at least commonly seen ones. We had the touch dial phones with answering machines. One Friday night I was sitting alone at home, dying from loneliness and I thought maybe, just maybe I should call someone. But, I can't just call someone to talk. I need a reason to call, besides being lonely of course. There was a 9pm meeting that night and I devised a brilliant plan that I would call this guy Dave and act like I didn't know what time the meeting started. This would be my in to talk to someone without having to admit I was lonely. I dialed up Dave and I heard the phone ring, all of sudden to my surprise, joy and fear he answered the call. He said hello, as we didn't have caller id back then, and I said, "Hi, Dave." He responded with, "Hey, Jim, what's going on?" So, I asked him if he knew when the 9pm meeting started tonight. He laughed a bit and said, it's starts at 9pm, but added, would you like to go for coffee beforehand. A feeling of utter joy came over me and I said, yes, yes I do. And that my friends, is my first attempt at calling someone in this program. What I can say is that was an important point in my sobriety. I decided that I wanted what you had and was willing to take the steps to get it. Jim S.

Finding new ways to carry the message...

One thing us alcoholics have in common is resiliency, or we wouldn't keep coming back. The cost of closing meetings and having isolation for some is life and death, or death to our way of life as we know it...To take away our purpose no matter how big or small is to set us down a slippery slope, possibly destruction. The virus and restrictions that happened to all of humanity in 2020 pushed us, gave us a nudge to find new ways to carry the message (sometimes even to ourselves) even if we felt uncomfortable or lost at times, or lost for words at times... We adjusted, we took a breath, put our thoughts together and thought outside the box. We all throw out ideas, researched, and kept in contact with each other. We tried zoom meetings online – never canceled the Sunday candlelight meeting in Marble MN. We jumped into the zoom app, posted a link, directions, and a phone list outside the church door in Marble so anyone could reach out or jump on even if we didn't have a way to contact them. We made ourselves available. We reached out to each other. We checked up on each other like family – even when we found ourselves getting used to being quarantined and isolated. Even if we couldn't get outside the house, we were able to get outside of ourselves. From March 13, 2020 to the end of June. July came, we roll the dice follow the CDC guidelines had a meeting again outside every Sunday 7 PM. We put out the word in July to BYOC bring your own chair and coffee so we could hold "no contact" meetings sat 6 feet apart and had masks. Also back in March we started a second meeting on Thursday nights on zoom online which we have continued to the present day now. Some people still are not comfortable or have high-risk health issues or don't have the option to do face-to-face meetings so we continue the meeting online. Some people just want or need an option online that they can just jump onto any time from anywhere and zoom works amazing for them. We are Adjusted, we coped, used our skills, and tools that we had learned in the program. We applied them to ALL aspects of our lives, as the world has chosen to intermingle everything we hold dear.

The one thing that I personally feel kept us all strong and alive thus far (besides God or higher power) is this program of AA and everything that it guides us to, and everything it guides us to do.

We chose to just simply, keep doing the next right thing. Our small group has never have given up hope that the next right thing is going to happen. It may not always be how, when, or why we see or feel fit, but we continue to have hope and faith it is going to be exactly how it is intended to be. Today is a beautiful time to be alive-no matter what the outside world may look like or our personal situations... we know that what matters is how we look on the inside-what we do makes a difference to someone the way it made a difference to each of us at one point or many...we know that what keeps us on the right path, is to keep sharing the message that was so freely given to us-no matter how hard it may be at times. Painstaking even at times.... yet... We went... and we continue to go...to any lengths to get it, and to keep it. We had no guidelines, other than our big book and our higher power by our side....and we get up, we suit up, show up, we face the fear of the unknown. We alcoholics hate change, but we face it and embrace it-together. Most importantly we accepted...it wasn't perfect, but it was progress, and if we worried about it – we prayed about it. And we try not to take it back if we pray about it-easier said than done, but prayers don't work if we don't hand them over is something I learned from a friend a while back...

