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Area 35

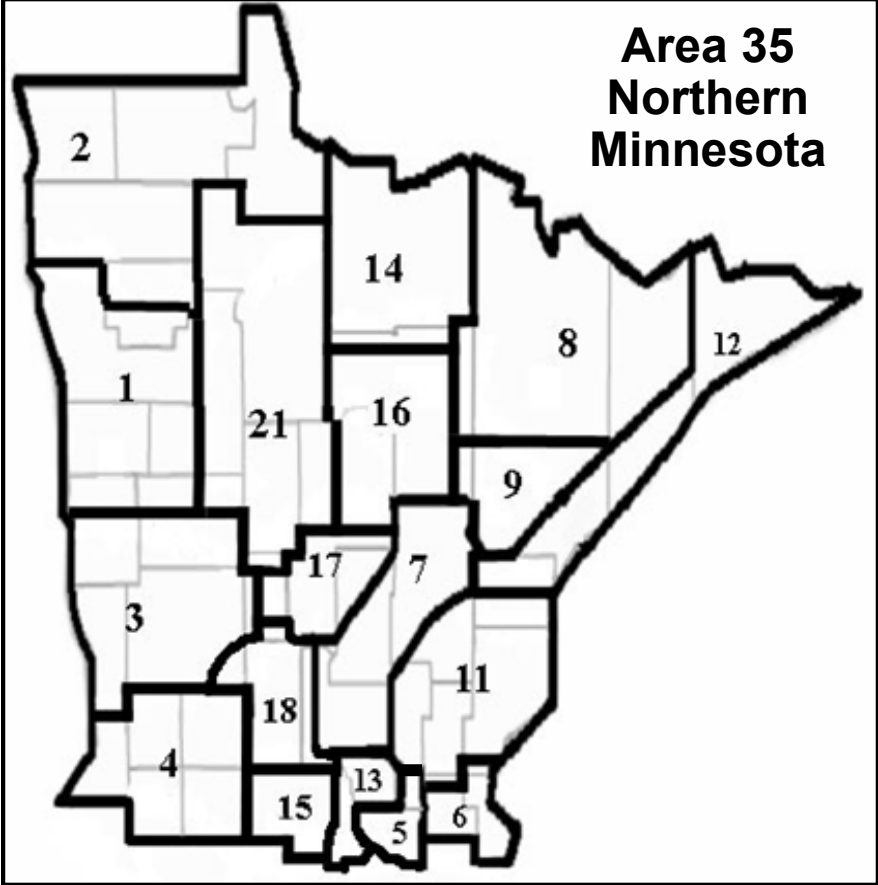
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Attention SNOWBIRDS let us know you are leaving!
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Send articles and comments for publication to
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Volume XLI Issue 6 Nov/Dec 2022		NORTHERN LIGHT Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly		Created 1982 Page 2			
2022-23 AREA 35 COMMITTEE							
<u>AREA OFFICERS</u> <u>DELEGATE</u> Steven L delegate@area35.org <u>ALT DELEGATE</u> Justin W alt_delegate@area35.org <u>AREA CHAIR</u> Christine G areachair@area35.org <u>TREASURER</u> Vicki R treasurer@area35.org <u>SECRETARY</u> Sally L secretary@area35.org <u>AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u> <u>PUBLIC INFORMATION</u> Nels P pi@area35.org <u>ARCHIVES</u> Renell P archives@area35.org <u>ARCHIVIST</u> Marc N archivist@area35.org <u>CORRECTIONS</u> Arden A corrections@area35.org <u>LITERATURE</u> Pat M literature@area35.org <u>GRAPEVINE</u> Mike U grapevine@area35.org <u>(C.P.C.) COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY</u> Greg C cpc@area35.org		<u>TREATMENT</u> Ricco R treatment@area35.org <u>WEBMASTER</u> Kyle H webmaster@area35.org <u>GROUP RECORDS</u> Denise R grouprecords@area35.org <u>NORTHERN LIGHT</u> Heidi B northernlight@area35.org <u>FINANCIAL OVER-SIGHT COMMITTEE</u> Jim S <u>AUDIO ENGINEER</u> Christina H <u>(D.C.M.'s) DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u> <u>DISTRICT 1</u> No information dcm1@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 2</u> No information dcm2@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 3</u> Melvin S dcm3@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 4</u> James W dcm4@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 5</u> Jarrin V dcm5@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 6</u> Julie N dcm6@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 7</u> Robert N dcm7@area35.org		<u>DISTRICT 8</u> Heather L dcm8@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 9</u> Diane R dcm9@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 11</u> dcm11@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 12</u> Terry A dcm12@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 13</u> Jim R dcm13@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 14</u> No information dcm14@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 15</u> Lisa M dcm15@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 16</u> Dave C dcm16@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 17</u> No information dcm17@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 18</u> Scott S dcm18@area35.org <u>DISTRICT 21</u> Jennifer T dcm21@area35.org			
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The Northern Light is a confidential document. It contains members’ full names and addresses. This usage does not in any way violate our Tradition of anonymity to the public communications media. The articles and opinions expressed herein are strictly the personal opinions of those expressing them.							



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, Osakis, 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, 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)

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

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

Area 35 Fall Assembly Minutes
Crookston, MN
October 1-2, 2022

Call to Order: Area Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2022, and opened with the Serenity Prayer. There were 105 people in attendance, 97 in person, 8 on Zoom.

