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This is **YOUR** Newsletter Area 35

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regular Articles

2022 - 2023 Area 35 Committee Page 2 Page 3 District Map & Zone Breakdown

Page 3 Page 4-8 **Area Meeting Minutes** Page 10 - 13 Area 35 Financials

Area Officers & Committee Chair WCR Reports Page 16-18 Page 22-23 A.A./Area 35 Events Page 25 **Inclement Weather Policy**

Page 26 Twelve Traditions & Twelve Concepts

Page 27 Our Past Delegates

Area 35 Committee Meeting Agenda Page 28

Guest Views

Page 18 - 21 In Your Words

Edition Extras

72nd GSC Committees Agenda Items Page 14 - 15

Page 25 Acronyms

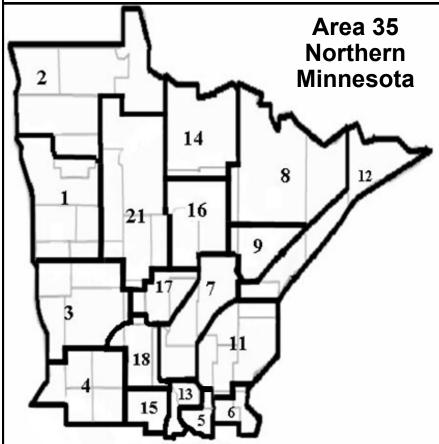
Page 25 Area 35 Flier Guidelines

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Page 3

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly



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

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, Pillager*, 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, Osakis, 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,

District 9 - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake*, Nashwauk*, Zim

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)

District Meeting Location Information

District 1

2nd Sunday of Even Months, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S Mill St, Fertile, MN 56540

District 2

1st Sunday of Odd Months, 3:00 p.m. Thief River Falls Alano Club 614 Davis Ave Thief River Falls, MN 56701

District 3

3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Alano Club 827 Summit Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

District 4

3rd Saturday of Month, 5:00 p.m. Contact DCM for location (It Rotates) Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

District 5

3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. (use side door that opens to parking lot) Trinity Lutheran Church 111 N 6th Ave Princeton, MN 55371

District 6

3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd NE North Branch, MN 55056

District 7

3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church 415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401

District 8

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

District 9

Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746

District 11

1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Peace Lutheran 2177 Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735

District 12

3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. 1100 E Superior Street Duluth, MN Handicap Accessible,

District 13

1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7th Ave NE Saint Cloud, MN 56301

District 14

3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm Coffee Landing 444 3rd Street International Falls, MN 56649

District 15

1st Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave Albany, MN 56307

District 16

1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 SE 5th Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

District 17

Not currently active or unknown

District 18

1st Tuesday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Long Prairie Alano Club 21 2nd Ave Long Prairie, MN 56347

District 21

2nd Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 3802 Greenleaf Ave NW Bemidji, MN 56601

^{*} 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.

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

Area 35 Committee Meeting Minutes Aitkin, MN February 27, 2022

Call to Order: Christine G called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and opened with the Serenity Prayer. There were 42 people in attendance.

Recognition of Past Delegates In Attendance: Area 35 – Kelly D, Panel 66; Jim S, Panel 70. Area 36 – Scott A, Panels 57 and 59

Additions to Agenda: Inclement Weather Policy, Electronic Polling, Area Inventory

Point of Order: Per Service Manual P S-26, Area Committee Meetings are for maintenance and upkeep, there is a 2-minute time limit for general sharing, DCMs have three minutes for reports, and Committee Chairs have four minutes for sharing.

Approval of the December 2021 Area Committee Minutes: Objection was made to approval of the minutes, then Diane R. made a motion to make corrections to the December Minutes to add the Traditions and Service Manual discussion that occurred in the Past Delegates Discussion. Mike P. seconded the motion. Discussion: Who amends the minutes, current or former secretary? What do we want in the minutes? How much do we include? Do we include comments? What was asked to be included in the minutes was 1400 words long and would take up a lot of space in the Northern Light and take a long time to read. Not everything that was said in December was included in the minutes. An article to the Northern Light could have been submitted about the items that were not included in the minutes. Discussion was ended, MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES WAS **DEFEATED** with three in favor of amending. The sense of the meeting was to include some comments in the minutes with no names attached. Lunch was provided by the Aitkin Alano Club.

OFFICER REPORTS DELEGATE – STEVEN L

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's scary to give my first report as your Delegate. I was selected to be on the Literature Committee for the General Service Conference. As you may have heard by now, agenda item (AI) season is upon us. I'll tell you that as far as the new equitable distribution of workload (EDW) program is concerned I'm not impressed. Since the release of the agenda items on Feb 15th, I have received six revisions for different committees and the combined committee items. Please keep checking the website for updates. Kyle, thank you for your patience in uploading the agenda items on our website. The password to download is 2022ascai (all lower case).

Starting tomorrow my life becomes busy. I am scheduled to give preassembly discussions on agenda items for eight districts: tomorrow, Feb. 28th, District 13 on zoom, March 12th Districts 9,16 and 8 in Bovey, March 13th, District 6th in Isanti, March 7th, District 15 in Albany, March 14th, District 21 in Bemidji and March 17th, District 7 in Brainerd. If your District wants to discuss the agenda items in person or by zoom before the assembly, please let me know. By the time I make it to the conference, I should be fully versed and prepared for this year's agenda items. I would recommend you check out two links in the agenda items. Under the PI agenda item C Listen there is a hyper link to listen to the sample podcast, and under Literature in agenda item E a hyper link to look at the YouTube video to help with the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

In January, I sent an email to all the DCMs and the Area committee regarding the service bulletin SMF-209 on Safety in AA and how we might want to discuss it. This has been taken down from AA.org and is currently under Revision.

I sent a report to all the DCMs about groups' contributions to GSO for the past six months. The report is similar to what our treasurer gives us to use as a safeguard to doublecheck that contributions are correct both at GSO and at the group level too. I was surprised that out of 510 registered groups in our area only 94 groups contributed to GSO. That means only 18.5% of Area 35 groups are contributing. What can I do, or should I say we do, to improve this level of group support? It was reported by our Accountant at GSO during the West Central Forum in August that Group contributions are what held the line, so the expenditures out of the reserve fund were kept to a minimum. Book sales were way down. I believe this is the first time in AA history that Group contributions surpassed book sales.

I've been busy attending zoom meetings. One was a two-day meeting with all the Delegates as a "meet and greet" session to introduce ourselves and say how our Areas present and get feedback for the GSC agenda items. The other was a meeting with the literature committee. Same thing, introducing ourselves. We have delegates from Hawaii to Vermont and one French speaking delegate from Quebec. We talked about how the equitable distribution of workload affects our committee. It was interesting to hear other delegates express their concerns about "other" committees taking "our" work. Then we stood back and realized we are no more experts than any other committee or delegate at the GSC on literature topics. We also agreed to meet by zoom three or four times before the conference to get dialogue going on our agenda items. We will take no action or votes until the conference. We have 19 items in our committee to go through with limited time. I have our first literature committee meeting tonight when I get home.

The WCRAASC is next weekend. I get to host a presentation on Sunday morning on "How to reach anyone anywhere". I have enlisted help from Diane R.DCM for District 9 and Julie N. Alt DCM for District 6 to give 5 to 7minute presentations on the topic. Thank you two for volunteering. Hope to see you all there. In Service, Steven L

<u>ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W</u> Greetings Area 35. I'm grateful to be a part of this ACM and to have the opportunity to serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in any capacity. I'm thinking I need to get my own plane, or maybe we could add it to the budget this year and we could all use it to fly somewhere warm. I arrived from Chicago yesterday with just enough time to prep for this ACM, do my laundry, and spend a few minutes with my family and I'm flying to Boise tonight at 9:15. I've spent some time complaining internally because my ego wants me to believe that this is something I have to do and that I shouldn't have to. But the truth is that this is something I get to do, and it has saved my

My first task as Alternate Delegate was to receive the Service Workshop torch from Steve. It was kind of like he was running with the torch and passed me while I was walking. Needless to say, I ended up running as well. We came close to recuperating all of our expenses for the workshop, minus the cost of sending the Area committee. Total expenses for the venue, supplies and speaker were about \$1800, and the income including coffee and registration was around \$1500. I received some feedback verbally and the general consensus was that it went well and I'm grateful for that. There were about 70 in attendance, and I received 34 Completed evaluations which is about half. 14 of those were from GSR's and the rest were from members that had attended more than 2 workshops. The average rating for the whole event was 3.4, almost halfway between Satisfied and Extremely Satisfied. Multiple people were dissatisfied because we didn't have any past delegates in attendance. There were multiple comments that the price of the venue was good, but that the service was under par. I received the most comments about Mike L doing a great job. As well, based on the comments from those we serve, Mike U has officially been asked to wear the grape suit for all remaining area events! Something I learned a long time ago... "When someone in AA asks you to do something in AA, you say yes.'

We have been asked by district 3 to facilitate a zonal forum in Zone 2 with participation and attendance from Districts 4 and 15 as well! It will take place on Saturday, August 13th at the Alano Club in Perham. This is the first time in my 8 years in general service that I have heard of a zonal forum taking place and I am excited to have the opportunity to participate. I have had some ideas on how we might better explain, more simply explain, what we're all doing here, why we're all involved in general service, and am planning to develop a presentation along these lines for the forum. We're going to use a subcommittee to collaborate on the development of the presentation and present the information.

I did attend 2 North American Alternate Delegate's Meetings over zoom and am having trouble committing to it. The purpose seems to be educational and social with presentations given from different regions. I know this sounds like a good idea, but I've got plenty of folks available in my own area to learn from how to be an alternate delegate without trying to implement ideas and changes from other parts of the country and Canada. They don't allow any business discussions for fear of being influenced by other people so it's like we're supposed to be isolated from each other, at least with regards to the annual conference meeting.

I did attend the west-central regional delegates meeting as an observer last month and will continue to attend this one. I may not be able to attend the delegate's meeting on Thursday before the West Central Regional Conference due to my business trip this coming week, but I'm going to try. Thank You All for this opportunity.

CHAIR - CHRISTINE G

Greetings Area 35, since my report in the NL, I have been working on communication with area officers and action committee chairs. Checking in to see how the transition is going and seeing if there are any services I can of-

On February 7th, I presented to District 13 on what to expect at the Spring Assembly with business topics and agenda items. I explained what agenda items are and how to use background materials. We talk about an informed group conscience and who are voting members. We also talked about Robert's Rules of Order. This was put on to help better prepare GSRs and district committee members for the assemblies. If you would like something like this done in your district, please let me know. We still have a little time. I have been contacted by St. Cloud Intergroup and they have requested to be added to meeting locator.org. This is joint effort with Area 36 and any additions should be in agreement between the two areas and brought about by the voting members at the assembly.

I continue to be in close communication with A36 Chair. She has been very helpful. She has updated me on the State Fair, and we are working together at getting committee chairs in communication with one another, so we have a great success with upcoming events.

I have been attending the Area Chair RAP session that is available on Saturday evenings and it is hosted by A36 Chair. It is a great place to get together with other Area Chairs and to hear and talk about things that are going on in

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(cont'd from page 4)

other areas. One of the hotter topics is using hybrid options for more and more events to try and stimulate interest in service.

I also attend the 3rd Wednesday of the month, General Service meeting that is about 2 hours in length. There are 4 speakers that share on various topics. I find this a place to gain knowledge, to network and learn what other areas are doing.

I visited the Ely Grand Lodge and met with the event coordinator. We will be setting up using round tables being the room is wide and short. The facility does have a sound system, but Christina will still come prepared in case we want to use our own equipment. We will have three rooms available for GSR Orientation and breakouts. We will have to make it work. There should be enough space to hold all committees, we will just have to keep the volume down and be respectful of the other groups. The on-site restaurant has capacity to hold about 50 people, it is encouraged to make reservations for the meals if you want to eat there. The hosting district is checking into other options for dining being it is off season; some places are closed. We are able to sell coffee and I am waiting on how many gallons in an urn and the price is 25 for the urn. Nels, A35 PI Chair, spoke with the event coordinator and convinced her to allow us to have our ice cream social. As always, we will need to provide our own supplies.

I will be working with DCMs from Zone II (districts 3, 4, 15) for the Spring Assembly in 2023 and DCMs in Zone III (5,6,7,11,13,17,18) for Fall Assembly 2023. When reading the "Assembly Site Selection Policy", it looks like a committee of DCMs will need to be created to set up the next rotations assemblies. Per the policy, 2023 should have already been set from last rotation but it was not so I will be working diligently with DCMs to get facilities lines up as soon as possible.

I will be attending the WCRAASC in person March 4, 5, and 6th. I have started review the agenda items and I look forward to learning more about them. Next year's Spring assembly falls on Palm Sunday weekend. April 1 and April 2nd is Palm Sunday. Please send me some ideas for workshop topics for the Fall Assembly.

DCMs, I will need you to take the information, from this meeting, back to your districts and let the GSRs know what they need to talk to their groups about. There will be a lot of business taking place at the Spring Assembly and I am confident that you will prepare them for what they will need to talk to their groups about to bring their group conscience to the Spring Assembly in Ely. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for allowing me to serve. In Service, Christine G.

SECRETARY - SALLY L

Greetings, Area 35. Reports for the minutes are due to me by Monday, March 7, 2022. I did a little research on Robert's Rules for taking minutes. Those rules state that no comments or discussion about motions are to be included in the minutes. The only things that should be recorded are motions, seconds, and the results of the votes. The gist of the Area at the February 27th ACM is that some points made during the discussion should be included in the minutes of the meeting, so that is what I will do. Names will not be attached to the comments.

There has not been a lot for me to do up to the ACM except get pointers from Heidi B., the previous secretary. She has been very helpful. And thank you to Heidi for updating the Action Book and having the copies made. The bill for the printing has been submitted to the Area Treasurer, Cindy S.