No one knows what tomorrow holds, or if we will each will even see tomorrow, especially in the chaotic world that we live in today. But one thing that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has taught all of us, that one thing is absolutely certain, is that we have TODAY, and all of our potential tomorrows, are dependent upon the choices and the actions that we make in each today that we are fortunate to have been gifted. Don't waste it. Stay blessed, stay strong keep steppin along

Jon S. And the group @ Candlelight AA Meeting Marble MN

HISTORY OF THE HIBBING MONDAY NIGHT DOWNTOWN GROUP

compiled 1988 (1971-1988 by Signe A)

I came into AA through my four children who became worried about their mother. They coaxed me into the Minneapolis St. Mary's Hospital Alcohol Treatment Center on Christmas weekend of 1969. I spent six weeks there until they finally convinced me that I was an alcoholic and that it was not how much I drank, a thimble full was more than the chemistry of my body would accept. Finally I accepted that I was an alcoholic.

From the time of my marriage in 1935, we would go to all the name band dances on the range. We would have a few drinks and dance like crazy with friends. When the dances were discontinued we started to go to the taverns. Those times started what I know now were my beginning of alcoholism.

After three drinks and a few dances, when we would go to a restaurant to eat, I would spend the time in whatever bathroom was handy, heaving up everything. (The chemistry of my body reacting.) That life didn't last long. We quit going out with friends. I didn't drink much for a few years. Then we moved and were buying a house in Graysher. Now I had a goal. My husband had changed job just before we moved. I sewed drapes in my home for a decorator shop in Hibbing. For the first time in my life I felt good about myself because I was doing my part toward our future security. I worked on drapes like crazy 12-16 hours a day, but after eight years paying on the house, my husband decided to give up the house. While packing for our move elsewhere, I started having a few, sitting on the basement floor with tears pouring down. It was a heart-breaking time for me.

By this time our oldest son was married and had gone away to college and our oldest daughter was married and away from home. We moved back downtown with our two youngest children. I was still doing drapery work but was very unhappy. Little by little a few drinks kept me going.

When the youngest son left for college we moved into a two bedroom upstairs apartment. That is when the little drink became a big one especially at night so I could get to sleep. I was even hiding my drinks in baby food jars. I am fortunate that my doctor would never give me a sleeping prescription. I wouldn't be writing this story today if I had had any drugs, the insane part of our behavior.

That is when the youngest daughter contacted the other children and got me into St. Mary's. There I found out that besides the chemistry part, I had a big resentment toward my husband because of the lost house and the loneliness with all four children gone. They had been my world besides my drapery work. My husband's name was brought up at St. Mary's at confrontation because I kept telling the counselors about his heavy drinking everyday and I could handle only a thimble full.

Now my AA story. I was introduced to AA in February 1970 at the old Alano Club on First Avenue in Hibbing. My husband would drop me off at the back door on Monday and Thursday nights. I bummed a ride home with old north Hibbing friends, Wally A. or Lauri G who belonged to the Alano Club. They knew how scared I was and just kept on telling me to keep coming and that it would get better. I was the only female member among 30-40 guys. Some nights I could hardly remember my name. Listening mostly to drunkalogues, didn't help me because I couldn't relate to them at all. After 9 months of attending the Alano Club, I quit. I was asked by the nursing home where my mother was confined to come help her at meals. This was my excuse not to attend meetings. My mother passed away and was buried two days before Thanksgiving. I went through a sad Christmas even though all the family was home plus grandchildren now. I spent a quiet New Year's too. I hadn't had a drink from December 27, 1969 until the 5th of January 1971. On that date I went out and bought a bottle. I took three drinks, heaved all over the walls, bed and floor. When my husband came home at 3 o'clock from work, he couldn't believe it. I got verbal abuse that I needed. I begged him to bring me to Hibbing General Hospital where I stayed the night and came home the next afternoon. January 5, 1971 is my AA Birthday. I have not had a drink since.

Monica R., Ann T., and I got together and started a women's group at the St. James Church on Monday night. We would have maybe 5-6 women one night and maybe 19 another. The next time there would be only 2-3 of us. We were not a very organized AA group. Then we invited male AA members to join us. We were very slow at first getting a structured program going. Little by little the group caught on to what we were really supposed to be doing and bringing out at the meeting. With the help from "How It Works" from the Big Book and other advice, and also using the Twelve and Twelve and other books, we became a serious group. We began to organize the offices of chairman, GSR, Grapevine, etc. After going to Open Meetings at other towns on the range, we really became an active group. In the years that I have belonged to Hibbing Monday Night Downtown Group, my home group, I have taken my turn more than once at practically every office, plus district and area. My first official service job came about when Don M. became DCM for our District. He was a member of our group and asked me to take over his GSR job. I accepted and he really showed me the ropes and saw to my attending all the meetings. Next, I was Grapevine Representative for our group. Before long I became District Grapevine representative which I held for 4 years. The time spent in Don's company was an education on AA. He kept pushing me forward. I felt he was my sponsor at that time. He gave so much of himself helping me and others. I still miss him.