Recognition of Past Delegates in Attendance: Area 35 – Bob J, Panel 40; Charlie C, Panel 54; Jim K, Panel 62; Jake J, Panel 64; Jim S, Panel 70; Guest Ted S, Panel 63 South Dakota, West Central Regional Trustee 2000 – 2004

Additions to Agenda: Northern Light Information Suggestions

Approval of April 2022 Spring Assembly Minutes: Heidi B. motioned to approve the minutes, Jim R. seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS
DELEGATE - STEVE L

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, It’s great to see everyone again. I have enjoyed the travel to all of the Districts in Area 35 that wanted to hear my report on the GSC. WOW, you guys were great. Great questions, great comments and most of all the great hospitality and warmth you showed me. Thank You. If anyone missed my GSC report, I’ll be giving it after we adjourn tonight for anyone who wants to hear it. The GSC final reports are out in PDF format. I emailed the Final Report to all the DCMs and hopefully they have passed them on to you. If you need a copy, let me know and I will send one. I was hoping the printed version would be here by the time of the Assembly.

I passed on to the conference coordinator the four proposed agenda items the Area voted to submit. I also submitted two other agenda proposals. One was to shuffle the pages of the Daily Reflections Book. Not to change any topics or words just shuffle the pages. The other proposed agenda item was from me. During a joint zoom meeting with the Conference Literature (CLC) and Trustees Literature Committees (TLC) which was held after the ACM in August, the subject of using QR codes was brought up. It seems that the TLC had discussed the potential of using QR codes for an alternative communication for pamphlet information, the same as we on the CLC had discussed. However, the Trustees felt they couldn’t proceed looking into alternative formats using QR codes without the fellowship asking about other formats to make pamphlet information available. So, I sent a proposed agenda item in.

There were approximately 150 proposed agenda items submitted this year for the 73rd conference. Over 25% of these have to do with overturning 3 advisory actions from the 71st GSC:
Changes in the 12x12
Changes to the Preamble
The translation of the BB into plain and simple language.
It will be interesting to see what makes it to the GSC after the Trustees sort through them.

The Trustees PI Committee (TPIC) must have made the suggested changes to the AA Membership Survey that was discussed during my GSC reports. The Conference PI Committee (CPIC) has sent to me a list of randomly picked groups to partake in the survey. Our Area was assigned eight groups to take the survey. Out of the first eight groups, I was only able to get in touch with two of the groups. The other six groups’ contact information was inaccurate, discontinued numbers and such. In the second batch of eight groups, I was able to confirm and get a thumbs up on seven groups wanting to participate in the survey. Six groups are doing it by paper, and one has done it online. I have received the paper surveys and during the assembly I will be getting hold of the DCMs to enlist their help in distributing the surveys. This is a great example on why it is important to keep our Group Record’s Secretary up to date on your group’s information and be linked to AA as a whole. The survey is not giving a census however, it is used to get a snapshot of an AA across the board. They do use the survey to analyze for trends, but since the last survey was done in 2014 and coming off the pandemic, many groups are unreachable/unresponsive so, we are getting a new baseline to see how well we are reaching alcoholics.

Some changes have been made at GSO. Marlen G is our new controller for the GV, as I explained in my GSC report, she started Monday 9/26/22. She had been our vendor from Your Part Time Controller; the accounting firm we had been using to handle the books for the Grapevine. We are saving about \$120,000 a year bringing her on full time. Karina C has moved over to AAWS from the GV’s La Vina assignment. She is now at the Group Services Desk. She is also our regional correspondent. If you call in from the West Central Region, you will get connected to Karina. La Vina is going to miss her.

Both of the Companies - Grapevine and AAWS are having some issues on the financial side. AAWS (our publishing Company) is affected a bit more due to the volume of material they sell. The more they sell, the lower the profit margin is. The Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) has tripled this year and has caused a lot of pain across the budgeting process. COGS defines our publication expenses. GV expenses are \$159,000 over what we had budgeted. There is going to be a price increase of the top ten Grapevine books starting the first quarter of 2023. Hint, buy now! On the AAWS side, we budgeted a \$1.2 million dollar loss. At the July Board weekend, the loss looked like it would double. AAWS went to work, got their razors out and

started cutting away at things and got back to the \$1.2 million deficit. Keep in mind we had a surplus last year of a little over a million. That surplus should wipe out the deficit this year and balance it out. We are seeing spikes in shipping charges as well which add to the costs. Group contributions are on pace to hit \$11 million again. Initially, we had budgeted \$10 million. Those extra group contributions are offsetting the loss because of the increase in the COGS.

The WCRAASC’s flier is on the table, and it will be posted on our website. The WCR is supposed to have a reserve of \$9,000 for seed money for the next WCRAASC. Right now, we are \$3,000 short of that amount. A big chunk of the shortfall was because Area 36, our neighbor to the south, spent \$2,000 on unnecessary sign language interpreters, along with the extra expense of making it a hybrid meeting. We WCR Delegates have to arrive at a registration fee for 2023, the \$20 might not cut it, the fee might be increased. We have formed an ad hoc committee to go through the West Central Region A.A. Service Conference Host Planning Guide to better help Areas with hosting the WCRAASC. You can be very proud of the Service people we have; they have their shit together.

So far, the panel 73 Delegates and alts from the WCR are:
Area 52 North Dakota
Panel 73 Delegate Rachel M
Alt Delegate Jess W
Area 40 Montana
Panel 73 Delegate Kacie N
Alt Delegate Lisa Carey D
Area 24 elections are October 8 in Spenser, Iowa
Area 36 elections are October 23

Thank you, Steven L

ALT DELEGATE - JUSTIN W

Greetings Area 35. We need to get some volunteers for District Presentations at the 2023 Annual Service Workshop. Historically we have half of the districts present 1 year, and the other half the next year. This coming workshop districts 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 14 – 18 and 21 have an opportunity to present. Please contact me if your district can put together a presentation for the workshop in January.