TREASURER - CINDY SK

I met with Justin in January to help me get familiar with the setup of the QuickBooks program. I am early in this treasurer role, still figuring out QuickBooks and all that is needed to be done. I have sent the income and expense report for this past period. Please bear with me as I navigate this new role as treasurer. I will be attending the WCRAASC. Yours in service, Cindy S-K

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS CPC – GREG C

Hi everybody, Greg here with news from Area 35 CPC. The PI/CPC action committee met on Feb 27th. PI Chair Nels P gave a report at the general meeting that followed. (see PI Report) For myself, I have reached out to all Districts in Area 35 to offer my assistance. If a District has no chair for CPC or someone who would like some guidance beyond what their workbook suggests, I am always available to help. My home district currently has no CPC chair, so I am filling some gaps and working with some new projects that I hope to share success or failure with our action committee. In that process, I have been contacted by the state Probation Officers Assn., offering Area 35 to be a vendor at their upcoming Spring conference and possibly be a presenter at a future conference. This all started by working locally with Probation and Social Services, a combined effort that is starting to show some promise. More on that later. For now, just trying to network and keep attention focused on our wonderful program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

<u>DISTRICT 18 – SCOTT S</u> Greetings from District 18. We hold our meeting every first Tuesday of the month in Long Prairie. We held our Drunks on Ice last month, and we had a great turnout. Nobody caught anything and the speakers were great. March 26 Staples is having a workshop on Traditions 3, 7, and 11. We have all positions filled accept treatment and are working on a District 18 website. Yours in service, Scott S

DISTRICT 15 – LISA M

Hi, my name is Lisa, and I am an alcoholic. In January, I began as the District 15 DCM. I am relatively new to the district, having previously served

as the District 9 Treasurer in South Dakota. As a district, we meet the first Monday of every month at 7 pm at the Albany Area Senior Center. I work on Sundays so will not be able to attend the Area meetings; however, I look forward to attending the WCRAASC and also the Spring Assembly in Ely and learning more about service work in Alcoholics Anonymous and what it means to be a DCM.

LI<u>TERATURE – PAT M</u>

Hello area 35 literature chair Pat M. We had nine at the area committee meeting and we spent most of our time getting to know one another, what Districts had on hand for literature, and what their plans were for the future. Thank you for allowing me to serve area 35 as your literature chair. Pat M

DISTRICT 12 – TERRY A

Hello. My name is Terry A. I am an alcoholic and DCM for Dist. 12. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. We are located @ 1st Lutheran Church, 1100 Superior St in Duluth.

Our January District meeting started out with a GSR training. This was to provide GSRs and committee members materials and an outline of information of what needs to be brought back to their groups. A packet was provided to each member present.

We have a member who will be doing "AA and Military Outreach." This person is working with our Literature Chair to provide pamphlets, materials, and contacts to 12 entities to be approached.

A District 12 budget draft was presented. Our district looks "well off," but when our expenses are being expressed and shown to group, District 12 does not have excess money.

CPC/PI - Proposal for billboards and local buses cost was presented and written proposals were given to GSRs to discuss and bring back to next District 12 meeting 3/17/22.

Yours in service, Terry A. Dist. 12 DCM

DISTRICT 5 – JARRIN V

Hi, I am Jarrin the DCM for district 5 I would like to share with you what's been happening since I have taken this position on. Starting in January I had the opportunity to participate in a group presentation at the winter workshop. this was pretty scary at first but through fair amount of planning and several other people that help participate in this I think it went quite well. district 5 has now filled all the chair positions in the district and at our last district meeting we had 18 people in attendance. I believe we had 10 gsrs present. and the gsr's that were there are very eager to get started on going through the agenda items I have shared with them the password so they can start to review the agenda items with their groups. and we will get together to go over the group consciousness decisions on the items and prepare for the spring assembly. and since taking over the DCM position myself and one volunteer that is willing to catch the am meetings have been trying to get out to as many of the groups in district 5 as we can each week. to get up to date contact information and group information. this has been very eye-opening and exciting to sit in all the new meetings that I have not been to. We get the opportunity to share with some of the groups the benefits of having a GSR and what that position entails. And I think some of these groups have interest in getting a GSR for their group also. And we get to think other groups for having gsrs in service and share with them what is coming up as far as opportunities in service and opportunities with other districts and groups. and I'm also looking forward to the upcoming West Central regional conference I think it's great that it's right in my backyard. and it will be close for me to attend each day, as far as the spring assembly I have already booked a room and it sounds like there will be a good number of other district 5 chair position holders attending. and several gsrs are coming as well really looking forward to spending the time in Ely. This has been a lot for me to take on in this new position, but I am very lucky to have so many willing to help me and support me. with that being said my fears become assets with the help of others. I learned to do more things that I otherwise would have probably been too scared to try on my own. I couldn't be more happy than I am today. district 5 is growing faster than ever, and I believe it has to do with all the people that are willing to serve and sharing that in their meetings and with their sponsee and their sponsors. couldn't do this without them beside me, it lets me see more and more that this is not a me thing this is a wee thing. thank you so much for the opportunity to serve Jarrin

<u>WEBMASTER – KYLE H</u>

No Report.

<u>NORTHERN LIGHT – H</u>EIDI B

I hope you all received the latest copy of the Northern Light – Volume 41, Issue 1. I had to get creative with the layout, as we are limited to 28 pages by the printer. I apologize for confusing anyone that was looking for area fliers to be on one page. Between financials and budgets, there wasn't any extra room for a larger events section. I placed some fliers in any open section I could find. I did have two articles emailed to me that didn't fit into the layout this issue but will be printed in the next issue. The inclement weather procedure was added and updated based on the motion that passed at the December Area Committee Meeting. Denise provided me with the mailing list for the Northern Light – thank you, Denise. Also, a big thank you to Joanne N for proofing.

Just a reminder that if you would like your event announced in the Northern Light, please email a pdf of the flier to me at northernlight@area35.org. There is no cost to put a listing on our events page. If you would like the publisher to print your flier to be inserted into the Northern Light, please let me know. The costs are all listed in the Northern Light. Please email a pdf of the flier to me and I can send to the printer. All fliers must be approved before they will be added. Guidelines for the fliers are printed in the Northern Light. Submissions to the Northern Light are welcome! Please note that

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

(cont'd from page 5)

space is limited, and first priority will be given to reports by Area Officers, Committee Chairs and DCMs from Area 35. Email a pdf or Word document to my email address.

I am looking forward to the WCRAASC. It's one of my favorite events in service work! Thanks for allowing me to serve! Heidi B

DISTRICT 3 – GENE M

Our District 3 meeting meets on the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. Detroit Lakes Alano Clubhouse. I would like to thank all of those who helped with Registration and Coffee at Area 35 annual workshop also all the Districts who presented. There has been a Zonal Forum requested from the Area 35 panel which we are in Zone two with District's 4& 15 they were also contacted asking them for their participation. At our last District meeting in February, we voted for a Topic and speaker for after the Zonal Forum for the Service Workshop part of the event scheduled for August 13th at Perham Alano Clubhouse. At District 3 we had our Alternate DCM resign we are thin on help Secretary, Corrections and Literature are open. Would have liked to have seen more members from District 3 at the annual Area 35 service workshop this last January was very low attendance from our District 3. We are however planning the potluck, Zonal Forum / Service Workshop in which the response from Area 35 is tremendous. Excitement for this and look forward to seeing as many of you at WCRAASC next Friday. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, District 3 DCM Gene M

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R

Greetings! My name is Denise, I am an alcoholic and am super excited to be your new Area 35 Group Records person! Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 35.

I continue to learn the ins and outs of Fellowship Connection and AAminne-sota.org so that I can make all the necessary changes. I am working on my organizational skills as there can be multiple tasks for each change. I received notification from the post office that 6 Northern Light newsletters were undeliverable for different reasons. We get charged for those returns and the cost for those were \$4.02. I have updated the Northern Light mailing list with all the new information that has been given to me. If you did not receive your copy, please let me know and I will check to make sure you are on the list.

I receive several messages a week from aaminnesota.org meeting locator. One specific message was from a person relocating to Cloquet and was asking for help in finding meetings. I found what I could on the website but not being familiar with that city, I was able to pass on the request to Cindy for further help. Thank you Cindy! I love being able to make connections throughout Area 35 and work together like this to help fellow AA members find a meeting and get connected. Unfortunately, I have received quite a bit of SPAM messages from the website, and I am hoping to find a solution to that. For those that don't know this is a joint website with Area 36 and we work together to keep meetings current in all of Minnesota. The Area 36 Chair, Carla and Group Records person Erica, have been very helpful and I look forward to working with them.

The computer Sally was using for Group Records was not working properly so I have been using my own personal computer and would like to see if I can get an Area computer to use.

On March 8th I will be attending a sharing session with other Area Registrars from across the country. I am excited to meet others and see how they do things.

There are new Group Change Forms and New Group Forms from the new AA Service manual and GSO, please use the new ones as there are important changes to them. We now ask for email addresses and also if you want a GSR Kit mailed to you from GSO, you need to indicate that on the form. They used to automatically mail new GSR kits along with a service manual, now you have to ask for that. If you do not ask for one to be mailed, new GSR's will automatically be sent a digital Kit. For those GSR's that I have submitted changes for already this year, I have asked for kits to be mailed to you.

There are also new updated New Group Listing Guidelines and forms. Just some of the information in the guidelines are as follows- "Being listed with GSO is not an official sanctioning of a group" A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice... Each New Group is subject to a 30-day pending period to give our delegate and DCM an opportunity to welcome the new group.

GSO lists AA Groups not meetings-

There is a lot of good information in this that I was not aware of, and I encourage everyone to take a look for yourself. I will send out copies to all DCM's, they will also be on the Area35.org website.

I plan to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference on March 3rd-5th. I have signed up to volunteer to be a greeter as well as a time keep/bell ringer? I look forward to seeing you all there and learning more about these agenda items.

Thank you for letting me be your group records person! In Service, Denise R

DISTRICT 16 – DAVE C

Hi, I'm Dave C District 16 DCM; We meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

I'm looking forward to serving District 16 and AA as a whole. I'd like to

thank the District for allowing me to serve them for this rotation! Our district has all our Chairs positions filled plus the new Position Web master to keep our web site up to date. If you want to know what District 16 is doing, please go to district16online.org. Which is I'm proud to say Pam our Web person keep things up to date. I've done some planning with District 9 to have Steve the Delegate go through the Agenda items for 2022 on March 12th at the Triumphant Life Church starting at 12 noon for potluck and Discussion at 1pm. Am hoping to get to a few of the groups around that I don't get to often in the upcoming weeks. Yours in service; Dave C.

TREATMENT – RICCO R

First, I would like to thank Christine for her help and support to get me started. Second, I volunteer my services to any district in Area 35 to attend their district meeting to present the treatment committee services and to encourage participation in treatment speaking in the treatment centers.

My report is what I took out of the treatment guidelines in the workbook and Area 35 Action book on the necessary items that a chair should do to preform my responsibilities to the best of my ability. One is to make a list of current facilities that are for the recovery of alcoholism, namely short-and long-term treatment, outpatient, impatient, detox and halfway centers in the Area 35 boundaries and as it turned out our area utilizes the same into bordering states, Canada, and Area 36, so they are also in my data base. Bridging the gap from facilities also took some studying and many other tasks too many to mention that are in the workbook are on my plate to study further and put into action.

I have learned that the studying and learning our program of recovery and service to others is much better when there is a committee involved to do such a thing. Therefore, we have put together a committee of nine and it may grow from here. I feel so grateful for the trusted servants that volunteered to be on the committee; two DCM's and seven treatment chairs are the makeup of the committee. I will tell you what the committee comes up with after we meet for the first time today.

I am a volunteer on the workshop committee with District 16 and 9 and at the last committee planning meeting the committee gave a one-hour slot for our treatment committee to make a presentation on a topic of our choice. So, I will be running it by our committee to see what we come up with.

Peggy M District 13 Treatment Chair attended Area 36's Trusted Servant Leadership Training on Jan. 29th. She spoke to someone taking Meetings into the VA. and this will be the basis of what Peggy and others will be working on in the committee. Peggy is also creating their lists of treatment centers and making plans on how they will approach these professionals. Peggy also sent me the guidelines, etc., she gathered, explaining how Area 36 approaches their facilities. In Unity and Service, Ricco

DISTRICT 6 – MIKE P

We have a decent size district, and we are growing. When I first came to District 6 in 2019, there were five or so people at the most at our monthly meeting, and now we have from 15 to 20 people at any one time. We have a good time, too, and we laugh, communicate, and get things done. We put out information to the district in person with flyers and also digitally on our district website. It even feels like AA and the world are actually starting to come back to the way things used to be, only better. We have our new Delegate Steve L coming to our Isanti Alano Club with two other districts, District 5 and District 11, to discuss and explain the agenda items. Things are good in our district and only getting better. Thank you.

Yours in service, Mike P, District 6 DCM

DISTRICT 7 – ROBERT N

In January we did a presentation on change versus rigidity. We discussed changing our phone service, how to get more people involved in district activities, printing an updated meeting list.

In February we discussed the guidelines between the AA group and an Alano club. We talked about the reason we have agenda items and the GSR's Role in discussing them with their groups.

Our new phoneline number is 1-800-503-3610 We still need to fill some service positions. Your trusted servant, Bob N

ARCHIVIST - MARC N

It has been a fast and furious couple months. I am still focused on finding suitable space for archive repository and then getting things moved. Regarding archive materials from districts: Several people have sent eFiles of their district business, meeting minutes, secretary reports, etc. For those who don't desire to use technology, I can receive your handwritten notes and scan them into our digital archives. Other things:

Several people provided input regarding the repository move, thanks to

Climate control, heat and ac. Vermin prevention.

Space for sorting and digitizing.

Security.

Space for archives display.

I met some really great people during my search for archive storage space.

I reached out to other people and other area archives to gain knowledge and received good information.

Volume XXXXI Issue 2

March/April 2022

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

(cont'd from page 6)

I'm looking forward to meeting with other people involved with archiving at WCRAASC.

For future consideration, what should be archived?

Assembly and ACM minutes Assembly and ACM recordings

Area event minutes and recordings Financial reports and records

Northern Lights

District information as submitted by districts

Wide area AA historical items

Archivist update for archive storage:

Two storage spaces available in/near Brainerd:

Street level office space 800 sq ft, two offices and reception/work area. \$880/month. Includes heat & ac, water/sewer. Single entry door windows front and rear.

Upper floor of older building, two rooms separately locked and unsecured common area for work area. \$300/month, includes heat, water & sewer, window ac is optional. Building is used as Alano. Keys to building and storage rooms not same, archivist would have keys and one Alano board member would have keys.

This morning we visited a potential storage site in Aitkin. 450 Sq/ft, \$500 per month, street level entry, heat and ac, single entry from street, interior door to adjacent space, windows on street front.

Voiced concerns:

AC Is this a must have? Many businesses store records in non-AC space

Weather, protection from water damage... any place could have issues. Vermin ... any place could have issues.

Vandalism ... is Alano more or less risk than office space?

Accessibility ... second floor with stairs is a concern.

Comparative:

Area 36 has office space. Two offices packed with materials and an area for inventory work and digitizing.

Does not have space to share.

Insurance?

Move from Fargo ... enlist volunteers, a volunteer has an enclosed trailer. Will need to pay fuel cost truck and trailer. We ought to buy food for volunteers (food & beverage).

Discussion:

Climate control is necessary including air conditioning we need to protect paper materials from damage.