Also I volunteered at Hibbing General and became the shopping lady for patients on the fourth floor alcoholic center. I enjoyed doing the shopping, but talking to the patients, especially the new ones, was a blessing for me. But, for the Grace of God, I could have been there again. I did the shopping for many years until they moved the hospital.

I didn't start to really grow in AA until the responsibilities of the different offices I held came to mean something in my life. I also found the sharing and caring of all AA members wherever they lived.

I thank God everyday that I am an alcoholic. AA members, I feel are like my family now. They are there for me when I need them, all I have to do is pick up the phone. My higher Power helped me through the roughest year of my life when my husband had cancer and died, a practicing alcoholic on January 1981. Again I thank God and AA for all the miracles that have happened to me for me.

KEEPING IN PRACTICE

I know that if I don’t use the “tools of the AA program”(steps, meetings, sponsor, etc.), they become dull, rusty and less effective. I will get restless, irritable and discontented. The worst could happen and I may get drunk. The same can happen in our meetings and activities within our AA service structure. Here the tools are things like group consciences, traditions and concepts, which are there to help us and guide us when challenging circumstances come up, such as the current Covid-19 issue as it impacts our AA meetings. Add to that politics running on the “hot” side and the potential is there for unity to be affected. In the “12 X 12”, Tradition One, it states: “The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or AA dies.” If there is enough disunity, a group can display such unattractive behavior such that a newcomer needing life-saving help may walk out the door, drink again and die. The meeting may even cease to exist. Fortunately for us, borne of the sometimes turbulent beginnings of Alcoholics Anonymous, traditions and group procedures were developed and approved by the Fellowship so that we would have wise guidance and a respectful means of getting through difficulties later on. BUT, just like I need to actually USE the tools of AA recovery to stay sober, groups need to learn about and employ the AA traditions with humility and open-mindedness enough to keep the group sufficiently focused, unified, attractive and unafraid to tackle the occasional thorny issue. In our home we keep a flashlight handy in case the power goes out, making sure the batteries are good and the bulb isn’t burned out. Maintaining awareness of the traditions as well as conducting regular group consciences-with AA literature (12 Traditions Illustrated pamphlet, The AA Group pamphlet, as examples) as a guide- are like having and maintaining that flashlight-it will be there and working if there are problems.

Being composed of alcoholics, meetings are, of course, never going to run like some well-oiled machine, without a glitch. The road of Happy Destiny for AA has always had plenty of potholes as it winds its way through history. But we don’t have to re-invent the wheel even when problems are tough and somewhat unique. I believe the answers are right there in front of us in the form of our Traditions and in learning the history of how they came about. Kurt N., DCM, District 11

Your GSR is your voice...

I remember hearing early in sobriety, and first exploring service work; that the GSR was maybe the most important service position there is. And as P.I. Chair for the AREA, I’ve reflected on that a lot in recent months while working with Districts and groups during the Pandemic. Now this is not to diminish any or all the other important service positions...from making coffee to being a Delegate or Trustee. And I am not condemning any groups or individuals.

But the General Service Representative is the carrier of the “group conscience” of their home group. They are the link between that group with District, Area and GSO. They are the information conduit to and from that group. They are a logical contact point when anyone is reaching out to a specific group. And yet, with a GSR being so important to the health of an individual group as well as the over-all health of AA; it is sad to report that we are far short of having 100% representation of a standing GSR for every group in the AREA. Now I’m not talking a GSR who attends EVERY District and AREA function...I’m talking a name on file for every group. When groups started suspending or maintaining meetings all over the region due to the pandemic, the logical person to carry that message to the public and to the Fellowship would be the GSR. When Districts and AREA were reaching out to communicate with individual groups, the BEST direct line would be the GSR. With a lot of groups not listing an active GSR, all that communication becomes very difficult or impossible. When times are “normal” and everything seems to be rolling along pretty smooth, the importance of a GSR may seem minimal. But when it is MOST important a GSR is pretty indispensable. So PLEASE, if your group doesn’t have one, select a GSR. And once you have one, use them, cherish them, count on them. EVERY group is a vital part of Alcoholics Anonymous. Your GSR is your voice. As the saying goes; are you just attending AA, or are you PARTICIPATING in AA.