We’ll use the presentation topics from the conference, but only 3 were put forward at the conference, so we’ll come up with some related presentation topics for the workshop for the other districts to present on.

I did receive the final conference from Steve at the Assembly and will be informed on it.

CHAIR - CHRISTINE G

Greetings Area 35, I have been busy working on making sure everything is in order for the Fall Assembly. I have been making contribution deposits as they come in and forward the information onto our Alternate Delegate so he can make the recordings in QuickBooks. Justin and I did visit the bank and added him as a signer so there was not only one signer on the account. We always need to make sure we have two signers in case something happens to one, there is always another on the account to ensure access of area funds. I overlooked this when I took off Cindy. My apologies for having a period of time without two signers on the account.

I was in communication and working with Area 36 Chair for the Joint Meeting that we had on September 18th via Zoom. There were about 20 people total in attendance and the general consensus was they would like to see us get together and meet. We will be having some conversation on this under business. Even though we did not have our joint committee breakout sessions, I would encourage you to reach out to your Area 36 counterpart if you have not done so already. They will be rotating in January, and it will give you an opportunity to meet the new chair and share some of your experience with them.

I have been working with Area 35 Correction Chair and have signed the contract for coffee being served at the Statewide Corrections Workshop that will be held in St. Cloud on October 8th.

Webmaster, Audio Tech and I have been talking and had a meeting on Zoom for the Fall Assembly. I feel we have a decent system down and hopefully it be a good experience for all. We did the best we could do with the small amount of time we had to plan. Please be patient and understanding as we navigate our first hybrid event for this rotation. We will be moving slower during motions to ensure we get it typed correctly and posted for Zoomers to vote.

On Saturday, September 24, I closed the Area Inventory and sent the results to Ted S. for his review. We had 26 responses on the online survey. We will have a sharing session Sunday morning on ideas on how to conduct the review. I would like to hear from the assembly on some ideas for how to go about it.

I will start working on facilities for 2024 and 2025 assemblies. 2024 Spring Assy is Zone I, which is the Zone we are in this weekend and encompasses (Districts 1, 2, 16, 21) 2024 Fall Assy is Zone II (3, 4, 15). I am inclined to look at venues that we have used in the past, that are affordable and that I know meet our needs. It is challenging going to facilities that we have never been to and making sure the space works and that we have enough breakout

rooms. There is a good amount of time spent visiting sites before signing contract and again prior to the event. It seems that when we return to a place, we are creating a relationship and they understand our needs and are willing to accommodate us.

We have a lot of business to take care of this weekend and I ask that everyone is mindful of time at the mic and that if you are still talking when the buzzer goes off, you are considerate and wrap up your comment before you are respectfully reminded your time is up. If I have to do this, please remember that I am not doing it out of disrespect to you, I am doing it because I have been asked to run a smooth and efficient assembly. With that said, I want to thank all of you in advance for being considerate of everyone's time and for also being kind and respectful to all members. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Area 35 Chair.

In Unity and Service, Christine G.

SECRETARY - SALLY L

Greetings, Area 35. Since the August ACM, I attended the Zonal Forum in Perham on August 13th. I did a presentation on Group Records, available literature, Grapevine, Northern Light, and websites. I got the minutes out for the ACM, and I proof-read some things. I attended the Joint A35/A36 Zoom meeting on Sept. 18th. I also attended the Districts 8, 9, and 16 Tri-District Workshop on Sept. 24th in Hibbing, which was informative and had some sharing on what keeps newcomers coming back, which was good to see. This morning I presented the same information at the GSR Orientation that I did at the Zonal Forum in Perham. The GSRs were listening and had some good questions.

In service, Sally L.

TREASURER - JUSTIN W (temporary)

Greetings Area 35. I continue to assist in handling the treasurer responsibilities until we can get a new treasurer. Specifically, I make all of the entries into the bookkeeping system and keep the bank accounts reconciled with the accounting system. Area Chair receives all of the contributions and makes the deposits. We have seen a bit of an increase in contributions received without a group number. One of the things we need to remain focused on the making sure that each contribution has the group service number written directly on the check so that we can credit the contribution properly in the system. Each group should be using the Area Income, Expense and Contribution report to verify that their contributions are being accounted for properly.

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC – GREG C

Since our last gathering in Aug, I have been working with a couple of Districts who are without a CPC chair to reach out to various Professional groups. One of these was in District 4, where I was asked to meet with their HR Director and the company Chaplin. We discussed a variety of topics relating to Alcoholism, the AA program and how we might provide assistance as they move forward with employee out-reach programs. One is to meet again, this time including ownership and management to share a broader over-view of the AA program, what it is/what it isn't...and also, they provide a monthly informational program for all employees on things like Health, finance, insurance, etc. We might be able to do one of these on an annual basis.

One of the topics discussed in our initial meeting included the MN Statutes for drug and alcohol testing policy. Subd. 10.Limitations on employee discharge, discipline, or discrimination. It makes for some interesting reading. It is an area that we need to be very aware of as it begins to involve more individuals within any company and an initial intervention to provide help can result in eventual termination...something we certainly don't want to be involved with. As I move through this business-based out-reach, I will keep Area informed as to the process and progress. As always, if any District is looking for assistance or guidance in reaching out or working with the Professional community, I'm always ready to lend a hand.

Yours in service, Greg C.

DISTRICT 18 – SCOTT S

No report.

DISTRICT 15 – LISA M

Hello everybody. My name is Lucy and I am an alcoholic, alternate DCM for District 15. In July we had a booth at the Stearns County fair where it shared with Al-Anon. I was one of the people who attended the Zonal Forum with Districts 3 and 4. A new women's meeting started in New Munich. As a District meet first Monday of the month at Albany. One of my concerns is there aren't very many GSR that come to our meeting. We do not have treatment person. Thank you for this opportunity. Have a great day.