Vermin and pest prevention is necessary.

Does cost include utilities?

Will there be multi-year lease?

Does cost include insurance?

What is breakdown of Archivist budget?

Consensus (not vote) is to go with Aitkin location.

Is there time sensitivity, will we lose the space if we don't act? Archivist to adjust and explain budget amounts related to repository and send to Area Chair for distribution to DCMs prior to Spring Assembly.

<u> ARCHIVES – RENELL P</u>

Present: Vicki R Dist. 11 DCM, Steve E Dist 12 District Archives Chair, Marc N Area Archivist

Steve has been active, as his District Archives Chair, gathering archives from 2 locations and getting them centrally located and locked up securely. We discussed our responsibilities as the archives committee.

We received access to the workbook online and have hardcover copies on the way. We are here to assist the Archivist in moving and sorting through our Area's Archives.

We will be seeking out volunteers for these epic events. More info to follow.

This rotation, our goal is to encourage and inform our districts and individual groups to preserve their history and forward it to our Area Archivist. We will do this through direct information shared at area activities and by the World Wide Web.

Yours in service, Renell P

DISTRICT 11 – VICKI R

Meetings are generally the first Tuesday of the month at Peace Lutheran Church in Finlayson MN at 7pm.

Meetings in the district are coming back to pre-covid attendance but is still down. Contributions to the district finished higher in 2021 than 2020 but were not at levels of 2019. There are generally 7-8 people in attendance at district meetings.

March district meeting will be held on Monday March 7th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pine City. It will be a potluck provided by district officers. We are planning to ask one of the meetings in the district to host the meeting each quarter to generate interest in service activities.

Dist. 6 invited Dist. 11 to the Alano Club in Isanti on Mar 13 at noon for an update from Steve. Some of us plan to attend.

On March 19 at 12pm there will be a potluck for all district 11 members at Peach Lutheran Church in Finlayson to discuss the agenda items and get GSR input.

6 district 11 members attended the Area 35 Winter Workshop in Detroit Lakes and did a skit on the topic – Is AA Changing.

There is minimal involvement in the corrections in the district, as facilities haven't opened to participation due to covid. Pine City jail is now open and there was a recent application from Rush City prison for volunteer orientation

In service, Vicki R

DISTRICT 14 -

CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A

We had a great meeting this morning with 8 in attendance. I attended the Area Workshop in January. I looked in the Northern Light but did not see my report. I am not off to a good start. I must not have turned it in. I thought I did, does that count? Since them it has been explained that the Secretary gets a copy, and the Northern Light gets another one. Since then, I have attended the International Corrections meeting on Sunday, January 23rd. It is a weekly zoom meeting. I also attended the February 6th meeting.

There is not a whole lot open yet. Aitkin Jail is open. Mark brought 30 Big Books and 30 12x12s into Sherburn County Jail. They were donated by District 5.

Yours in service, Arden A.

DISTRICT 9 – DIANE R

Greetings from District 9. We had our first district meeting on 1/30/22. The meeting is held at the Hibbing Alano Club the last Sunday of the month. We meet in person and on the Zoom platform. There were 10 AAs in attendance. The Treasury account was successfully transferred to the new Treasurer and the new DCM. Ricco R, new Area Treatment Chair, attended our meeting and gave a report on what he has been up to as the new Area Treatment Chair. All literature was transferred to the new Literature Chair Sandy K. The Archivist's letter for Archives Storage was passed out at the meeting. My district had questions which I sent to the new Archivist, Marc N. Tom, our CPC/PI chair asked for AA members to consider being on the CPC/PI Committee. His goal is to have a District 9 Website to reach medical, educational, law enforcement and treatment centers, as well as newcomers. The cost of the website was provided by Phyllis. 8 out of 21 groups and meetings had reports.

I attended the Area 35 Workshop. It was a wonderful workshop. I got to meet our new Trustee Mike L. He explained what he does as a trustee. As he talked, I realized his commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous and his love of the program. He encourages tough questions and discussion from the fellowship.

District 16 and 9 Workshop Committee met on January 23 and February 20. We will go through the Agenda Items on March 12 in Bovey with Steve L, our Delegate. It will be in person and on Zoom. If you would like a flyer and/or attend, please let me know. We are planning a workshop for June 18. Location is still to be decided.

District 9 scheduled the Report Back from the Conference with Steve L for May 21, 2022, at Hibbing Alano Club. This too is in person and on the Zoom platform. If you would like a flyer, please let me know.

We are still looking into getting information about our Google phone number. Currently we are seeking the login information that we do not have. We talked about the Role of Past Delegates. I handed a page on 'Past Delegates' information from our Service Manual. They are bringing this information back to their groups so that they can discuss it at the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

I will be attending the WCRAASC. I have been reading the background information. There is a lot to read. I look forward to learning more about the Agenda Items.

Also, I am looking forward to a wonderful year with Area 35. In Service, Diane R. DCM District 9

<u>DISTRICT 8 – HEATHER L</u>

My name is Heather L District 8 DCM. Our district meetings are scheduled the first full week of each month and rotate Monday through Friday at 630 p.m. Different groups from our district sign up to host the meeting.

We do have the majority of our committee chair positions filled, with few committee members though. Our district is honored to help with the upcoming Assembly in April, and we are getting volunteers to help with registration and most importantly make sure there is a never-ending supply of coffee. With the assembly right around the corner, I will be attending Districts 9 and 16 potluck to hear about the items Steve will be talking about. Hopefully others from my district will join me in attending.

District 8 has an upcoming workshop on April 23rd as well, which will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Virginia.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Created 1982

Page 8

(cont'd from page 7)

Our last district meeting brought light to the lack of information our jails, probation officers, and courts have in regard to AA information. We do not currently have a Corrections chair, which is probably why we have been lacking in that area. We are diligently looking to get other members of our groups to step up to the open positions. We do realize how very important getting the AA message to our troubled community members is.

This is my first time ever serving in AA at this level and I know my Alternates first as well. With the help of our fellow district members, we are adjusting and learning every step of the way. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to my district.

At the end of last year, the district meetings were not being attended very well by our GSRs. I am positive that had something to do with the pandemic, but I am hoping that as we near the end we will be seeing more faces and people willing to pass on what was so freely given to them. Thank you for your time, Heather L

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

I attended the area 35 committee meeting in Aitkin and in our PI/CPC committee meeting we had the following districts attend: District 4,9,11,13,12, as well as Greg C., CPC Chair (He brought candy) Yay Greg!!!!

District 9 has a primary goal of connecting with medical facilities as well as with law enforcement and has a goal to have a webpage. District 11 is working with local resources and has started a jail orientation meeting. District 4 has a new treatment center that will be opening soon that they will reach out to, and has had a slow down in meeting with jails due to covid as well as a slowdown in other facilities but is looking forward to things opening up. District 8 has had success working with local hospitals and clinics and has also been able to reach people through their webpage. District 12 has pursued Billboards and using the city transit system to display public information. District 13 is utilizing their phone lines well as TV, and Radio, and they are currently working with the Colleges to carry the message as well as utilizing their webpage.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our spring assembly!! Yours in service, Nels P.

DISTRICT 2 –

DISTRICT 4 – BUMPER L

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings everyone I'm Mike U and I'm alcoholic and your grapevine chair. I attended the area 35 workshop and let me tell you it was a hoot. Also attended the ACM in Aitkin and meet with Dist 13,9. There are two new books, out they are free on the inside with stories about men and women being locked up and free from alcohol and drugs, and prayer and meditation which is a hot book right now, I'm currently out but will have some for the spring assembly. I will be attending the WCRAASC this weekend and will give you a report on it. Thanks for letting me serve, Mike U.

DISTRICT 1 -

DISTRICT 13 - JIM R

District 13 currently has committee chair openings for Archives, CPC, Corrections, &PI, all other committees and officer positions are filled.

I was unable to attend the 46th annual area 35 service workshop January 15th & 16th. I do plan on attending the west central regional AA service conference and the Spring Assembly. At our February district meeting we had our area chair Christine G. come and share with the incoming GSR's & Committee chairs on how they can prepare for the spring assembly, who can vote at the assemblies & voting procedures. Christine also covered the area committee meetings & the west central regional AA service conference and the agenda items. We also were sent a terminology glossary covering "Discuss, Review, Consider, & Reconsider. At our February district meeting we had one of our new GSR's report he asked his group how many would like the district minutes emailed to them to get them more involved... I felt this was an excellent way to get members involved and interested, it will be a suggestion for all of district 13 GSR's to consider doing moving forward. Lastly, we have an agenda zoom meeting scheduled with our Delegate Steve L for February 28th, we used a program called "Doodle" which was sent to all district 13 members with several dates and times to choose from, then chose the date with the most people able to attend. In Service, Jim R

DISTRICT 21 – BRENT T

My name is Brent T, I am an alcoholic and DCM for District 21. We have our District meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at The Bemidji Alano at 7pm.

As has been the case for quite some time, we are still having difficulty getting GSR's to attend our meetings, and also finding it difficult to fill our open action committees. Our District is committed to make that change. I have only been able to attend a couple outside meetings lately, hindered by weather, but as a result, we have gained one more dedicated GSR and we also have a 'Last Saturday Potluck speaker meeting' that has started back up. I hope to see more positive things begin to happen in our district as this

pandemic winds down, and winter goes away. We know we have some serious challenges ahead of us, but with what we learn here in AA, we know where our help comes from, and we are going to rely on that.

I am excited to announce that our Delegate Steve L. has so graciously accepted our invitation to attend our March 14th District meeting. I think it was his idea. He is going to share some thoughts on our third legacy and review the agenda items with us. We will begin this meeting at 6pm instead of 7pm for this occasion. We thank Steve and Area 35 for this opportunity. Yours in service, Brent T.

OLD BUSINESS

Archives Storage – Marc N. stated that he has found three possible locations for the Archives storage. The Up Front Alano Club in Brainerd has two rooms with a combined total of 300 SF upstairs with no A/C, for \$300 per month. Aitkin has a street-level space of 450 SF that is climate-controlled with A/C at \$500 per month. Another similar space in Brainerd with 800 SF was \$880 per month.

Discussion: Is A/C necessary? A/C keeps documents from getting moldy, better preservation. What about vermin, vandalism, security, and accessibility? What about insurance? There is not much coming into Archives lately. Most things are digital. Aitkin space is expandable.

Kyle H. made a motion to move Archives to the space in Aitkin. Seconded by Jim R. Discussion – What about getting the groups' votes? The budget hasn't been approved yet. Are we in danger of losing the Aitkin space if we don't vote now? No, we will not lose the space. Archives budget will have to be changed - \$800 was an inflated estimate because rental cost was an unknown. The new budget amount will be \$500 per month. Marc will speak to the landlord about utilities, and he has been talking to an insurance agent in Aitkin. Diane R. made a Motion to table the discussion to the Spring Assembly. Seconded by Mike P. MOTION PASSED.

2022 Budgets – Will be voted on at Spring Assembly. Bring the budgets to your groups for discussion.

Past Delegate Service Discussion – Will take place at Assembly

Tabled motion for Spring Assembly – "We move on and accept what happened at the Fall Assembly and discuss with the groups what we want to do in the future, with Past Delegates serving on the Area as Officers or Area Chairs."

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee – Jim S. said they finished up auditing 2021. All monies coded correctly and accounted for.

Hybrid Meetings – Kyle H. said that there is Zoom equipment and Zoom rooms available. The cameras can track speakers in a room and catches voices from around the meeting room. It would be possible to link to our website and can be added to the calendar. Cost would be \$100/\$150 per month for equipment, and the room itself would be \$50. More equipment (to expand number of screens, etc.), if needed, would bring the total to approximately \$300 per month. With the weather in the area, hybrid is not going away. Discussion – more than one sound bar to catch voices in a room larger than the Aitkin meeting room would be needed. More equipment can be networked. Hotel equipment can be limited. Sense of the meeting was to have Kyle put together a couple of options to be discussed at Spring Assembly.

Inclement Weather Policy – Heidi B. proposed a change to the current policy and made a motion to accept the new inclement weather policy proposal. Nels P. seconded. Discussion – what is the deadline to call whether to change format. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NEW PROPOSED INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY PASSED. Minority voice spoke that they would like a deadline added to the policy. Nels P. motioned to reconsider. Cindy S-K seconded. MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED. Went back to original motion. Justin W. offered a friendly amendment to the motion that the decision be made by 9:00 p.m. the night before the meeting. Cindy S-K. seconded. Amendment accepted by Heidi B. and Nels P. MOTION WITH AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Group Records Computer – Discussion – We need to make sure our Trusted Servants are equipped with the tools to do their work and we can make those decisions at ACMs. Justin W. made a motion to buy a laptop with cost not to exceed \$500 for Group Records. Jim R. seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Archives Computer – Discussion – Archivist has a computer, Archives Chair does not. Nels P. made a motion to purchase a computer with cost not to exceed \$500 for Archives Chair. Vicki R. seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Items May be downloaded from area35.org. Password is 2022gscai. Our Delegate will be traveling to present agenda items to districts. One of the Eastern Areas told Steve there is a lot of discussion on Literature. DCMs, go to districts to see what groups think the most important items are, and bring them to agenda items meetings.

Assembly locations – Most casinos are going non-smoking. Sense of the meeting was to not use casinos to host events.

2023 Spring Assembly will be April 1st and 2nd, which is Palm Sunday weekend.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Electronic Polling – Area Chair will ask for volunteers to be on a committee to research options for electronic polling.

Area Chair asked if it would be ok to charge \$1 per 12 oz. cup of coffee to help offset the room costs, and the sense of the meeting was in agreement.

Area Inventory – The last Area Inventory was done in 2012 and used breakout rooms to take care of a few items in each one. Area Chair will schedule an inventory.

Motion to adjourn – Jim R. made a motion to adjourn, Heather L. se**conded.** Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted, Sally L. Area 35 Secretary

ATTN GSR'S, DCM'S & DISTRICT CHAIRS:

We are here for you! Area Officers & Action Committee Chairs are available for presentations and workshops. What would you like to hear about? Contact us and let us know! Contact Christine at areachair@area35.org.



"Getting into the bottle was easy. It's getting out that's turning out to be the hard part."

Tradition One by Bill W. Copyright @ The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., December 1947

Our whole AA program is securely founded on the principle of humility — that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are — "a small part of a great whole". Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why AA Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in AA the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has not "musts." Few AA groups impose penalties on anyone for nonconformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "judge not," we observe most literally.