Greg C.
P.I. Chair
Area 35

I Don’t Think That I Can Do It....

Last Fall, our District 15 had elections to rotate positions. We needed a new secretary. I thought briefly about it, then told myself “No Way!”. It’s too big of an undertaking. I know zero about AA policies and procedures. And I had only been sober for 2.5 years. Definitely not enough experience. The next District meeting, we were still looking for someone to fill that secretary position. The next thing I knew, I was raising up my hand! What got into me? Concern. Concern that my district needed me, even as “green” as I am. My district GSRs and Chair people have been so kind and patient with me so far in my duties. And if I have a question, my district people are right there with suggestions, answers and lots of sage advice. A few months ago, my District 15 was in need of a DCM. My District 15 gave me the opportunity to serve by voting me in. I am humbled that the AA’s in my district have trust in me to serve in my district. These are some pretty impressive people in my book. They are the people with ideas, answers and advice. I don’t want to let them down. To anyone in AA who feels that they cannot undertake a service position, my advice is step up. Because, literally, you are stepping up into an opportunity for growth for yourself and your district.

Yours in Service, Lori L. DCM District 15

Don’t worry be happy!

One day at a time...Easy does it...Let go and Let God...all the catch phrases from my first few weeks in AA flood back to me in these trying times of isolation due to Covid 19. I also had the joy of retiring just a month before the whole pandemic crisis erupted. Lots of changes...and being an Alcoholic, changes bring challenges! But in my morning prayers and meditation I think, what a blessing to have this program to show me the way to deal with all of this, just as it has so many other situations. If I just apply the principles of AA to these “new” disruptions in MY precious daily routine, I find “new” and often Joyful solutions to them. As I certainly can’t change any of the big social issues going on, I try to look for what I CAN change about me and my perceptions of everything going on around me.

For starters I can start to take greater appreciation in all the wonderful things God presents to me every day, instead of dwelling on what has been taken away. Reaching out to stay in contact with friends and family with calls, emails, texts, skype, zoom, face-time, even sitting down and actually writing a letter! Creating MORE opportunities to let the important people in my life KNOW how important they are. Focusing on my own health. Making sure I take proper care of myself. Looking for GOOD stories amongst all the doom and gloom being spit out by every news source available. Catching up on AA literature, speakers and history. Finding and learning every possible way...old and new...to carry the message of AA. Taking advantage of this down-time to catch up on ALL those things I was going to get to when I had time. Oh, my Alcoholic behavior STILL wants to fix everything, or run away from it, or have a pity-party over it...or God forbid, drink it away! No, if I actually WORK the program, one day at a time, just like it has been laid out for me; I actually find myself being pretty content. As I was sitting on the porch swing this morning, having a cup of coffee, some new neighbors that just moved in over the weekend walked by with their dog. We chatted briefly. Told them my wife and I would stop by later in the week. Maintaining social distancing of course. And life goes on. To borrow a line from Bobby McFerrin.... Don’t worry, be happy!

Greg C.

Sobriety and Loss

I lost my only child to cancer December 9th, 2018 and my life was changed forever. He was 39 years old. I have remained sober only through the grace of God and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. In my early sobriety I said in a meeting that the only thing I could think of that would make me drink again was if something happened to my son. He died in my home with me holding his hand. In His wisdom, God gave me 26 years to build up enough strength to get me through. Only His grace got me through this. I know that on my own, I would not have stayed sober.

A member of my home group asked me if I thought about drinking. I said no, but after the meeting I realized that I had indeed thought about it. I knew that no one would blame me. I could stop somewhere, buy a bottle and stop the pain, at least temporarily. My current husband has never seen me drink, and I was sure that I could lie and cover it up. Then I did what another member said – I played the tape through to the end. If I drank, I would have to admit it to my belly-button family. They have always supported me and been very proud of my sobriety. I would also have to tell my AA family. I know they also would have been understanding and supportive. Finally, I would have to tell my church family, who went through all of this with me. And, when I sobered up, my son would still be gone. He was always so proud of my sobriety and how I helped people. I will not dishonor his memory this way.