LITERATURE – PAT M

Hello Area 35 I'm Pat M and I'm your area 35 literature chair. There were eight in attendance at our committee meeting, we talked about a couple pamphlets: Inside - Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies. In this pamphlet there are 12 different agencies for an example: The general service conference, how you take part in world service, your group is the basic unit.

The second pamphlet that we took a look at was Questions and Answers on Sponsorship - here are some of the questions: Is it ever too late to get a sponsor, what does a sponsor do and not do, how does a sponsor deal with slips?

I put together a sample package of books. In the sample package are all of

the books except the main books like the Big Book, The 12 and 12, Daily Reflections. This package is to be used as a sample package this way you would have a visual book for them to look at and maybe they'd be interested in ordering some of these books. I will be contacting more than DCM's to see if I can come and give a presentation on literature yours in service. Pat

DISTRICT 12 – TERRY A

Greetings from District 12

*Our District 12 website is now up and running. www.twinportsaa.org

It features Daily Quote, Events, Meeting Directory, etc.

*We are hosting a booth at the Health and Human Services Conference October 12-14, 2022, At the DECC.

*Veterans Outreach and CPC have received literature to be distributed to the VA Medical Center and Military Centers.

*New Budget policy is being implemented. District 12 members are now being made aware of the spending and costs of sending at Area Events, cost of materials and literature, allowances for Committees to be able to make decisions on spending and how much they have to work with.

Yours in Service, Terry A

DISTRICT 5 – JARRIN V

Hello everyone, this is Jarrin district 5 DCM our district meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton Minnesota at 7:00 p.m. The last few meetings attendance has been down as far as GSR's that have been showing up. Most all of the chairs do attend the district meeting on a regular basis. Our treatment chair, PI chair. and corrections chair have been doing a great job this summer getting us into the jails and corrections facilities, making sure that we have meetings going into the treatment centers and also bringing a meeting to the Sherburne County probation services. Thanks to them for all their hard work. We have recently sat down and gone through a district inventory that went quite well, no fights broke out and there's no finger pointing we still need to get together to have more discussions on actions that can be taken or maybe needed to improve the district .The district web page district 5 online has been helpful and getting out information for upcoming events that are being held by different meetings in the area of district 5. We also have one new meeting that has started that one is on a Sunday night in Big Lake Minnesota. just waiting a little bit longer to add them to our meeting list. I assume they will get there meeting number in the next couple of weeks and then we can add them to our new meeting cards that are going to be printed coming up in the next month or so. Looking forward to the winter workshop. and other than that, things have been quiet and running smoothly in district 5.

Yours and service, Jarrin

WEBMASTER – KYLE H

Hi Area35 - My time since the last ACM meeting has been spent predominantly on planning/preparing for the Area Assembly, supporting a few hybrid workshops, and performing updates to the website. Thank you for the opportunity to serve! Kyle H

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B

Hello Area 35, This morning we had 6 in attendance for our committee meeting. We discussed our primary purpose, submission standards, new printing deadlines, personal addresses in the NL and what information should be offered in the Northern Light. What items do you (the body) find most helpful: financials, events, committee reports, agenda items, delegate GSC reports, articles, member sharing, etc. We will be discussing this tomorrow in New Business. We are limited to 28 pages, so certain items are sometimes removed to make room for the current happenings in the Area. We want to know what you feel is most important to share in the newsletter. We are discussing an ad-hoc committee with a possible online survey to hear your thoughts on this.

The 4th edition of the Northern Light arrived a few days ago. Our printer has made some changes, which has increased our production time. I am working on due dates for 2023 and am adding one month for printing and mailing, as I would like them to arrive a week before each meeting/Assembly. This means that flyers for events will be needed earlier than previous years. Please plan accordingly and send them to me as early as available.

I attended the Area 35/36 joint workshop via Zoom. I appreciate the effort that was made by all who attended. Please continue to share your stories of experience, strength and hope with me for publication in the Northern Light at northernlight@area35.org. All submissions are sent to the Northern Light committee for approval. Please keep in mind that our primary purpose is to help the still suffering alcoholic and submissions should reflect that. DCM's, please remember to pick up your Northern Lights from me after you give your report.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Heidi

DISTRICT 3 – MELVIN S

It is with sadness that I report that our Dist 3 treasurer Gene G has passed away . He was an excellent example of service to our district. He will be missed. I have been filling in with the treasury until we find a replacement. The alt. DCM Melisia and I are working on updating meeting information, checking our meeting lists and meeting app. for corrections. Our help line has received calls about no one opening meetings, they used the meeting app. Melissia has started to check on local printing costs and has been working on a round robin schedule. I feel that the getting back to round robin meetings are very welcomed by the fellowship after the covid lockdown thing. New York Mills and Perham have hosted the last two and were very well attended. The Detroit Lakes Friday noon group and Monday Eye Openers will host October 29 at 1st Lutheran church . Bill D. has taken over on corrections and is contacting Wadena, Ottertail, Becker and Clay counties about how we can

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help with carrying the message. Fargo Moorhead has been assisting Clay County also. Bill also has been answering the helpline. Calls usually concern meetings. He also educates callers using the meeting app.