"But," some of us argue, "if AA has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we AAs cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare" comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Created 1982

Page 10

	Jan 1 - Feb 15, 22	Jan 1 - Feb 15, 22	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Group Contributions				
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions				
107962 · 80715-Stephen Group	50.00	50.00	0.00	
Total 4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	50.00	50.00	0.00	
4000-03 · District 03 Contributions				
107702 · 104860-The Formers Group	75.00	75.00	0.00	
Total 4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	75.00	75.00	0.00	
4000-04 · District 04 Contributions				
171076 · 92690-Thurs As Bill Sees It	25.00	25.00	0.00	
289926 · Lakes Area Primary Purpose	100.00	100.00	0.00	
717046 · 90330-12 & 12 Step Trad Study	75.00	75.00	0.00	
Total 4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	200.00	200.00	0.00	
4000-05 · District 05 Contributions				
319745 · A design for Living	90.00	90.00	0.00	
704281 · 5616-The Way Out Group	150.00	150.00	0.00	
Total 4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	240.00	240.00	0.00	
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions				
124462 · 77760-Squad 3 Isanti Thurs	22.67	22.67	0.00	
140016 · 85613-Fri AM AA North Branch	20.00	20.00	0.00	
672898 · 70426-Simple Not Easy BB Group	60.00	60.00	0.00	
684775 · 91822-A Woman's Way Group	25.00	25.00	0.00	
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions - Other	110.70	110.70	0.00	
Total 4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	238.37	238.37	0.00	
4000-07 · District 07 Contributions				
609161 · 39348-Wednesday Woman's Work	72.35	72.35	0.00	
705579 · 112000 Isle Big Book	50.00	50.00	0.00	
718014 · 93663 As Bill Sees It Group	90.00	90.00	0.00	
719598 · 76819 Spiritual Awakenings	50.00	50.00	0.00	
Total 4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	262.35	262.35	0.00	
4000-08 · District 08 Contributions				
107553 · 94034-Aurora Big Book	75.00	75.00	0.00	
126501 · 92589 Alango Friday Night AA	35.00	35.00	0.00	
142087 · 84297-Cook Sun. Night Big Book	92.00	92.00	0.00	
171078 · 25414 Ely Monday Womens	41.10	41.10	0.00	
635763 · 19836 Virginia Monday Night BB	150.00	150.00	0.00	
Total 4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	393.10	393.10	0.00	
4000-09 · District 09 Contributions				
107764 · 110172-Hibbing Downtown Group	30.00	30.00	0.00	
128162 · 83295 Sunday 12x12 Step Group	40.00	40.00	0.00	
611186 · 24189 Mon. Big Book Group	80.00	80.00	0.00	
646421 · 83126 Sun Morn Daily Reflection	20.00	20.00	0.00	
719309 · 8471-Hibbing Thursday Noon Grp	20.00	20.00	0.00	
Total 4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	190.00	190.00	0.00	
4000-11 · District 11 Contributions				
107885 · 49354 Pine City AA Group	50.00	50.00	0.00	
141987 · 97036 Quamba Mon AA	100.00	100.00	0.00	
647203 · Willow River AA	10.00	10.00	0.00	
724683 · 19974 Moose Lake Vision of Hope	17.25	17.25	0.00	
Total 4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	177.25	177.25	0.00	
4000-12 · District 12 Contributions				
132613 · 67747 Serenity Club Inc.	50.00	50.00	0.00	
711810 · 94714 Barnum AA Group	53.75	53.75	0.00	
Total 4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	103.75	103.75	0.00	
4000-13 · District 13 Contributions				
107498 · 26978 Wed Happy Hour group	75.00	75.00	0.00	
107580 · 102570 Early Evening Group(Tue)	125.60	125.60	0.00	
123219 · 105732 Fri Living Sober Grp	50.00	50.00	0.00	
146877 · 102573 Early Wed. Night	30.00	30.00	0.00	
721677 · 7385 Thursday Night BB Grp	80.00	80.00	0.00	
Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	360.60	360.60	0.00	

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

4000-15 · District 15 Contributions			
107767 · 110646 Holdingford Group	150.00	150.00	0.00
679438 · 7529 Thurs Night Fellowship	75.00	75.00	0.00
718858 · 19361 Back 2 Basics	50.00	50.00	0.00
Total 4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	275.00	275.00	0.00
4000-16 · District 16 Contributions			
107701 · 101205 Deer River BB Study	150.00	150.00	0.00
Total 4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	150.00	150.00	0.00
4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	.00.00	.00.00	0.00
107722 · 102265 Eagle Bend AA	150.00	150.00	0.00
Total 4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	150.00	150.00	0.00
4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	.00.00	.00.00	0.00
139141 · 76830 Spiritual Awareness Group	169.60	169.60	0.00
145909 · 38031 Nooners AA Group	200.00	200.00	0.00
663310 · 77955 Squaw Lake Tues	50.00	50.00	0.00
Total 4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	419.60	419.60	0.00
4000 · Group Contributions - Other	25.00	25.00	0.00
Total 4000 · Group Contributions	3,310.02	3,310.02	0.00
4100 · Birthday Contributions	0,010.02	3,010.02	0.00
4100 · Birthday Contributions - Other	46.00	46.00	0.00
Total 4100 · Birthday Contributions	46.00	46.00	0.00
4500 · Service Workshop Registration	1,170.00	1,170.00	0.00
4550 · Service Workshop Coffee	349.00	349.00	0.00
4700 · Grapevine Sales	74.00	74.00	0.00
4710 · AAWS Literature Sales	488.00	488.00	0.00
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	75.00	75.00	0.00
4800 · Interest on Deposits	0.06	0.06	0.00
Total Income	5,512.08	5,512.08	0.00
Gross Profit	5,512.08	5,512.08	0.00
Expense	0,012.00	5,512.00	0.00
5200 · Service Workshop			
5201 · Coffee	150.00	150.00	0.00
5204 · Speaker Expenses	315.19	315.19	0.00
5200 · Service Workshop - Other	100.00	100.00	0.00
Total 5200 · Service Workshop	565.19	565.19	0.00
Total Expense	565.19	565.19	0.00
Net Ordinary Income	4,946.89	4,946.89	0.00
Other Income/Expense	4,040.00	4,040.00	0.00
Other Expense			
6100 · Delegate			
6100-01 · Meals	80.00	80.00	0.00
6100-02 · Travel	45.00	45.00	0.00
6100-03 · Lodging	114.00	114.00	0.00
6100-06 · Printing	44.98	44.98	0.00
Total 6100 · Delegate	283.98	283.98	0.00
6200 · Alternate Delegate	200.00	200.00	0.00
6200-01 · Meals	40.00	40.00	0.00
6200-02 · Travel	43.00	43.00	0.00
6200-03 · Lodging	230.00	230.00	0.00
Total 6200 · Alternate Delegate	313.00	313.00	0.00
6300 · Chairperson			
6300-01 · Meals	40.00	40.00	0.00
6300-02 · Travel	37.00	37.00	0.00
6300-03 · Lodging	230.64	230.64	0.00
6300-06 · Printing	269.53	269.53	0.00
6300-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00
6300-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.09	16.09	0.00
Total 6300 · Chairperson	608.26	608.26	0.00
6400 · Secretary	000.20	000.20	0.00
6400-01 · Meals	65.00	65.00	0.00
6400-02 · Travel	20.00	20.00	0.00
6400-03 · Lodging	239.00	239.00	0.00
6400-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00
Total 6400 · Secretary	339.00	339.00	0.00
	230.00	230.00	0.00

Net Income

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Page 12

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

6500 · Trea	surer				
	6500-01 · Meals	45.00	45.00	0.00	
	6500-02 · Travel	35.00	35.00	0.00	
	6500-03 · Lodging	115.00	115.00	0.00	
	6500-06 · Printing	30.00	30.00	0.00	
T	6500-08 · Other	60.00	60.00	0.00	
Total 6500 7000 Arch		285.00	285.00	0.00	
7000 · AICH	7000-01 · Meals	47.00	47.00	0.00	
	7000-01 Meals 7000-02 · Travel	53.90	53.90	0.00	
	7000-03 · Lodging	115.31	115.31	0.00	
	7000-08 · Other	365.00	365.00	0.00	
	7000-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.13	16.13	0.00	
Total 7000	Archives Chair	597.34	597.34	0.00	
7100 · Arch					
	7100-01 · Meals	40.29	40.29	0.00	
	7100-02 · Travel	68.57	68.57	0.00	
	7100-03 · Lodging	115.31	115.31	0.00	
	7100-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 7100	Archivist	239.17	239.17	0.00	
7200 · Corr	ections				
	7200-01 · Meals	91.39	91.39	0.00	
	7200-02 · Travel	22.00	22.00	0.00	
	7200-03 · Lodging	115.41	115.41	0.00	
	7200-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
	7200-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.09	16.09	0.00	
Total 7200	Corrections	259.89	259.89	0.00	
7300 · CPC					
	7300-01 · Meals	83.02	83.02	0.00	
	7300-02 · Travel	35.00	35.00	0.00	
	7300-03 · Lodging	230.62	230.62	0.00	
	7300-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 7300		363.64	363.64	0.00	
7400 · Grap					
	7400-01 · Meals	60.00	60.00	0.00	
	7400-02 · Travel	60.49	60.49	0.00	
	7400-03 · Lodging	230.62	230.62	0.00	
	7400-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 7400		366.11	366.11	0.00	
7600 · Liter		22.25	20.22	0.00	
	7600-01 · Meals	30.00	30.00	0.00	
	7600-02 · Travel	50.00	50.00	0.00	
	7600-03 · Lodging	230.62	230.62	0.00	
Total 7600	7600-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
7700 · Norti		325.62	325.62	0.00	
i i oo ' Norti	nern Lignt 7700-01 · Meals	84.66	84.66	0.00	
	7700-01 · Meals 7700-02 · Travel	40.00	40.00	0.00	
	7700-02 · Travel 7700-03 · Lodging	40.00 115.31	40.00 115.31	0.00	
	7700-03 · Loaging 7700-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 7700	Northern Light	254.97	254.97	0.00	
	in Northern Light ic Information	204.97	۷۵4.31	0.00	
, ooo · Publ	7800-01 · Meals	76.97	76.97	0.00	
	7800-01 · Meals 7800-02 · Travel	40.00	40.00	0.00	
	7800-03 · Lodging	115.31	115.31	0.00	
	7800-03 Eddging 7800-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 7800	Public Information	247.28	247.28	0.00	
7900 · Trea		271.20	∠+1 .∠U	0.00	
. 555 116a	7900-01 · Meals	56.82	56.82	0.00	
	7900-02 · Travel	37.80	37.80	0.00	
	7900-03 · Lodging	115.31	115.31	0.00	
	7900-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.06	16.06	0.00	
Total 7900		225.99	225.99	0.00	
7950 · Web			-55		
	7950-01 · Meals	40.00	40.00	0.00	
	7950-02 · Travel	64.27	64.27	0.00	
Total 7950	Webmaster	104.27	104.27	0.00	
	o Technician				
	8050-01 · Meals	50.00	50.00	0.00	
	8050-02 · Travel	50.00	50.00	0.00	
	8050-03 · Lodging	230.00	230.00	0.00	
	8050-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	0.00	
Total 8050	Audio Technician	345.00	345.00	0.00	
tal Other Expe		5,158.52	5,158.52	0.00	
		-5,158.52	-5,158.52	0.00	
er Income					

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Page 13

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Northern MN Area Assembly 2:57 PM **Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison** 02/17/22 Cash Basis Feb 15, 22 Feb 15, 21 **ASSETS Current Assets** Checking/Savings 1000 · Area 35 Checking Acco... 23,586.46 12,923.48 1100 · Savings - Prudent Rese... 6.050.08 6,049.48 **Total Checking/Savings** 29,636.54 18,972.96 **Other Current Assets** 305.15 2,120.60 12000 · Undeposited Funds **Total Other Current Assets** 305.15 2,120.60 **Total Current Assets** 29,941.69 21,093.56 **TOTAL ASSETS** 29,941.69 21,093.56 **LIABILITIES & EQUITY** Equity 18,725.52 18,725.52 3000 - Opening Bal Equity 32000 · Retained Earnings 11,427.80 0.00 **Net Income** -211.63 2,368.04 **Total Equity** 29,941.69 21,093.56 **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 29,941.69 21,093.56

NEW GSO CONTRIBUTION ADDRESS

For decades, all correspondence to G.S.O., including our contributions, have been sent to Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Over the years, Box 459 became such an integral part of A.A. that we named the G.S.O. newsletter after it.

Now, your office and board are excited to announce that we are embracing a new method of processing our Seventh Tradition contributions that will reduce costs, ultimately allowing for more investment in services to members and groups. To this end, we are excited to announce that a separate post office box has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions only. This change will enable us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship.

Effective immediately, please send contribution checks to:

Post Office Box 2407 James A Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407

Over the next few months, we will be updating and reprinting our contribution envelopes and literature to reflect this change. To help this change be embraced as fully and quickly as possible, we ask for your assistance in sharing this information with fellow A.A. members and groups.

"By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified, and through our Third Legacy -- Service -- we shall carry the AA message down through the corridors of time to come."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., November 1951
"Services Make AA Tick"
The Language of the Heart

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letter of the Northern Minnesote Area 25 Assembly

2022 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMM AGENDA ITEMS

I. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2023 General Service Conference.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2021 Evaluation Summary.
- E. E. Discuss progress report on Conference improvement.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. Review progress report on A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.
- B. Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community."
- C. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for the mental health professionals.
- D. Consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible.
- E. Review content and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

III. Corrections

- A. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
- B. Reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature.
- C. Consider requests to limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous
- D. Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.'s primary purpose in mind.

IV. Finance

- A. Review Self-Support Packet.
- B. Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- C. Consider request that all proposed changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes.

V. Grapevine/La Viña

- A. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
- B. Review progress report on Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts.
- C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023 and later.
- D. Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship.

VI. Literature

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.
- B. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in Living Sober and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."
- C. Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.
- D. Review draft pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
- E. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts
- F. Illustrated."
- G. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Too Young?"
- H. Review draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
- I. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."
- J. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
- K. Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos.
- L. Review progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

- M. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.
- N. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
- O. Discuss the existing version of the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
- P. Discuss G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy:
- Q. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"
- R. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?"
- S. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."
- T. Review the draft update of the pamphlet "This Is A.A."
- U. Review progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats.
- V. Review progress report regarding Literature Committee workbook.
- W. Discuss changes to the text of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
- B. Review dates for the 2026 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss the procedure: "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference."
- D. Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the G.S.C. between meetings.
- E. Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process.
- F. Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
- G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
- C. Review the distribution and tracking information for two video PSAs:
 - 1. "Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall"
 - 2. "Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party."
- D. Review the 2021 report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs."
- E. Review a progress report and the G.S.O. Podcast Plan.
- F. Review report on "YouTube Performance."
- G. Review report on "Google Ads Performance."
- H. Review report on "Meeting Guide Performance."
- I. Review the "2021 Fourth Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O.'s A.A. website."
- J. Review report on "AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast."
- K. Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.
- L. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials:
- M. Consider suggestion to revise the flyer "A.A. At a Glance."
- N. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
- O. Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity."
- P. Consider request to retire and replace the "A.A. Fact File."