I am still struggling through some very dark days. His memory is everywhere I look. He had moved home 3 months before he passed away, and I treasure the times we spent together. I go to my weekly Monday night meeting. I fulfill my responsibility as GSR for our group by attending the monthly district meeting and also monthly jail meetings. These activities have helped to keep me grounded in my recovery and to stay focused on other people. AA has taught me that this is the way to handle adversity in my life, one day at a time.

Marvel R

AREA 35 EVENTS

- ◆ Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
- ◆ Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
- ◆ Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM’s from respective districts either by email or phone for those that don’t have computers.
- ◆ Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.
- ◆ Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.
- ◆ Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.
- ◆ Post procedure in Northern Light

Volume XXXIX Issue 5
Sept/Oct 2020

NORTHERN LIGHT
Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly


Created 1982
Page 14

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35
*See area35.org for printable flyers

Service Events	Fellowship Events
<div>2020</div> <div>October : 3rd & 4th - Area 35 Fall Assembly Park Event Center 500 Division St Waite Park, MN</div> <div>December : 6th - Area Committee Meeting Alano Club 9am – 2pm 322 1st Ave E Aitkin MN or Zoom</div> <div>2021</div> <div>January: 16th-17th - Area 35 Workshop Holiday Inn & Suites 75 S 37th Ave St Saint Cloud, MN</div>	<div>2020/2021</div> <div>Many events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is suggested you check prior to an event for the latest update</div>

“We have to grow or else deteriorate. For us, the ‘status quo’ can only be for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must; we cannot stand still.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1961, “The Shape of Things to Come”, The Language of the Heart



Area 35
General Service Conference
Agenda Items Process

December 15th
Deadline to receive proposed Agenda Items and submit Agenda Items to GSO from our Area 35 Delegate

February 15th
Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office. Then creates a “Hot Topic List” and sends it along with the Agenda Items and Background Information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

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

4th Sunday in February
Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD

Agenda
Deadline Dates

along with the “Hot Topic List” from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting.

1st Weekend in March
Agenda Items are discussed at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

1st Weekend in April
Agenda Items are discussed and voted at the Area 35 Spring Assembly with the Area 35 Delegate

3rd Week in April
Delegate attends the General Service Conference and carries the voice of Area 35 to New York.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
James S.
Area 35 Panel 70 Delegate
delegate@area35.org

Greetings Area 35,

The Agenda Items do not come out any sooner to the Delegate than the week of February 15th 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

Area 35 45th Annual Service Workshop “A.A. in a Time of Change” January 16 and 17, 2021

Holiday Inn & Suites
75 South 37th Ave St. Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: 218 326 2600

Reserve your room on line at
www.holidayinn.com/stcloudmn

Our block of rooms is under **Area 35 Northern MN**
You have until December 16, 2020 to reserve your room

One King bed room \$109.00 plus tax @12.625%
Two Queens bed room \$109.00 plus tax @12.625%

There is a \$15 service fee to attend the Workshop
Coffee will be \$6.00 per Carafe & Water \$2.00 per Bottle

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

Workshop begins at 9:15 on Saturday January 16, 2021.
Everything is subject to change

Area 35 Fall Assembly

The Park Event Center 500 Division St, Waite Park, Mn

October 3 - 4, 2020

Hilton Garden Inn 550 Division St, Waite Park

Room Rates: Two Queens \$139 or King \$129 + tax

To make **reservations** please call: 320-640-7990 or HG1stcloud.hgi.com

Reserve under: Area 35 Northern Minnesota - Reserve by: **Sept 5, 2020**

Residence Inn by Marriott 450 Division St, Waite Park

Room Rates: Two Queen Suite \$154 or King Suite \$134 + tax

To make **reservations** please call: 320-640-0200 or Marriott.com/stcwp

Reserve under: Area 35 Northern Minnesota - Reserve by: **Sept 5, 2020**



Saturday, October 3

9:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, October 4

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.