Patti D is our treatment chair contacting Lakes Counseling coordinating speakers and meetings with the help of Becky A. Patti also had contact with a GSR from Wadena area wanting to take meetings into Bell Hill treatment center. Becky A. has taken on the literature position and is doing inventory. Pete S is our webmaster and is updating website. He is checking on costs which will be going up in 2023. The district agreed to reimbursed previous webmaster Roger on all of his out-of-pocket expenses for maintaining the website. Thanks, Stephanie, for keeping up with meeting mins. Thanks to Gene M and Budd M for all of their help with the transition The Zonal forum on August 13th was a very good motivator for our district. Thank you to the Area committee members who came out and we are looking forward to Mike U coming out to the district meeting to present the changes in the Grapevine. Meetings in the district have been well attended on average, waiting to see if the snowbirds leaving will have an impact. Positions still open Treasury and CPC/PI

Yours in Service, Melvin

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R

Greetings Area 35, It has been a rather busy month with Group Records- I have been doing my usual group records updates that are given to me . I worked with several groups that were inactivated during the Covid confusion that are now requesting to have their meetings listed again not aware that they have been inactivated. So there is still some confusion on meeting status’. It would help if everyone would just take a few minutes to go on Meeting Guide App or aaminnesota.org meeting locator and see if their home group is listed properly. If not, let your GSR or DCM know, and we can get it updated so we have accurate meeting listings for the newcomer that is just trying to find a meeting.

I continue to work on providing DCMs with information of their District’s Groups, meeting listings, and Group Contacts so they can verify meetings status of their groups. All DCM’s will be receiving this information. I am working on these by order of District number. If there is a DCM that would like theirs sooner than later, please let me know and I will make the adjustment.

I attended the Area35/36 virtual workshop on September 18th. It was good to see and hear from Area 36 servants to see what they are doing and have some discussions on how we can work together.

I also virtually attended the Tri District Workshop on September 24th- Dave did a fine job of leading and I heard many wonderful speakers on how to attract newcomers to our Home Groups and Service Work. Along with information on Bridging the Gap and having those contacts for people coming out of Treatment Centers. Wrapping it up with Mike J. sharing his experience and love of service. I would love to have been there in person, however I was extremely grateful to be there virtually.

I am looking forward to attending the Corrections Workshop next week to learn more of what is happening with Corrections and listening to our Class A Trustee, Judge Kerry Meyer.

Another reminder that if you have moved or if you are a snowbird and have a change of address, please let me know so I can update the mailing list for the Northern Light. I had quite a few that were returned as undeliverable, temporarily away or change of address again. If you would like to receive the Northern Light and haven’t yet, please give me your address and I will add you to the list.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Denise

DISTRICT 16 – DAVE C

Hi, I'm Dave and I'm an Alcoholic and serving as DCM for District 16. 16 is on the far western edge of the Iron range just to let you know where we are located. This summer sure went fast as 16 has been busy with a few projects the Try District workshop which went well. A Big thanks to all who participated, especially the new members that told what keep then around. very good jobs and I learned a few new things to share with District and groups. Plus, I have seen some new blood I hope to see in service work in the future.

District 16 is working on a Big Book weekend on October 21. 22, and 23 Presented by Dennis B. from Farmington Mn. and Roger B from Minneapolis Mn. Please note that the venue has changed from Kesler House to Blackberry town hall. Also Tuesday Night Solutions will have their annual open meeting On Saturday November 12 starting with a potluck. Flyers for both events are on the back table and on our web site at district16online.org. Hope to see you at these events.

Yours in service, Dave C

TREATMENT – RICCO R

We had 6 committee members present. Peggy M. District 13, Treatment Chair, Patti D. District 3, Treatment Chair, Sally T. District 8, Treatment Chair, Jeff T. District 16, Alternate DCM, Diane R. District 9, DCM, and Ricco R. Area 35, Treatment Chair. Dani L. District 13 sent an E-mail to the committee saying she was unable to attend the meeting but the progress on her project to make a data spreadsheet for our Area 35 Bridging the gap – Temporary Contact Program for Treatment Centers is going well, and she will have it done in a week or so and she will send it to the committee for review. Among a few other conversations the committee spent the rest of our time talking about our experience with speaking at different types of treat-

ment centers and in some cases bringing in A.A. members to have a regular A.A. meeting in the Treatment facility with the clients. It was a very informative and lively meeting and I thank all who attended. Our next meeting will be held on Oct 1st at the Fall Assembly in Crookston. See you there.

We also had our Tri District 8,16, and 9 workshop on September 24th, 2022. Members of the Area 35 Treatment Committee gave a presentation on Bridging the Gap and the Temporary Contact Program. Sally T. District 8 Treatment Chair gave the presentation on Bridging the Gap. Jeff J. District 9 Treatment Chair gave the presentation on the Temporary Contact Program. They both did a wonderful job of presenting their topics and after each one was done; we had a question- and answer session for each topic. There were many questions asked and comments given about both topics because we had a good attendance and a lively group.

Oct 1, Area 35 Treatment Committee Meeting in Crookston. We had eight committee members present. Robin J. District 13 Secretary, Peggy M. District 13 Treatment Chair, Nate C. District 6 Treatment Chair, Julie N. District 6 DCM, Jeff J. District 9 Treatment Chair, Bob N. District 7 DCM, Sally T. District 8 Treatment Chair, Ricco R. Area 35 Treatment Chair. -We worked on details of building a spreadsheet for our temporary contacts in each district. -An Excel Spreadsheet Template made by Dani is completed with a few minor changes needed. -An Area 35 wide Temporary Contact Form is being revised to gather volunteers to help with the “Bridging the Gap” Program. -An Area 35 wide Treatment Center Client form is being revised to hand out to treatment centers in Northern Minnesota. -All these tasks will allow for a smooth transition with service rotation continually. -At our Dec. 4th Area 35 Treatment Committee meeting we will review the pamphlet and have it printed for treatment center distribution. -All participating districts will have their temporary contact volunteers ready to go with pertinent contact info.

Thanks to Robin who took notes during our meeting. The above information was possible for me to just copy and call it a report. I am unable to listen what is being said and write such precise notes like Robin can. Thanks again Robin.