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

2022 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMM AGENDA ITEMS

(cont'd from page 14)

- Q. Review request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.
- R. Review report on development and distribution ideas for the "A.A. Triennial
- S. Membership Survey."
- T. Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

IX. Report and Charter

- A. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
- B. Review The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition.
- C. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments."
- D. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."
- E. Consider requests that the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

X. Treatment and Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- B. Review progress report on military audio interviews.
- C. Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities.
- D. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- E. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
- F. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- G. Consider request to revise text in the chapter "Getting plenty of rest" in the booklet Living Sober.

XI. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
 - 2. Pacific Regional Trustee
- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Discuss the revised "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards."
- F. Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."
- G. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" to include stories reflecting greater diversity.

XII. Archives

A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
- B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.



Area 35 General Service Conference Agenda Items Process

Greetings Area 35,

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

Agenda Deadline Dates

September 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 and sends them along with background information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

The Webmaster posts the material on our website (area35.org) with a protected password. The Delegate sends out an email to the Area 35 Committee with the password information, which is used to download the Agenda Items and background information off the Area 35 website.

4th Sunday in February

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

Steve L.
Area 35 Panel 72 Delegate delegate@area35.org
(218) 780-0905

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Page 16

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

AREA OFFICERS & ACTION COMMITTEE WCR REPORTS

Delegate - Steve L

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen, I just received a call from a past Delegate asking, "How was the West Central Region AA Service Conference (WCRAASC)?", my first response was to say exhausting! Know what their response was? Laughter!

There was about 456 people in attendance and 75 on zoom for the WCRAASC. With a good turnout from all the different Areas. It was enjoyable to see everyone, and to meet in person all the delegates from the other Areas in our Region. Know what? Some are shorter than they look on zoom. I got to meet and have a conversation with one gentleman who was sober just three days, another that was with a carload from Montana who had just arrived from a 22-hour drive. Talked with lots of people and received tips on what to expect at the General Service Conference.

Saturday was spent going over agenda items in great detail. There were various opinions on many of the items. I was at the podium for about three hours going through the Literature committee's agenda items. Bob W., the manager from the general service office, told his story in the evening. Bob gave a great talk. After Bob spoke, the last block of agenda items went pretty fast. Many people departed, leaving a small group of people who were tired to finish off the night. The literature committee represented one fourth of all the agenda items we discussed. Literature agenda items are also dispersed through five other committee assignments due to last year's adoption of a three-year trial period of Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW). The EDW reassigns agenda items from heavy loaded committees to committees which have less agenda items.

Sunday, we woke up to four inches of snow on our vehicles. Area 35 gave the last presentation on <u>How to Reach Anyone</u>, <u>Anywhere</u>. Diane R. DCM for District 9 and Julie N. Alt DCM for District 6 gave excellent presentations. Thank you again for the great representation of Area 35.

By the time you read this I will have covered most of the Area attending pre agenda item meetings, I covered lots of miles. I discussed agenda items with Districts 4,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,15,16 and 21. I'm looking forward to having a knowledgeable discussion at the Spring Assembly and to reach an informed group conscious about the agenda items. A couple of districts have already invited me to give post conference reports. Districts, please think about scheduling a time for me to come and give my conference report to you.

The General Service Conference in New York is coming soon - April 23-30.

Thank you for this experience. In service, Steven L.

$\underline{\textbf{Alt Delegate - Justin W}}$ - Not given

Area Chair - Christine G

Greetings Area 35, I attended the WCRAASC March 4-6th. I was able to meet with Area 36 Chair as we continue to work together in restoring and preserving Area 35 and Area 36 health. We talk about the challenges that the areas are jointly facing, and we continue to encourage communication amongst action committee chairs in each of the areas.

I enjoyed the presentations that were given by the areas, and it is always a joy connecting with them and learning how they address the challenges that they are faced with. Diane and Julie did fantastic job with their presentation on "How to Meet Anyone, Anywhere." I am enjoying hearing people's stories and their successes in the program.

We have some important items coming forward this year at the conference and we need to give our Delegate an informed group conscience as we prepare him for the General Service Conference. As we go through these items, we need to keep our AA principles first and make sure that the requested changes are in line with those principles. We also have to look at how these changes could affect AA as whole.

I have also been working at getting the agenda set for the Spring Assembly and I have been in communication with the hosting district and the Grand Ely Lodge to finalize some details. We have a lot of business to take care and I know that with the guidance of God, we will be able to work through it together.

If there is anything I can do to help your districts or groups, please send me an email. See you in Ely! In Unity and Service, Christine G.

Secretary - Sally L

Greetings, Area 35. I attended the WCRAASC at the Doubletree in St. Louis Park on March 4-6, 2022. It was a very informative weekend. Some of the discussion during the weekend gave me a new perspective on some of the agenda item. The Area presentations were interesting, and the people that shared parts of their stories touched me. It was good to see people I haven't seen for a while. I enjoyed being in the same physical space with others interested in the welfare of AA. In service, Sally L.

Treasurer - Cindy SK

This meeting each March is one I dread and then also look forward to. The agenda is full, and the days are long. The people that attend are from all over the upper Midwest and as the years go by, I am making more and more friends across this region. The agenda items are many and yes, we go through them all. I learned this year that our region is one of the few that go through all of the agenda items with our delegates. This is a process that was

put in place years ago by a trustee for our region. I also always enjoy the Saturday night speaker. This year it was our new GSO manager Bob W., he spoke a few January workshops ago, at that time he was trustee at large. The remainder of March I will be attending a couple of agenda discussions and gathering information to take to the Spring Assembly in April. Cindy S-K

CPC - Greg C

Hi everybody, Greg here with news from Area 35 CPC. The PI/CPC action committee met on Feb 27th. PI Chair Nels P gave a report at the general meeting that followed. (see PI Report) For myself, I have reached out to all Districts in Area 35 to offer my assistance. If a District has no chair for CPC or someone who would like some guidance beyond what their workbook suggests, I am always available to help. My home district currently has no CPC chair, so I am filling some gaps and working with some new projects that I hope to share success or failure with our action committee. In that process, I have been contacted by the state Probation Officers Assn., offering Area 35 to be a vendor at their upcoming Spring conference and possibly be a presenter at a future conference. This all started by working locally with Probation and Social Services, a combined effort that is starting to show some promise. More on that later. For now, just trying to network and keep attention focused on our wonderful program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

<u>Literature – Pat M</u>

Hi I'm Pat and I am your area 35 literature February 27th we had our area committee meeting in Aiken we had eight in attendance districts 3 5 6 9 12 13 16 we spent a lot of time just getting to know each other talking about districts needs when it comes to literature is a we talked about the book experience strengths hope talked about how we can order books to keep costs down

I'm looking forward to working with all the new literature chairs I also attended to West Central regional conference that was really good to see people we I have not seen on a couple years I also got a chance to meet area 36 literature chair you got a chance to visit on how we both handle literature Thank you for allowing me to serve as your literature chair.

Webmaster - Kyle H - Not given

<u> Northern Light – Heidi B</u>

Hello Area 35, I just returned from the WCRAASC and, as usual, wow! AA is truly an amazing organization. We discussed all of the GSC Agenda Items and the time given to "us" to share our thoughts and concerns is like no other. My favorite part of the workshop was hearing Bob W, our new General Manager's, story. Thank you to the WCR Delegates and our WCR Trustee Mike L for their time and patience in walking us through the long list. And thank you to Area 36 for hosting the workshop! Adding a virtual option was well received!

This issue of the Northern Light had a very tight deadline as it must be printed, in the mail and picked up before our Spring Assembly, April 2-3. Thank you to everyone for sending your reports in a timely manner! I was excited to see all of the article submissions! I'm crossing my fingers that they'll all fit.

Looking forward to Spring Assembly in my backyard! If you're in Ely on that Friday night before the assembly and would like a meeting, please join my homegroup, Happy, Joyous & Free, at First Presbyterian Church at 7pm. We'd love to have you!

Group Records - Denise R

Greetings everyone. Well, it's only been 1 week since we were at the Area Committee meeting and yet it's been a very busy week. I attended the WCRAASC this past weekend and met a lot of wonderful people that are so very passionate about Alcoholics Anonymous. It was wonderful to meet and talk more with many DCM's and other members of Area 35 as well as others around the region. I was able to connect with the Area 36 Group Records person Erica and share our common ideas and goals. I sent an email to all DCM's with the new Group Change forms and New Group Forms along with the new guidelines. The new guidelines have a lot of good information and I encourage everyone to read them. Here is just one example of what you will find.

"Being listed with the G.S.O. is not an official sanctioning of a group. A group listing does not constitute or imply an approval or endorsement of any group's practice of the traditional A.A. program. Tradition Four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." Hopefully every A.A. Group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. The G.S.O. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group."

I am also learning there are quite a few Groups that have several meetings listed under one Group number. Therefore, there would only be one GSR for several meetings. That is something I have not been aware of before in our Area. Learning something new all the time!

I am told that our Web master Kyle has purchased a new computer for me to use as Group Records. I am looking forward to getting set up with that. I am still having some difficulties using my personal computer and getting spam messages. I am hopeful this will cease with the new computer. I am looking forward to attending the Group Registrar's meeting Tuesday March 8th to meet all other Registrar's across the country.

NORTHERN LIGHT

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

(cont'd from page 16)

Please continue to send me any changes to your groups including meeting times and other changes that may occur in your group's meetings. I look forward to seeing you at the Area 35 Spring Assembly. Thank you for letting me serve as your Group Records Registrar. In Service, Denise R

<u>Treatment – Ricco R</u>

It was a very well put together service conference and I thank all the presenters, all the Alcoholics Anonymous Trusted Servants that helped put it together and all who took part in making it a very productive, friendly, informative time.

I attended a workshop about zoom, and it was a very informative session which will help the Area 35 Treatment committee in our efforts to reach out to the Remote Community of Alcoholics and future members of AA to get them to the meetings of AA. I also felt it was a wonderful time for all of us to speak to the conference agenda items and give the many views of our fellowships efforts to make AA work to the best of our abilities to help the still suffering alcoholics. I feel I had many of my own opinions based on my experience, knowledge, and study made stronger so I can be more helpful to reach out and help our still suffering alcoholics and future alcoholics as they enter our doors to freedom. I am especially interested in Bill W's writings and want them to be made whole and protected again by our conference so we will not dilute Bills lifesaving message. One for example is this piece of information which follows.

(CURRENT CONFERENCE CHARTER (United States and Canada) 3. Conference Relation to A.A.: The Conference will act for A.A. in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services, and it will also be the vehicle by which the A.A. movement can express its view upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. Tradition. Delegates should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion, or their own direct instruction. But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.2

This is only one of my concerns, when they print the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and change the wording of the book it includes changing the wording of the 12 Steps. In Unity and Service, Ricco R

Archivist - Marc N

Good day to all! My first task as archivist has been consuming but I must remember that the real work is yet to come. That first task was finding a new repository for the archives and then moving the archives; it's not done yet, but hopefully will be soon.

The "real work" will be to sort through the materials after the move and get things organized. I have learned in life that the new guy ought not to bring in ideas to change things, but rather to listen and observe those who have experienced first-hand and have history of how and why things were done. So, I am asking for some of the past Archives Committee members of Area 35 Archives to step forward to guide me, brief discussions will help to preserve what had been done.

The past two years have been quiet due to COVID, the physical archives have had minimal attention. The digital archives have been attended to and are stored on the archive's laptop and "onecloud". There are a few gaps, some audio files and some text files are missing. There is not much from before 2019. I will be contacting those who might have these files to get them archived. The most important (IMHO) are assembly recordings and minutes, area committee meeting recordings and minutes, other area event recordings and notes, and then items from districts.

While attending the WCRAASC I gained a bit of knowledge from the Area 36 Archivist and a private archive collector, feel free to ask me about our conversations. I purchased the event recording to add to our archived record-

In Service, Your Archivist, Marc N

Archives - Renell P

Hello, members of Area 35. I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in St. Louis Park this past weekend. Every time I attend one of these conferences, I am humbled by the power of AA.

It gives me the opportunity to meet old acquaintances and meet new members of AA. The amount of sobriety in the rooms ranged from 24 hours to 50 years. My higher power is amazing!

It wasn't always easy to agree with everyone's opinion, but it enforced in me the saying, "Agree to disagree". Remember, we are all given the opportunity to express our opinions on the topics and it is up to us to graciously accept other's.

I look forward to the Spring Assembly, where we have the chance to share what we heard and learned with more members of Area 35.

Corrections - Arden A - Not given

Public Information – Nels P

Greetings Area 35. I attended the WCRAASC in St Louis Park and it was very informative. I learned a lot and I'm continuing to go through the background information. The conference was well attended and it's always great to meet other people from different areas. I thought Area 36 did a great job hosting the conference. Looking forward to our spring assembly and seeing you all in my hometown of Ely.

Yours in service, Nels P.

Grapevine - Mike U

Greetings everyone hope all that attended the conference made it home safely. I attended the WCRAASC this past weekend. It started Friday night with an introduction of the Delegates, then we went to work and started on the agenda items and continued on Sat. That evening we were treated to Bob W our trusted servant and general manager of GSO who spoke that night. What a great speaker then finished the rest of the items it was a great honor and privilege to serve this conference, the spring assembly is Just weeks away and I will be attending that and will have plenty of books on hand for you to purchase so look for me I'll be the one in purple. I hope to see you there,

What's on your Mind?



Where are our delegates? Have you noticed?

 Υ here has been a noticeable lack of past delegates at our gatherings lately. I value the wisdom and experience that sits at the back of the room. I find comfort that those people with experience are there for us, to help us when we need guidance. The past delegates are people that are well versed in the traditions and concepts. They are our living history. They can share the good and bad from the past. Do we have to repeat the mistakes of the past or can we listen to those that were there? Our past delegates do not just sit in the back of the room, we can call on them to speak at events, help with workshops, ask about any service position. They are there to proctor group inventories, be service sponsors etc. I believe past delegates remind us we have a service manual, Big Book, 12 and 12 and many other pieces to refer to when questions arise. Why are we not showing them the respect they deserve? Tom A. and Kelly D. tried at the December area meeting to remind us of our traditions. The way Area 35 adhere to the traditions is what makes serving at the Area attractive to me.