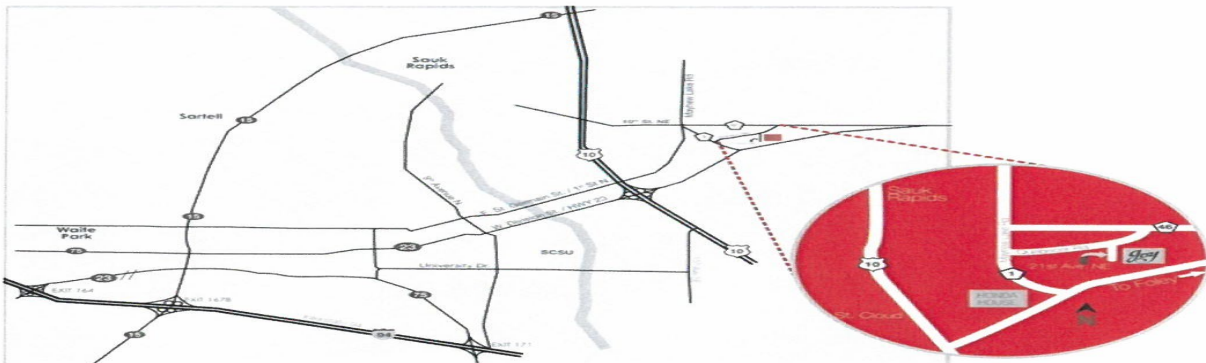
4TH STEP WORKSHOP

6 WEEKS

October 6–November 10

***7:00PM – 8:00PM**

770 21st Avenue NE
St Cloud, MN 56304



***For registration please call:**

Mike R. (320) 292-1867 or June (320) 252-2481

Supported by Tuesday early evening group

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.

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. 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,
Cindy S-K

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

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

3. Upon approval mail to :

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

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

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

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

5. The cost for having a flier inserted into the Northern Light is \$75. Make Checks payable to NMAA and mail to :

NMAA
PO Box 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST
CURRENT ADDRESS!!!

RELATED FLIER INSERTION INFORMATION

- ◆ Only Area 35 A.A. Members may submit a flier. Fliers must be only for A.A. Sponsored Events.
- ◆ Fliers needed—625 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and hand outs.

Northern Light Deadlines for 2020 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 13th : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 6th : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 1st : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 8th : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 1rd : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 2th : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

“Whenever things get hard, or I don’t want to follow through with a suggestion, I simply humble myself to my Higher Power and say, ‘Just for today.’ That helps me live in the moment.”

“Teen Nightmare,” San José, California, October 2011, Young & Sober: Stories By Those Who Found AA Early

Area 35 Guidelines

for flyers to be posted on the website or in the Northern Light

A good flyer should answer the following questions:

- Who is involved or sponsoring the event? Examples:
 - AA Group
 - District
 - Area
- What type of event is it? Examples:
 - An open or closed meeting
 - Speaker meeting
 - Call up meeting
 - Big Book meeting
 - Workshop
 - Conference
 - Fellowship (ice cream socials, potlucks, chili cook offs, etc.)
 - AA must appear somewhere on the flyer
- When is the event to take place? Examples:
 - Date and time
 - Does it reoccur
- Where will the event take place?
 - Name of the facility and the address
 - Maps are sometimes helpful but not necessary
- Why is the event taking place?
 - The reason for AA events is to carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic (this doesn't have to be printed on the flyer)
 - Usually covered in Who and What

*For safety reasons, if a phone number is listed on the flyer consider NOT putting a name in association with the number.

Please submit flyers in PDF format when possible. Flyers will be posted on the Area 35 Website and in the Northern Light at the Area 35 Webmaster's and Northern Light Editor's discretion. Email the webmaster at area35.org with any questions.

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

GSB - General Service Board

GSC - General Service Conference

GSO - General Service Office

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)

WCRSC - West Central Regional Service (Conference)

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

WCRF - West Central Regional (Forum)

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

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.
Come join us!



OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 68 Christine G	2018-2019	Scott J	Panel 12 Donna Thomton (deceased)	1962-1963
Panel 66 Kelly D	2016-2017	Panel 36 Louie H	Panel 10 Bob Bergum (deceased)	1960-1961
Panel 64 Michael “J	2014-2015	Panel 34 Bob Picard (deceased)	Panel 8 Pearl Nikkinen (deceased)	1958-1959
Panel 62 Jim K	2012-2013	Panel 32 Tom Letourneau (deceased)	Panel 6 Waldo Hall (deceased)	1956-1957
Panel 60 Jon C	2010-2011	Panel 30 Don Mellen (deceased)	Panel 4 Wendell Haben (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 58 JoAnne N	2008-2009	Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) Salvog (deceased)	Panel 2 Arthur Robertson (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 56 Jerry S	2006-2007	Panel 26 Vern Radtke (deceased)		
Panel 54 Charlie C	2004-2005	Panel 24 Gordon B. Hagen (deceased)		
Panel 52 Tim C	2002-2003	Panel 22 Frank P. Juola (deceased)		
Panel 50 Tom A	2000-2001	Panel 20 Clarence Berg (deceased)		
Panel 48 Susie A	1998-1999	Panel 18 Dave Harvey (deceased)		
Panel 46 Bill Perrizo (deceased)	1996-1997	Panel 16 Arno Adams (deceased)		
Panel 44 Bruce B	1994-1995	Panel 14 Donald Formo (deceased)		
Panel 42 Greg Gits (deceased)	1992-1993			
Panel 40 Bob J	1990-1991			
Panel 38	1988-1989			

Q: Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

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

The Delegate's Duties

Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate's job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:

- Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.
- Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate's enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.
- Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.
- Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.
- Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.

- Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
- Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
- Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
- Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
- Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
- Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.

(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)

12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)

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

12 Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society i.
- III. n its world affairs.
- IV. 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.”
- V. 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.
- VI. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VII. 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.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. 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.
- X. 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.
- XI. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XII. 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.
- XIII. 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

“It's a wonderful feeling to know that you don't have to be a god or a goddess, a saint or a genius, to lead a reasonably happy, sober, healthy, communicative, constructive, and useful life -- with some laughter thrown in for good measure.”

“More Ups Than Downs,” New Canaan, Connecticut, June 1974, AA Grapevine

Area 35 Fall Assembly Agenda
Park Event Center
Waite Park, MN
October 3-4, 2020

_____ 9:00 a.m. Registration
_____ 10:00 a.m. GSR Orientation/Sharing Ses-
sion & Action Chair Committee Meetings
_____ 11:30 a.m. **Lunch** - on your own

1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes

_____ Call to Order-Open with the Serenity
Prayer
_____ Why We Need a Conference
_____ Recognize Past Delegates
_____ Recognize GSRs
_____ Add to Agenda
_____ Approve 2019 Fall Assembly Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

_____ Delegate – Jim S
_____ Alternate Delegate – Steve L
_____ Chair – Gayle R
_____ Secretary – Heidi B
_____ Treasurer – Justin W

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM RE-
PORTS**

_____ CPC – Brian P
_____ District 9 Ricco R
_____ District 4 Colleen S
_____ WEBMASTER – Thomas H
_____ LITERATURE – Bruce M
_____ District 14
_____ District 3 Tom O'M
_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Cindy S-K
_____ District 8 Nels P
_____ GROUP RECORDS – Sally L
_____ District 2 Daniel W
_____ District 15 – Lori L
_____ TREATMENT – Melissa M
_____ District 13 Denise R
_____ District 18 Janie F
_____ ARCHIVIST –
_____ ARCHIVES – Peter T
_____ District 16 Katy P
_____ District 12 Shelley H
_____ CORRECTIONS – Butch R
_____ District 1 Laura C

_____ District 11 Kurt N
_____ PUBLIC INFORMATION: Greg C
_____ District 7 Tim V
_____ District 6 Mike U
_____ GRAPEVINE – Pat M
_____ District 5 Terry P
_____ District 21 John W

2:30 p.m. BREAK

2:45 p.m. Continue with Committee/DCM re-
ports

4:00 p.m. BREAK

4:10 p.m. Greg C & Brian P PI/CPC

4:50 p.m. BREAK

5:00 p.m.

_____ GSR Sharing Session
_____ DCM Sharing Session
_____ Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet
_____ Open AA Meeting

6:00 P.M. Dinner (On Your Own)

7:30 p.m. Jim S – Delegate Report

8:15 p.m.

SUNDAY

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting
9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

_____ 2021 Budgets
_____ Workshop Registration Fees –(Steve L)
_____ GSR Sharing Session Report
_____ DCM Sharing Session Report
_____ Area Officer Sharing Session Report
_____ December ACM
_____ Calendar of Events
_____ Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
_____ Adjourn

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to: NMAA
7633 15th Avenue NE
Rice, MN 56367