The whole committee meeting was buzzing with ideas and discussing things to make the tremendous progress we made. And for that I thank everybody that was there for making the meeting a success.

I was invited to man a booth at the March conference and Expo in St Paul Mn. It is one of three days it will be going on. Carla N. the Chair of Area 36 asked if I would do it and I accepted. It is an Expo that will have over a thousand of people attending it involved in addiction, Alcoholism Treatment and other related items. It is one of many ways Area 36 would like to do service with Area 35 to build on Unity with us.

In Unity and Service, Ricco

DISTRICT 6 – JULIE N

Hello friends! Julie from district 6 reporting in. We have had an amazing few months here in district 6. Spreading the LOVE. We have been traveling around our district to places high and low; near and far to different meetings and throwing a tailgate party prior to the meeting, supplying grill meat, chips, and a side dish. Our largest attendance was 48 people showing up at a meeting that normally only has 8 regulars. Our point of doing this was to show that we can have fun in sobriety, meeting new or old-timers, seeing what we can do for their groups and hoping we can find new GSR who has-n’t been coming to our district meetings. The newcomer has definitely grown in our area with sobriety. We have added 3 new meetings to our district. Our District has also grown in the last few years - in 2019 there were three people coming into the monthly District meeting. We now have in attendance, give or take, 15-19 GSR’s and committee chairs showing up monthly. We are hoping to grow even more.

For our committees, we have been focusing on each of them, trying to make them more successful. In treatment, we have one group that is participating and going into a treatment center and putting on a meeting. We look forward to doing more in the near future. Stay tuned!!

For our corrections committee, we had a list going around at the beginning of the year to sign up to go into the county jails in Chicago and Isanti county. I've heard it feels great to be back in the jails. A bit of time will be spent on reaching out to the communities we serve and letting people know that there are AA meetings available in their area. We have put an ad in the local newspapers of our business card with QR code that will direct you to our web page. We also signed up for a billboard in the month of December in Cambridge. We're just looking for the right slogan for that billboard ... don’t worry, we made a committee to figure that out, too!

And finally, literature. I'd like to thank Pat for coming out and sharing all his literature. At that time, we decided to have an assortment of books on hand so we can encourage more purchases and sharing them with other groups at our tailgate parties.

In closing, I want to let everyone here know to come join us for the tailgate during breakfast, lunch and dinner here at the Fall Assembly! We provide the food, you just show up and eat with us! Let me hear ya say whoop whoop for sobriety. WE SEE NO EVIL, WE SPEAK NO EVIL, WE HEAR NO EVIL.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your DCM for district 6. Julie N

DISTRICT 7 – ROBERT N

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

HaYea.. was up doc “I’m huntin wabits”
Hi, I am Marc, an alcoholic, and your archivist. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. Yes, part of my role is chasing down a rabbit hole. When someone asks of me to find some information from AA history, Area history, District history, or Group history I will do my best to chase down that item of interest. A few weeks ago, I was asked about the origin dates of Areas 35 and 36. While researching that topic I found lots of other interesting items. Besides now knowing that Area 35 Panel 2 was at the origin of GSC, I found that the first group in NMAA was in Duluth, 1941. There is a bit of missing information, GSO Archive says December 1941, but there is correspondence between AAs in Duluth and Superior prior to December 1941. Please hesitate to ask for NMAA information... oh wascally wabbit. Please don’t hesitate I will likely be as amazed as you at what is discovered. Please have a look at the archive exhibit, see the items my predecessors have collected in years past.

The events of the last few years have given us pause and opportunity to evaluate how our AA Area 35 Archives help the Individual AAs, Groups, and GSRs carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic. My thoughts are to go a different direction with our archives. I would like to make the archives into a resource for the AAs who sponsor newcomers, to make available the stories from our past in a way to attract and facilitate sobriety. The Archives Committee has good guidance from GSO, the national archives, and others. But we need to know from the people we serve what it is they desire. I would like feedback from individuals, groups, and GSRs regarding what they think archives are and what they should be.

Thanks for this opportunity, Marc

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

The Archives committee met this morning. 4 members were in attendance. Vicki R. Dist. 11 DCM, John M. Dist. 8 Archivist, Marc N. Area 35 Archivist, and myself Area 35 Archives Chair. We discussed changes that Vicki has applied to our new Policies and Procedures, which is a work in progress. She plans to update new changes, this month and have it ready for us to view and approve by Nov. 1st. John shared that as the Archivist for his district, he has been doing interviews of local “Longtimers”. He then writes up a short summary and shares one story at each district meeting. He has laminated the stories to preserve them for the district and area’s Archives. I encourage all of you, in your district and in your individual meetings to find and interview your “Longtimers”. This is an important step in keeping and preserving your history. Marc continues to investigate proper and efficient ways to scan and digitize documents. Members of the committee will be having another workday, at the Archives storage location, on Sunday November 6th. We will start 10:00 am and work in the afternoon. Our new location is at: 9 3rd Street NE, Aitken, MN. Another opportunity to visit us will be on Sunday December 4th after the ACM. Thank you for all your support.

We are still needing your story! Share a story that tells us what changes your group went through during COVID.

Yours in service, Renell P

DISTRICT 11 – VICKI R

We have 5-7 regular attendees. Marvel accepted serving as Alt DCM- thank you. Two registered zoom meetings so we are looking forward to next steps integrating them into the Dist. Several meetings are still struggling to get to prior covid attendance and so are contributions - contributions are short of pre-Covid amounts as well. We are planning to put on a Dist breakfast in Nov at a Sat morning group and will discuss starting some tailgating.