Cindy S./Barnum, MN

"Life will take on new meaning. To watch people, recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends...this is an experience you must not miss." When I read these words in my Daily Reflections the other day, it filled my heart with Joy. Because it's true!! That same evening, our District put on our monthly Medallion Night. It's an open AA event, and what a wonderful event it was. Walking in the door I immediately ran into an old friend whom I hadn't seen at meetings for many months. We laughed and hugged. There were new-comers and old-timers, AA's and Alanon's, even family members. I was presenting to a sponsee with 6 years sobriety who was there with his wife and two young children. The laughter and pitter-patter of feet brought smiles to everyone's faces! There were inspiring speakers for Alanon and AA, and several medallion presentations, from 60 days to 11 years. Bill's words from the Big Book had come alive as the Fellowship and life-giving-recovery were all on display...an experience not to be missed. Later, my sponsee commented to me that life was so good, he couldn't imagine things getting any better. With all the confidence and gratitude, I could muster I assured him that it really does. Open your eyes to every good thing every day. Open your heart and give what you've found to the next person who comes looking for hope.

On Monday at my home meeting, I was surrounded again with friends and laughter and wisdom from the 12 and 12 as we read the complete first tradition. We talked about several individuals who were off on vacation and how we missed them. Several with less than a year of sobriety commented on how the people around the tables had become true friends and what a joy it had become looking forward to meetings. And in the Daily Reflection, I was reminded that I am not the healer, I am still a patient in this program. Thankfully I know just where to get my medicine. It is found in every reading, every corner of every AA room, every smile and back slap, every tear and nod of understanding. It is everything good...it is Alcoholics Anonymous... and it does keep getting better!

Greg C./Alexandria, MN

When I think back to the Fall Assembly, I remember looking around the room at a few other committee chairs - I was looking at them and they were looking at me and we all had the same expression on our faces, "what is going on here?" When I look back at the committee members meeting, I remember we were talking about people that might stand for Treasurer, Area Chair, Secretary and so on. No one mentioned that someone might nominate a Past Delegate for Area Chair. In my heart, I believe there was three or four people in that room that knew the Past Delegate was going to be nominated for Chair. I did not know anything about that. I believe that a district knew that there was going to be a past delegate nominated for Chair. But for some reason, nobody mentioned anything. This was all hush hush, otherwise we would have known. When it happened, I was dumbfounded and was like what is going on here? There's one word that comes to my mind... honesty.

A very grateful recovered alcoholic. Pat M/ Grey Eagle, MN

NORTHERN LIGHT

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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

I attended the WCRAASC, and it saddened me to overhear some of the political talk taking place during and outside of sessions. Outside issues and distrust are making their way into our Fellowship. It also saddened me to think how this appears to people new to the service structure. People are breaking Tradition Ten by talking about politics inside of any AA function, including group meetings, district meetings, Area meetings, and Regional meetings. We are supposed to leave that stuff outside of the rooms. I do my best not to talk politics or religion at any AA function.

Another thing that saddens me is the disunity I am seeing developing in Area 35. Our Area Chairperson was elected at the Fall Assembly, and she is being unfairly charged with having been deceitful and conniving to have stood for the position. While I think there should have been more discussion before a past Delegate stood for an Area position, I do not think there was anything sneaky or underhanded going on. I think people just did not think it through enough. What ever happened to patience, tolerance, kindliness and love? Do we now assume that people who make mistakes have bad motives? We have shown kindness and tolerance towards other people who made mistakes at the Area level. Why not now?

There were many Past Delegates at the Fall Assembly that could have stood up and said something while the election was happening. Are we going to point fingers at them and say they should have spoken up, that they were derelict in their duties? They were caught off guard, just like the rest of us. We have to cut people some slack or we will lose the ability to work effectively together.

I understand that Area 35 has never had a Past Delegate stand for any Area position. Does that mean we can never have that happen? Many Areas in the U.S. and Canada have no problem with it, and some have the Delegate automatically rotate into the position of Area Chair.

The strife and disunity occurring in Area 35 is going to drive people away from serving our Fellowship. I have heard people say they may consider resigning their positions because of it.

Let's get past this and accept what happened at the Fall Assembly and decide what we are going to do about Past Delegates serving in the future. Let's move on.

Sally L/Embarrass, MN Area 35 Secretary

Lead Glass Crystal Sobriety Thru A.A.

I have been doing some reflecting on the kind of sobriety I want to have by working a Program of Recovery in A.A. I remember growing up in Brooklyn Center and my parents being offered some "freebies" whenever they patronized a gas station or a fast-food restaurant. Often this came in the form of glassware. I was always surprised by how easily this glassware shattered whenever the glass so much as fell over on our wooden kitchen table. Later in life, I received a set of lead glass crystal as a gift at my wedding. One day, I accidentally knocked one of these glasses off onto a concrete floor. I was amazed that instead of shattering into many pieces... the glass seemed to "bounce" off the cement floor and remained undamaged! I think this is a great analogy for the kind of sobriety I want to have in my life thru the program of recovery I work in A.A. After six years of continuous sobriety thanks to A.A., my life is pretty good. I have had some "mountain top" experiences (like becoming a grandfather again for the 2nd time last week) and some "valleys" (like when my mother passed away in December of 2016). I have been able to stay the course with the program of recovery I have been working in A.A. I keep going to three meetings a week, I call my sponsor regularly, I do step work with my sponsor, and I raise my hand when asked if I am willing to sponsor others in A.A. But I have a few brothers and sisters in A.A. who have not been able to handle the "valleys" in their lives and who decided to go back out to do some independent research. Reflecting on my own sobriety, because I am selfish, the idea that this can also happen to me frightens me. I ask myself, is the sobriety I have in A.A. "lead glass crystal" or "free glassware"? And so... I ask myself during my daily meditations what the difference between "free glassware" sobriety in A.A. and "lead glass crystal" sobriety in A.A. looks like. I've asked this question of my A.A. sponsor and the men I sponsor in A.A. The general answer I have come up with is this. The best way to ensure that I am working on obtaining "lead glass crystal" sobriety in A.A. is for me to remember who my customer is... the still suffering alcoholic. I realize that for me, this means saying "yes" to being of service in A.A. to someone who is still suffering, even when it might be inconvenient for me. I have always been willing to sponsor other men in A.A. But now I have started taking out extra insurance on my own sobriety by bringing A.A. Information talks into treatment centers, being willing to do Twelve Step Calls when asked, signing up to bring A.A. meetings into a corrections facility in my community and more. I hope and pray that the quality of the sobriety that I am working to achieve in A.A. will weather the storms that may come when life or others disappoint me and, like the "lead glass crystal" that I received as a wedding gift many years ago. So far... so good. I want to thank all of you for helping to keep me sober... one day at a time. Amen!

Alan S,/Chairman, St. Cloud Intergroup

Tradition One

"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"

As I started looking through literature and over thinking about my experience with this tradition, something occurred to me: the simplicity of it that I try to muck up with my opinion.

Discussing this Tradition, Bill paraphrased it by stating that 'the group must survive, or the individual will not." A.A. Comes of Age

We often speak of our common welfare and unity, especially the last couple of years. Welfare is defined as: "the good fortune, health, happiness, and prosperity of a person, group, or organization, well-being." The definition of unity is: "the state or fact of being united or combined into one, as of the parts of a whole."

Common welfare can be defined as a lot of different things and has been recently. On page 98 of *A.A. Comes of Age* there is an idea of common welfare that embodies both of those definitions: "Pride, fear, and anger-these are the prime enemies of our common welfare. True brotherhood, harmony, and love, fortified by clear insights and right practices, are the only answers. And the purpose of AA,'s traditional principles is to bring these forces to the top and keep them there. Only then can our common welfare be served; only then can AA's unity become permanent." Does that mean that we do not consider other issues? Of course not. The controversies of society will inevitably creep into our groups, and we have 11 other traditions to help us with those things. Above all of that, our groups must survive.

This tradition does not say I must conform to the people in the group in the name of unity. As Bill says in the essay on Tradition 1 in the 12 and 12: "The A.A. member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies." If I am to find recovery, as an individual, I will conform to the principles of A.A.; and in so doing, put the group before my desires and opinions. On the other hand, I have a responsibility to my group to speak up and be a part of group discussion and decision. Does this mean I agree with everything my group does? Not always. Do I trust senior members of my group and other members of A.A. simply because they've been doing this longer than I have? Not always. Am I willing to be honest about my intentions and motives? That is an everyday practice. Am I willing to be open to the opinions of my fellows? Yes. "Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no AA, and that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole". Language of the Heart, page 77.

I have spent a lot of years perfecting the art of laziness and isolation. I don't like to do hard things, and I can find loopholes as good as anyone. So, when I am presented with any discussion, I strive to be as honest as I can. Am I disagreeing because someone else's perspective doesn't match mine, or is there an issue at hand that may be harmful to A.A.? Am I looking for an easier softer way to do things to hang on to money or protect my precious time? Am I truly willing to go to any length for victory over alcohol?

Am I to be kicked out of the group if I don't conform to the principles? Bill answers that question beautifully: "The answer seems to be that we AA's cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction." *Language of the Heart*, page 77

This tradition does not squash our individual liberties, it actually asks us to be good stewards of those liberties. Unity at the group level is not everyone agreeing with everyone else and following blindly. Each individual, despite length of sobriety, is a part of the whole that makes up the group.

"In our first years, every violation of these precepts seemed to threaten our actual existence. We then doubted if our rebellious membership could ever resist its great temptations. But we have resisted, and so we have survived. Therefore the stark fears of yesterday have given way to a vigilant prudence-something quite different from unreasoning panic." *Language of the Heart*, page 316.

Does my gratitude for the gifts I've been given run deep enough that I am happy to put my ambitions aside for the stability and growth of my group, and A.A. as a whole? It can be difficult for me to practice patience and tolerance when I think I am right. Sometimes I struggle to find the balance between speaking up when it is appropriate and listening because I don't have all the answers. A very clear solution for this dilemma can be found on page 317 of Language of the Heart: "Take Tradition One. It says that AA's common welfare comes first. This really means that our personal ambitions will have to be set aside every time they conflict with the safety or the effectiveness of our Fellowship. It means that we must sometimes love our Society more than ourselves."

I was asked recently: "Why are you a member of a home group? Do you

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 19

(Cont'd from page 18)

have to join a home group?" Honestly, I ask myself that sometimes. It doesn't take much for me to answer that question. I couldn't get sober by myself, I can't stay sober by myself. If I am trying to do this by myself, my experience has shown, I won't be well. Being part of a group is where I practice these spiritual principles. That aides in my recovery. Groups are the voice of A.A. So as a group we get to be a part of the whole of the fellowship and give back to Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I look back through my time in A.A., I am overwhelmed by the connection I have with my home group. I am able to practice these spiritual principles in my group, and they love me through all of my bright ideas, fears, and very strong opinions. I have seen the group change from 10 very like-minded people participating in every way in Alcoholics Anonymous to two people loving each other and A.A. enough to keep the door open even when no one else showed up. As we now welcome many new members, I am excited to experience unity through humility and communication. I suppose I would be considered an elder statesman, relatively speaking, although it doesn't feel that way most days. Every member of the group has so much to offer, that I am forever learning.

Pat M & Kerry M/Grey Eagle, Mn

Area 35 and The Fine Oak Table

I became active in Area 35 service in 1988. Over the years one of the finest trusted servants I've ever known shared an analogy whenever he told his story, an analogy that illustrated – for me – the true nature of Step Nine. It goes something like this:

When one drives a nail into a fine oak table, the nail harms an other-wise perfect surface. In an effort to mend the table and restore its integrity, the nail is pulled out. However, damage is done, and a hole is apparent. While the table may still be functional, it surely is not the same finely-finished table. However, if the person who caused the harm takes the time to putty the hole, sand it, shellac it, varnish it and polish it, through these efforts the table is restored to its original integrity as it was before the nail was driven into it, the hole is gone, and the harm is vanquished.

Likewise, when I harm someone or something, A.A. has given me the necessary tools to not only pull the nail out, but to take my inventory and figure out how to putty, varnish, sand and restore whatever I may have harmed. To accomplish this restoration requires necessary steps. First, I can surely express my regret for driving in the nail - either accidently or deliberately - but merely pulling out the nail still leaves us with a damaged table (nothing changed). Likewise, an apology may make me feel better, but it does nothing to the harm done.

Our area is currently in a state similar to the aforementioned table. After fallout from the Fall Assembly area chair election, during the subsequent area meeting (December), four past delegates shared that the integrity of the election process needed to be addressed and evaluated. Fundamental A.A. principles, most notably in the Traditions, were laid out as a spiritual toolkit to examine how to restore the unity and integrity of the Area 35 service structure.

In my case, I provided relevant oversights to no less than six of our Traditions. Since this evaluation was only shared verbally with the attendees at that committee meeting and the secretary opted to not publish the report I submitted, I will share this same information here as follows:

[The following is from an email I sent on October 11, 2021, as a response to an email which I was a CC recipient. I mentioned that while, as a CCd recipient, I was not required to respond to the sender's question, I nonetheless felt it appropriate to share information relevant to past delegates As Follows: I

I want to dispel the myth that Christine is in a unique situation regarding area service. I know of other past delegates that had similar limited duration of area officer service, and in fact, chair is one position several have never held during their service tenure. Obviously, that begs the question: why, if someone that hadn't been chair but served as a delegate can return to Area 35 service as chair, why were these others not asked, if we are always seeking the best person for the job? And regardless, I believe there is not, nor should there be, some sort of "scorecard" for how many positions people can serve in Area 35.

To dispel another myth that Christine did not have other opportunities for service: the customary process in A.A. would be for past delegates to submit their names for positions such as regional trustee, trustee at large, appointed committee member, non-trustee director, or the new regional administrator (conceived during Christine's time as delegate and approved in 2020). There have been several openings since Christine has rotated.

If indeed there was such a yearning for area service and the area chair appoints action committee chairs, why was Christine not brought forward for consideration as area archivist, unfilled for virtually the entire Panel 70 rotation?

If we have begun to be selective in what and where we shall serve, we have failed

[I next shared the following information on issues of concern that I have with regard to the Area applying the Twelve Traditions to the election process As Follows:]

I've also learned from my sponsor and mentors over the last 36 years that I need to use the time-tested principles to evaluate any troubling situation, rather than my own self-directed will and desires. Let me share with you how I feel the Traditions are directly relevant to the current situation:

Tradition 1 – Common Welfare:

This Tradition begins the Twelve Traditions for a key reason, that Unity is our most cherished possession, and that its preservation trumps all other issues. At this time, Area 35's Unity is in a perilous state.

Tradition 2 – Group Conscience:

The prevailing group conscience at an area committee level at the August Committee Meeting was that past delegates should not serve in elected positions. While there was a minority voice to consider the change, it received little support, so the discussion ended.