DISTRICT 14 -

CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A

We met this morning with 11 in attendance and we had a very good discussion about the different jails and prisons that we a covering both Zoom and in person, and which ones are open and closed. I also attended a workshop in Hibbing. It was great with information on Bridging the Gap and a lot of sharing. I have also been attending a Zoom planning committee jointly with Area 36 and I think we have finally got it. There are fliers in the hall. The fliers include the Zoom information.

Yours in service, Arden A

DISTRICT 9 – DIANE R

My Name is Diane, and I am alcoholic. We had two district meetings since the Area 35 committee meeting. I was sick with COVID for the August District 9 meeting and the Alternate-DCM, Chuck R, filled in. So nice to have an active alternate DCM. He has also been attending day meetings. He encourages them to get a GSR to attend district meetings and explains what the district does.

Our Literature Chair, Sandy, has been taking orders for Literature and getting that literature from the Area 35 Literature Chair. Groups and the CPC/PI Committee are grateful to receive their orders. Thank you, Pat. Our Treatment Chair, Jeff J, has been setting up a Temporary Contact list for the Treatment Centers in our district. Jeff and Tom T visited two treatment facilities in Hibbing. They left them some literature.

Our CPC/PI Chair, Tom T, as noted above visited two Treatment Facilities in Hibbing. He asked them if it would be helpful to them for us to have a website. They would use it for literature and AA Information. They gave him information about two other facilities looking for AA Information and

he will follow up with both. The CPC/PI committee checked with local libraries to see what AA books they currently have.

Our district will have a discussion if District 9 is now ready for a website. There was discussion that district chairs need tools to help carry the message and a website would be a tool they could use.

At our last District 9 meeting, Mike U, Area Grapevine Chair, came to our meeting. He did an excellent job explaining the Grapevine. He did not wear his grape suit. Thank you, Mike, for coming to our meeting and sharing. The Tri-District Fall Workshop was held on September 24 with districts 8, 9, and 16. The turnout filled the Hibbing Alano Club. There were wonderful presentations about Bridging the Gap and the Temporary Contact Program. We had a topic about how to attract newcomers to our home groups and service. We had seven presenters, mostly newcomers, who talked about their experience with home groups and service. They did all kinds of service work from greeting, chairing, helping newcomers, taking meetings into jails, a member of round-up committee, and being active in the district. They all gave heart-felt talks. AA is alive and well. Our open meeting speaker, Mike J., put it all together with talk on service. Thank you to all the Area officers and Committee Chairs that came to support our workshop. We appreciated your support. I am looking forward to the next one with District 8, 9 and 16.

In Service Diane DCM District 9

DISTRICT 8 – HEATHER L

Greetings from District 8! Our district meeting rotates among host home groups. This month’s meeting was hosted by the Gilbert Tuesday Night group on Oct. 3 at St. Joseph’s Catholic church in Gilbert. Several members attended the Keep It Simple weekend with multiple speakers at Camp Chicagami on August 12-14, which was well-attended and successful. Along with districts 9 & 16, we held a Tri-District Service Workshop Sept. 24 at the Hibbing Alano Club. The theme was AA service and attracting newcomers. The workshop concluded with open speaker Jake J. and an ice cream social. It was well attended and fun! Our district’s corrections chair remains empty. The Ladies by the Lake group in Virginia closed; three meetings started sending GSRs to the district.

In Service, Craig T

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings Area 35, we had 7 in attendance at the PI/CPC meeting. District 4 is working with businesses, meeting with human resources with different companies trying to get in. They are utilizing their webpage and it’s working very well.

District 13 PI committee is contacting groups utilizing their webpage and the past month has had 5,355 hits. They are working with hotels/motels, have conducted a workshop on service as well as starting a beginner’s meeting. District 6 started their webpage one year ago. They are currently using the hotline, they made a district pamphlet, have been tailgating at meetings and spreading the word about service. They also have created a QR code for their webpage and put that on cards.

District 9 have made stickers for their pamphlets with their district hotline phone number on it. Trying to get into treatment centers and are working on possible getting a web page. They have a new phone number and are working with the VA clinic.

District 2 has a new person that joined us today. He is new and is getting his feet wet in PI work. District 15 has no PI Chair, but they did display pamphlets at the Stearns Cty Fair.

As for me, I will be attending the St Louis Cty Health Fair between the dates of 10/12 – 10/15 and accompanying District 12. AA.org is looking for submissions for a young people’s video of what we might say to the younger alcoholic to get them interested in AA. Submissions for the video are due by 11/7. Go to aa.org and you’ll see info on how to make the video.

Yours in Service, Nels

DISTRICT 2 –

DISTRICT 4 – BUMPER L

No Report.

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings, everyone. I’m Mike U and I’m an alcoholic and your Area 35 Grapevine Chair. There were 8 in attendance at the Literature/Grapevine session. I talked about the increase in the price of books for Grapevine that will take effect Jan. 1st, 2023. The Grapevine is self-supporting through the sale of its literature. They do not take outside contributions and that the increase is to offset the cost of the paper. I also asked as Grapevine chair what can I do to help your district or group with Grapevine. And we talked about giving a subscription for the person at our meeting who was getting a medallion a one-year subscription of the Grapevine- good idea! Thank you all for attending and thank you for letting me serve. Mike U

DISTRICT 1 -

DISTRICT 13 - JIM R

District 13 will be hosting a Basics & Intro to Service Work workshop & potluck Saturday Oct 29th from noon-3 at the St Cloud Alano Club. (flyers available) The St Cloud roundup this year is at the Riveredge Edge convention center Oct 21 & 22. Corrections in district 13 have the Benton County jail in person zoom, Stearns County jail is in the process of in person meetings, & the St Cloud prison has reinstated covid protocol and is not doing

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meetings. Our PI committee is working on verifying groups in district 13 to make updated meeting cards (a shout out to Chad for all he is doing with PI). Our treatment committee is working on getting connected with several centers to bring information & meetings into. (a shout out to Peggy for all she is doing with treatment). I have visited several different groups the past few months in hopes of generating interest in service work. I will continue to visit more groups in the coming months.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Jim R

DISTRICT 21 – JENNIFER T

Greetings. My name is Jennifer T, District 21 DCM, replacing Brent T. who recently stepped down but has graciously offered any assistance in the transition.