The minutes record that the issue was to be brought to the groups and discussed. It would be my understanding that we have not completed this task.

Yes, it could have been addressed at the Fall Assembly, but the evidence is that we had not progressed to the point of even being prepared for that discussion. To bypass and forego the discussion deemed necessary is an unprincipled action and disallowing us to hear God speak to us through an informed group conscience.

Tradition 4 – Matter Affecting AA as a Whole:

A small group of people decided that they wanted to change the election process in Area 35. The change has an effect on A.A. as a whole in the Area, not only within their small group and hence this matter needed a group conscience to consider this change for Area 35.

Tradition 6 – Problems of Prestige Diverting Area 35:

The area chair has said she has spoken loudly about Christine serving as area chair. However, this same combination of people could have appointed and then served (with area approval) as the Area 35 Archivist for the past two years. It surely appears that the self-serving choice of someone to be the area chair is now diverting us from our primary purpose. On the contrary, Christine could have anonymously, non-prestigiously been mentoring, sponsoring, inspiring others to serve in the area.

Tradition 9 – Responsible TO/not FOR:

The individuals that orchestrated this nomination become responsible for deciding what was best for Area 35 and changing our customs for area service. Responsibility to would have been better realized by a) abiding by the group conscience from the August Committee Meeting, b) and/or bringing up such a substantial, divisive subject via multiple opportunities during the area assembly.

Additionally, the claim about the issue not being in the Actions Book is hollow: we do not document everything we do and do not do. One person does not determine for the area what is done/not done, but instead, is a servant responsible to those they serve to comply without forcing their will onto the area.

Tradition 12 – Principles Before Personalities:

One person had a desire to further the general service tenure of another person in Area 35. That is personality-focused. If the idea had any merit, it would have garnered a group conscience at an Area Assembly and had support, from that point a wide base of people in similar service tenures would have also been eligible. I submit we never had the opportunity to consider the full slate of past delegates that would have been eligible, and instead placed an individual personality before the principle of trusted servant selection.

If even one of these Traditions is challenged by the election process that took place, extreme concern should be taken on how to right the wrong. I came up with six, and you may see even more Traditions or reasons... We've all been taught that the Traditions were created out of problems A.A. faced and today we profit from them as tools to solve our problems when they are not first used to prevent us from harming AA. Based on the information above, do we think that for our group purpose we allowed a loving God to speak to Area 35 through an informed group conscience? With all the turmoil that took place/is taking place and will continue to take place as this failure festers, how will we place the common welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous compared to the welfare of individuals? Will we place principles before personalities?

I've now arrived at the end of sharing my experience, strength and hope. My intent for this was to be able to answer Cindy's question, which reads: "Shouldn't there have been discussion with the body and a vote before a past delegate would be allowed to stand for a position after they rotate out?" While there can be conjecture of what is or isn't in the Actions Booklet and its final authority, surely our history, our experience, alternatives available, objections during the process, and likely numerous other critical factors, the answer surely is "YES!". An inappropriate nomination based on individual, subjective policy application in the heat of the moment needs to be addressed. In our elections we seek certainty through substantial unanimity, and the discombobulated effect of the unexpected but pre-arranged nomination did nothing to foster unity in our area, but instead is now rendering a rupture to that same unity.

At a Traditions Workshop we heard Bill Wilson share that the Traditions are the application of the steps as we work and live together. My experience in service is that A.A. has given me and every member a process to recognize when we have strayed from the best possible care of our fellowship and we humbly admit the wrong and all can be made usefully whole when mending takes place. To not take a mending action is the ego forging forward at all

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

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Created 1982

Page 20

(cont'd from page 19)

costs. But in AA we know that only through repairing the damage can we retain integrity individually and collectively.

There is a legitimate process available to us to consider this electoral change. Let's avail to ourselves to right our wrongs and continue forward doing the next right thing.

Six Traditions are speaking firmly to our area right now: will we listen???? [end of presentation at December Committee meeting]

Another reference point beyond the Steps, Traditions, Concepts (incl. the Introduction) that I would like to reference that has been a strong standard for me in my service work: Bernard Smith's final talk in 1956, "Principles, Policies and Practices". At his final GSC as the GSB Chair, Bernard opted to forego a traditional farewell talk, instead feeling the need to pass on this legacy of experience regarding proper decision making of greater importance than a traditional rotation talk. The transcript of his talk provides clear guidance about subject matter that may be of a lesser nature and just requires some simple guidance. I find it particularly applicable in the area's current dilemma, and I will make it available individually as well as through our NL editor, who may publish it in the NL. Upon studying it, I'm quite certain two very basic principles of (1) certainty and (2) a full group conscience are the foundational elements of any principle, policy or procedure enacted in Alcoholics Anonymous. To repeat, the element of certainty and the need for a full group conscience is always mandated before a principle, policy or procedure is applied. Indeed, he stressed that discussion is more important than the actual decision.

It also is appropriate to evaluate the process that transpired with an extended set of principles, a number of the Concepts. As you know, the Twelve Concepts are both are an explanation of our service structure in addition to new principles, albeit often simply an elaboration of various Traditions, most commonly Tradition Two. Bill's introduction to the Concepts is a wealth of information in and of itself, and even provides both sides of the story for changes. He provides us with a warning:

Yet we should always realize that change does not necessarily spell progress. We are sure that each new group of workers in world service will be tempted to try all sorts of innovations that may often produce little more than a painful repetition of earlier mistakes. Therefore it will be an important objective of these Concepts to forestall such repetitions by holding the experiences of the past clearly before us. And if mistaken departures are nevertheless made, these Concepts may then provide a ready means of safe return to an operating balance that might otherwise take years of floundering to rediscover.

And, appropriately he also lays out a path to change:

Concern has been expressed lest the detailed portrayal of our internal structure might not later harden down into such a firm tradition or gospel that necessary changes would be impossible to make. Nothing could stray further from the intent of these Concepts. The future advocates of structural change need only make out a strong case for their recommendations....

[emphasis mine]

If I may pose a question, have we had a "strong case"? Surely the results of the discussion at the August Committee Meeting yielded but a tepid response to the matter.....

I've shared this with you with a sense of responsibility for the gifts A.A. has provided to me. For those that feel there may be some sense of personal interpretation in my application of the Traditions to the fall assembly election, I leave you parting information that contains not one iota of personal opinion, only quotations. First, the profound sharing by Bernard Smith in 1956 which I referenced above [and will hopefully be printed in the Northern Light] elsewhere speaks of the importance of obtaining the group conscience when working with principles, policies and practices. Moreover, the Twelve Concepts of World Service, adopted in 1962, has six very special clauses called the Warranties within the Twelfth Concept (also embedded in the Conference Charter, a sacrosanct contract for perpetuity for the Conference). These Warranties are 6 guarantees that A.A. will always have, regardless of any future changes. These warranties embody principles found in the Traditions and the Concepts. I refer here to Warranty Four:

Warranty Four: "That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity."

It is important, of course, to read the essay attached to the Warranty. And, of course these principles apply throughout our service structure – including Area 35 – as Bill states regarding principles in the Concepts:

"These general principles can of course be used to good effect throughout our entire structure."

If this Warranty does not apply to Area 35, then my sharing is not needed. If the Warranty does apply, then it is my sincere hope and prayer that the unity and integrity of Area 35's service body be restored to its former state like the sanded and polished oak table. I share this with you taking focus on the process that has been harmed, and the need to restore integrity in our area. I trust that through the application of our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the Concepts, we will have an area which has the luster and integrity of the finest, unharmed oak table.

Tom A. / Waite Park, MN Past Area 35 Delegate (Panel 50) and Past WCR Trustee









NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 21

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

"PRINCIPLES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES"

Closing Remarks by Bernard B. Smith, Chairman, General Service Board of A.A.

NOTE: At the closing session of the Conference Bill paid a special tribute to AA's good friend, Bernard Smith, on the occasion of the latter's imminent resignation as Chairman of the Board of Trustees after many years of service to the Society. As a memento of his personal affection, Bill presented "Bern" with an Inscribed photograph of the historic Sunday session of the St. Louis Convention.

Tomorrow I will cease to be Chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, and as you are aware, when I am no longer the Chairman of the Board, I similarly am no longer the Chairman of the General Service Conference.

Since, therefore, no further authority will be delegated to me except that implicit in the right to vote as a Trustee of the Board and as a member of this Conference, I regard it as desirable that I talk today to you about principles, policies and practices of the Conference In relation to the General Service Board. I would have preferred, as I have in the past, to talk about the spiritual basis of Alcoholics Anonymous, and of its potent promise as a way of life for all of human society. However, I feel that I can provide a greater service in this, the last time I shall be addressing you as Chairman, by talking of the practical operation of our great society, rather than of its spiritual content, although I hope that in the hammering out of appropriate methods of operation, the spiritual base of A. A. will never be overlooked.

It is not easy to draw precise lines of demarcation between what is a principle of operation, what is a policy, and what is a practice. Perhaps I can illustrate the distinction best by referring to specific actions of the Conference.

I would regard, for example, as a principle of operation, the issue we have passed upon at this Conference, and have had occasion to debate in the past, namely, the composition of the Board of Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, that is, whether or not a majority of the members of the Board shall be non-alcoholics or whether, as has been proposed, this ratio should be modified. With respect to a principle of operation, we should endeavor to achieve overwhelming approval of the General Service Conference. It is in the area of principles that we must endeavor to reach conclusions, not by compromise but with certainty.

Policy would represent in effect an expression of the collective judgement of the Conference which the General Service Board should be guided by in order to carry out the work which, by the nature of the structure of A.A., is delegated to It. Policy, for example, would be represented by such discussion as took place yesterday on the use of television broadcasting as a means of communicating the message of A. A. since the American people spend more time watching television than they devote to all other spare-time activities put together, I would feel that a policy necessarily had to be evolved for the guidance of the General Service Board as to the use of this medium in reaching our still-suffering alcoholics and their families in the living-rooms of America. Now the actual detailed use of television must be delegated inevitably to the General Service Board and the A.A. Publishing Company, for television is, in my view, a means of publication and communication in virtually the same sense as the publication of our books and pamphlets.

It is my considered opinion that on matters of policy the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous requires the assurance implicit in a decision on policy arrived at by a vote of a substantial majority of the Conference. A.A. principles do not yield to change readily, and it is therefore with respect to principles that certainty is essential. In the area of policy, while we should endeavor to achieve certainty, we should not limit the effective functioning of the services of A.A. by insisting upon absolute certainty; for policy can be changed whenever the collective voice of A.A., speaking through the Conference, determines that in actual operation the policy as adopted by a previous Conference requires change.

Now a practice, as I see it, would constitute that class of decisions which generally relate to the business operations of the services of Alcoholics Anonymous. 1 would regard as a practice, for example, the decision made at last year's Conference as to the discounts to be allowed in the purchase of the publications of A. A. Publishing, Inc. Two years ago the Conference voted to abolish discounts as a means of adding to the reserve fund of the General Service Board. A year later, after a study of the effect of the abolition of discounts, the Conference voted to reinstate discounts on a basis then determined by the Conference.

In the area of a practice, as distinguished from a principle, it may be necessary and, indeed, frequently will be necessary, to arrive at a compromise. While we would never like to see the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous divorced even from business practices, nevertheless books have to be published, a decision must be made as to the terms on which books are to be sold, and so in this area of practices, if we cannot achieve certainty, we must accept compromise. The services of A.A. must go on. But we should understand clearly that we are not, in reaching a decision on practices, attempting to influence a subsequent Conference from changing a practice, so that whenever experience in A.A. indicates a need for a change in services, a Conference must feel that in so doing it is not violating any concept that a previous Conference has arrived at. And so I would say that in the area of principles, we should secure virtual certainty; in the area policies, comparative certainty, and in the area of practices, compromise if necessary.

1 have deliberately avoided the use of the word "traditions" in these observation because I regard the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous as the only traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, unless they are changed or amended in keeping with the resolution adopted at the 20th Anniversary Convention of A.A. held in St. Louis last

I should like to refer now to certain aspects of the role of a delegate to the Conference. A delegate, in my view, while he must be conscious of area reaction, should not come to a Conference as an instructed representative of the area from which he is chosen. He is a representative who serves all of Alcoholics Anonymous during the period he is a conferee, and he must feel at all times free to be persuaded, by the arguments presented in the course of discussions at the Conference, to vote in a manner that may differ from the thinking of the area which elected him. If the area which elected him has indicated its views on a specific proposal, he can of course communicate the views of his area, but he must never feel bound by them in voting. We must be conscious in our deliberations of the needs of small group as well as of the needs of the large groups, and must think at these Conferences of the collective needs of all of A.A. On all matters that are vital to the great Society of A.A., the Conference must give ample opportunity to all delegates to express their opinions and present their arguments, whether these opinions or arguments represent their own thinking or that of the

The obligation of a chairman at a Conference is great indeed. He should endeavor, through discussion, to determine the prevailing opinion of the Conference before a motion is made. However, a Chairman does not have the right to prevent a member of the Conference who himself begins to have a feeling of the sense of the Conference, from making a motion. However, once a motion is made and it is seconded, and the Chair asks for discussion on the motion, delegates still have an opportunity to express their views, and on any matter of consequence, the Chair should not close off discussion until delegates have had an ample opportunity to discuss the motion.

Delegates should be careful to refrain from insisting on the motion being passed upon until others have had an opportunity to express the grounds for their opposition to a motion, for we have seen in practice in these first six Conferences that there will be times when a delegate will express a point of view that had not occurred to any of us, and that as a result, a motion which had been made that would seem to represent the sense of the Conference is withdrawn. We must be careful, it seems to me, because of our normal desire to complete the work of a Conference within the scheduled time, not to discourage discussion.

I have always regarded the discussions at the Conferences, and the freedom of expression implicit in the Conference, as, if anything, more valuable than the actual decisions arrived at the Conference. For it is out of these discussions that the Conference and the movement itself has an opportunity to have displayed before it all the facets of thinking of all the areas of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Now what I have had to say about the operations of the Conferences represent just one man's point of view, namely my own. What I have said represents conclusions that I have arrived at, which of course are not binding upon anybody. While I hope they will not be entirely disregarded, the Conferences are free to discard them as unsound; for I can only express that which I feel, that which I see, and that which I observe in terms of my own desire to serve the great Society of A.A.

And now, in these closing moments, I would like to make a few personal observations about A.A. with which many of you may not agree, but which stem from my experience of seeing A.A. in action.

We have found a way of life which arrests the disease of alcoholism by living by the concepts of life contained in our Twelve Steps. What has interested me, and will always interest me primarily, so far as A.A. is concerned, is not to determine what causes the disease of alcoholism, not to determine why the Twelve Steps provide us with a spiritual basis for living which makes it unnecessary for us to drink again, but to know that it does work. I rather prefer to leave to outside scientific inquiry any study of the why's of alcoholism, and the study of why living within our Twelve Steps renders it possible for us to live without alcohol.

This precious message which we have received, and by which we live, has resulted in our achieving a far greater measure of human happiness than is the lot of the average human being who walks the earth today, who has not been subjected to the acute suffering of alcoholism. We must always be concerned, however, with the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous which protects this way of life, for we will always owe an obligation to the generations yet unborn, to insure that this way of life is available to as it has been to us.

I regard the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous as the outstanding spiritual achievement of this century; and it is the obligation of this generation to insure that it exists as long as this earth of ours spins around the sun; for I, as a so-called non-alcoholic, see in the concepts of living of Alcoholics Anonymous a hope for mankind, for we have established that man can live the life of the spirit and function effectively in a materialistic society.

In stepping down from this rostrum for the last time, I think in terms of profound gratitude to all of you who have provided me with the unique privilege of serving you as your Chairman. I have only one regret, and that is that I did not have the skill to do more than the little I have done to further the purposes of this great. Society.

Submitted by Tom A. / Waite Park, MN - Past Area 35 Delegate (Panel 50) and Past WCR Trustee

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Created 1982

Page 22

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

2022 Service Events

April 2-3: Area 35 Spring Assembly

Grand Ely Lodge

Ely, MN

June 5: Area 35 Committee Meeting

Aitkin, MN 9:00am

August 7: Area 35 Committee Meeting

Aitkin, MN 9:00am

October 1 - 2: Area 35 Fall Assembly

Crookston Inn & Convention Ctr

Crookston, MN

Staples Round Robin Hosted by Staples Experience, Strength & Hope Group

Saturday, April 9th, 2022

First Congregational Church 204 5th St. * Staples, Mn

5:00 Fellowship 5:30 Potluck (Bring a dish) 6:15 Clean time countdown 6:30 Alanon & AA Speakers

ST. CLOUD ROUNDUP'S Celebration Of Recovery SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022 7:00 PM SPEAKER CITY HOPE CHURCH 413 Franklin Ave NE, #0221, St. Cloud, MN JIM L. AL-ANON CHASKA, MN 15 MINUTE BREAK ERINH. AA PLATO, MN Pre-Registration and On-Line Tickets Must Be Purchased By May 9, 2022 Speaker Tickets Pre-Registration and On-Line Ice Cream Social After At the Door Speakers \$3.00 Mail To: St Cloud Ros PO Box 125 St Cloud, Mn 56302 320-296-1693 stcloudros-1 Make Checks Payable To SCR distration Must Be Purchased By May 9, 2022 Pre- Registration Form On Line Pre-Registration Now Available with PayPal ADDRESS www.stcloudroundup.org STATE ZIP CITY EMAIL

2022 Fellowship Events

April 9: Staples Round Robin

First Congregational Church 204 5th St., Staples, MN

5:00 pm

May 6 - 8: 50th Annual Iron Range Get Together

Grand Rapids Eagles 1776 Pokegama Ave. Grand Rapids, MN

May 14: St. Cloud Roundup's Celebration of

Recovery

City Hope Church, 413 Franklin Ave NE

St. Cloud, MN 7:00 pm

May 27 - 29 Gopher State Roundup XLVII

Doubletree Bloomington Hotel

Minneapolis South

7800 Normandale Boulevard

Bloomington, MN

July 1 - 3: 9th Annual Crow Wing River

3 Legacy Campout

Motley, MN Contact BR 218-296-1512

50th AnnualIron Range Get-Together

May 6th, 7th, 8th
The Courage to Change

Location: Grand Rapids Eagles

1776 S Pokegama Ave. • Grand Rapids, MN 55744 (218) 326-4845

Friday, May 6th "Tropical Shirt Night"

6:30 pm - Registration Opens 8:00 pm - Speaker: Steve L., Biwabic, MN

Saturday, May 7th

10:00 am - Outstate Panel

1:00 pm - AFG Speaker: Sharon B., Grand Forks, ND

3:00 pm - Call-up Meeting

7:00 pm - AFG Speaker: Eloy M., Fort Collins, CO 8:00 pm - AA Speaker: Ole B., Grand Forks, ND ??? till 11:00 pm - 7th Tradition Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 8th

8:00 am - (Open) BB Meeting

10:00 am - AA Speaker: Steve S,. Saint Joseph, MN

IRGT Pre-Registration Form	tration Form	IRGT Pre-Registration Form	stration Form
A.A. \$18.00	A.F.G. \$18.00	A.A. \$18.00	A.F.G. \$18.00
Alateen \$6.00	Other \$18.00	Alateen \$6.00	Other \$18.00
Name	,	Name	
City/State/Zip_		City/State/Zip_	
Group Name		Group Name	

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 23

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Area 35 Northern MN Spring Assembly

April 2-3, 2022

Grand Ely- Lodge Resort & Event Center 400 North Pioneer Road | Ely, MN 55731 218-365-6565

Standard - \$164.95; Whirlpool - \$174.95; Suite - \$244.95 (rates are per night and do not include 10.375% tax) Refer to Room Block "Area 35 Northern MN Assembly" and Reserve rooms by 3/1/2022.

Saturday, April 2

9:00am Registration 10:00am GSR Orientation & Action Chair Committee Meetings 1pm Assembly Convenes after Lunch

Sunday, April 3 9:00am Assembly Reconvenes



***All GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, and Past Delegates are encouraged to attend as well as all others interested in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The only requirement is a willingness to serve. The 2022 General Service Conference Agenda Items will be discussed so GSRs, please bring your group's conscience to this Assembly.

Save the Date!

Area 35 Fall Assembly

October 1st-2nd, 2022

Crookston Inn & Convention Center 2200 University Ave Crookston, MN 56716

> Saturday, October 1 9:00 AM Registration 10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, October 2 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.

9th ANNUAL CROW WING RIVER 3 LEGACY CAMPOUT JULY 1-3 2022





FRIDAY
12:00 MOTLEY NOON MEETING
1:00 CHECK-IN
DINNER ON YOUR OWN
7:00 AA SPEAKER
10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING
SATURDAY
EARLY MORNING CAMPFIRE AND DEVOTIONALS

EARLY MORNING CAMPFIRE AND DEVOTIONALS BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN 9:00 OPEN MEETING

11:00 CANOEING/TUBING/FREE TIME 5:30 POT LUCK SUPPER-BRATS AND HOTDOGS PROVIDED-PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

6:30:00 AL-ANON 8:00 AA SPEAKER 10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING SUNDAY 10:00 OPEN MEETING

OPEN FIRE TO COOK OVER WILL BE AVAILABLE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A GRILL. SINK STATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WASHING DISHES.

NO PETS ALLOWED

ADULTS AND KIDS 11 AND OLDER \$15 KIDS 8 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE FOR CAMPING SPOTS CONTACT: B.R. 218.296.1512 201 MORRISON ST E. MOTLEY MN Dr. Bob said, "Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance."

DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers, p. 338.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 24

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

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:

eneral 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,

Heidi B

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

- 1. First & Foremost <u>Contact the Northern Light Editor</u> 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
 Total

 2 Sided
 Fee
 Cost

 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 3595 County Road 13 Barnum, MN 55707

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

Northern Light Deadlines for 2022 are as Follows:

- January 19th: Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- March 8th: 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 1st: Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ♦ November 2nd: Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

Area 35 Guidelines

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

A good flyer should answer the following questions:

- 1. Who is involved or sponsoring the event? Examples:
 - a) AA Group
 - b) District
 - c) Area
- 2. What type of event is it? Examples:
 - a) An open or closed meeting
 - b) Speaker meeting
 - c) Call up meeting
 - d) Big Book meeting
 - e) Workshop
 - f) Conference
 - g) Fellowship (ice cream socials, potlucks, chili cook offs, etc.)
 - h) AA must appear somewhere on the flyer
- 3. When is the event to take place? Examples:
 - a) Date and time
 - b) Does it reoccur
- 4. Where will the event take place?
 - a) Name of the facility and the address
 - b) Maps are sometimes helpful but not necessary
- 5. 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)
 - b) 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 northernlight@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)

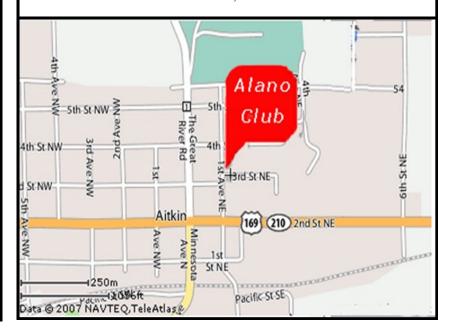
AREA 35 EVENTS INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- Area Chair asks for weather reports from all DCMs from respective Districts, either by email or phone.
- Meeting format (virtual, in person or hybrid) is based on DOT report and national weather service, individual safety being paramount. Decisions will be made by 9pm the day before the meeting.
- Chair contacts webmaster with meeting format information (including any virtual links) which will be posted on area35.org
- Chair notifies the Alano Society in Aitkin on food preparations.
- Chair remains available and in close contact as they are the focal point and main contact; Chair must make the decision and be available for calls.
- Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on meeting format.

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

Area 35 holds Committee Meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club 322 1st Ave. N.E.
Aitkin, MN



NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 26

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

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 may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

12 Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous (Short Form)

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



NORTHERN LIGHT

Created 1982

Page 27

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

OUR PAST DELEGATES

Danal 70	2020 2021	Danal 20	1000 1000	Danal 12	1062 1062	
Panel 70 Jim S	2020-2021	Panel 38 Scott J	<u> 1988-1989</u>	Panel 12 Donna T	<u>1962-1963</u>	
Jilli S		Scott 3		(deceased)		
Panel 68	2018-2019	Panel 36	1986-1987			
Christine G		Louie H		Panel 10	<u> 1960-1961</u>	
			1004 100	Bob B		
Panel 66	2016-2017	Panel 34 Bob P	<u> 1984-1985</u>	(deceased)		
Kelly D		(deceased)		Panel 8	1958-19 <u>59</u>	
Panel 64	2014-2015	(deceased)		Pearl N		
Michael "Jake" J		Panel 32	1982-1983	(deceased)		
		Tom L		Danale	1057 1057	
Panel 62	2012-2013	(deceased)		Panel 6 Waldo H	<u>1956-1957</u>	
Jim K		Panel 30	1980-1981	(deceased)		
Panel 60	2010-2011	Don M	1700-1701	(======)		
Jon C	2010 2011	(deceased)		Panel 4	<u> 1954-1955</u>	
				Wendell H		
Panel 58	2008-2009	Panel 28	<u> 1978-1979</u>	(deceased)		
JoAnne M N		Garfield (Duffy) S		Panel 2	1952-1953	
Danal 50	2007	(deceased)		Arthur R	1752 1755	
Panel 56 Jerry S	2006-2007	Panel 26	1976-1977	(deceased)		
Jeny 5		Vern R	1970 1977			
Panel 54	2004-2005	(deceased)				
Charlie C						
Panel 52	2002-2003	Panel 24	<u> 1974-1975</u>			
Tim C		Gordon B. H (deceased)				
		(deceased)				
Panel 50	2000-2001	Panel 22	1972-1973			
Tom A		Frank P. J	_			
Panel 48	1998-1999	(deceased)				
Susie A		Panel 20	1970-1971			
	4006 :	Clarence B	17/0-17/1			
Panel 46	1996-1997	(deceased)				
Bill P (deceased)			40.00			
(ucceaseu)		Panel 18	<u> 1968-1969</u>			
Panel 44	1994-1995	Dave H (deceased)				
Bruce B		(deceased)				
		Panel 16	1966-1967			
Panel 42	1992-1993	Arno A				
Greg G		(deceased)				
(deceased)		Danal 14	1964-1965			
Panel 40	1990-1991	Panel 14 Donald F	1704-1705			
Bob J	1// 1//1	(deceased)				
		` ′				
		I		l		

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.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly

Created 1982

Page 28

Area 35 Spring Assembly April 2nd and 3rd, 2022 Grand Ely Lodge, Ely, MN

AGENDA	COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS
9:00 a.m. Registration	CPC – Greg C
10:00 a.m. GSR Orientation & Action Chair Committee	District 18 – Scott S
Meetings	District 15 – Lisa M
11:30 a.m. Lunch (On Your Own)	LITERATURE – Pat M
1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes	District 12 – Terry A
Call to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer	District 5 – Jarrin V
Why We Need a Conference	WEBMASTER – Kyle H
Recognize Past Delegates	NORTHERN LIGHT – Heidi B
Recognize GSRs	District 3 – Gene M
Add to Agenda	GROUP RECORDS – Denise R
Approve 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes	District 16 – Dave C
GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I	TREATMENT – Ricco R
Agenda	District 6 – Mike P
Cooperation With the Professional Community	District 7 – Robert N
Corrections	ARCHIVIST – Marc N
Finance	ARCHIVES – Renell P
Grapevine	District 11 – Vicki R
2:30 pm Break	District 14 -
Literature	CORRECTIONS – Arden A
Policy and Admissions	District 9 - Diane R
Public Information	District 8 - Heather L
Report and Charter	PUBLIC INFORMATION - Nels P
Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities	District 2 –
4:50 p.m. BREAK	District 4 – Bumper L
5:00 p.m.	GRAPEVINE – Mike U
GSR Sharing Session	District 1 -
DCM Sharing Session	District 13 – Jim R
Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet	District 21 – Brent T
Closed AA meeting	OLD BUSINESS
6:00 P.M. Dinner (On Your Own)	FOC Report – Jim S / Brent T (June ACM)
7:30 P.M. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II	Tabled Motion – "To move the Archives to the space
Trustees	in Aitkin."
Archives	2022 Budgets
International Conventions/Regional Forums	Past Delegate Service Discussion
	Tabled Motion: "We move on and accept what hap-
SUNDAY	pened at the Fall Assembly and discuss with the groups
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Big Book Meeting	what we want to do, in the future, with past delegates serv-
9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes	ing the area as officers or area chairs."
GSR Sharing Session Report	Area Inventory – Fall Assembly
DCM Sharing Session Report	
OFFICER REPORTS	NEW BUSINESS:
Delegate – Steve L	Area Technology Road Map – Web Master
Alternate Delegate – Justin W	Fall Assembly
Chair – Christine G	
Secretary – Sally L	
Treasurer – Cindy SK	Calendar of Events
ricasurer – emity SK	Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
	Adjourn

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

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

NMAA 3595 County Rd 13 Barnum, Mn 55707