Our district meeting is at the Bemidji Alano club at 7pm in Gratitude Hall on the second Monday of the month. Attendance averages 6-8. Updated meeting schedules are available at registration. We have a monthly pot-luck speaker meeting on the last Saturday of the month.

I have not attended other district meetings but hope to start. I was able to attend the Heartland Roundup September 9th-11th near Park Rapids which had more than 300 in attendance with 4 AA speakers, 1 Al-Anon speaker. I am looking forward to the January service workshop in Duluth.

We have Open Corrections and PI positions. I am ready to learn how to utilize the area resources for our district.

AREA INVENTORY

At 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Area Chair got the inventory session started. She explained that we would be recording all the comments exactly, only as they relate directly to the inventory questions, since the written responses were printed exactly as written on the online survey. There will be a sharing session on Sunday to discuss how we will proceed. There are eleven questions in the Inventory. Nine minutes will be allowed per question, and two minutes will be allowed at the mic for each person sharing. Responses will alternate between those at the Assembly in person and those on Zoom.

Ted S. began the Area Inventory.

Is the Area communicating and sharing information, in an effective and timely manner, with the Groups and Districts to prepare them for Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings?

The calendar of events wasn't working properly, but it is now fixed. Now you should be able to go on and see the attachments.

What keeps groups from sending GSRs to Area Assembly? Is adequate opportunity given to all to speak and participate in Area Assemblies, workshops, and activities?

- Two groups in District 13 couldn't afford to send GSRs to the Assembly. Zoom is the solution.
- District has prudent reserve. Districts should help financially struggling groups out if funding is available. It is a District responsibility.
- People need to put more money into the hat. Discuss the 7th Tradition responsibility at your group.
- Groups don't understand the responsibilities of a GSR. Sometimes GSRs go to Assemblies and the groups don't want to hear about when they get back. They aren't interested in AA beyond the group. How do you get them interested?
- Talk about the 7th Tradition. One dollar is not enough. It is an individual responsibility. Explain how costs are going up. The price of a drink or a beer is higher than it used to be. One dollar won't even pay for the group's coffee. Keep talking about putting more money in the basket.
- One member said his group is active. He volunteered to be the GSR. GSR is the most important position because it is the connection to the District, the Area, and to GSO. He will be grooming the next GSR to take over. It is important to teach new GSRs how important the position is. Need new people so we can develop leadership. People will move on to new positions, so we need people coming up to fill positions.
- Need to develop leadership.
- Need strong sponsorship, strong service, need to be "voluntold", need healthy groups that follow the Steps and Traditions. Many groups are not structured and are not healthy. How do we fix that?
- One person became a GSR, the group had no money and didn't understand what a GSR does, didn't know what District meetings are. Group didn't have money, so he paid his own way. Didn't understand the 7th Tradition and that \$1 is not enough. Now he knows that the GSR is the most important position. GSR is the backbone of AA. Two words that come to mind are gratitude and sponsorship.
- The legacy of Recovery comes before the Legacy of Service. Communication to the group is necessary, and more money is needed in the basket. Talk about sending the GSR places in the budget. Explain how important the GSR is. It is not the District's responsibility to send GSRs to events, it is the Group's responsibility.

Are services that are provided by the Area still purposeful, effective, and prudent? How can they be improved? IE. Northern Light, aaminnesota.org, Area35.org, archives office/storage space, financial reports, AA literature, Grapevine literature, audio/recording equipment.

- Area Chair stated that it is her responsibility to see that events are publicized. She prints flyers for events, has them put on the website, on the information tables at events, and sees that they are uploaded to the Area calendar.
- Webmaster stated that we are doing the bare minimum with technology. There is a lot more we can do. He is working to make it better. Overall access can be improved using technology.
- For years it was possible to go to events calendar and print out flyers for events. Calendar has not been available for the past year and needs improvement.
- One person said she still wants the Northern Light in print.
- We are wasting paper on financial reports that are printed up six times per year. The reports are thick, and paper is expensive. Phones are becoming everything. We can use them to read literature, Grapevine, etc. QR codes are the upcoming thing. They are fast, use less paper, and can help more alcoholics.

Is the Area spending 7th Tradition contributions prudently? Consider the following: Expenses, Committee work, Communications (financials, mailings) and Accommodations (coffee, room rates, Area Committee Meetings, Assemblies)

- The Area Chair and the Delegate are the only ones that should be sent to the WCRAASC and the Forum. The rest of the people can pay their own way.
- In looking at the budget, costs added up for the Forum and the Conference in 2023 add up to more than \$22,000. Room rates for budgets are not consistent. Travel is more than \$9800. Could save money with Zoom.
- We put things in the budget but don't discuss them except for the occasional comment. We used to see how much we had and then decide who to send. We would give them \$100 or \$200.
- We send people to the WCRAASC to become educated, and to network with people, which is important. We need people to become knowledgeable about the Traditions and Concepts, which we deal with in service. Mingling in the halls is as important as the meetings and presentations. Ask groups if they want good information on the agenda items. Delegate travels to districts when the agenda items come out, and then again after the Conference to give reports. Is paying for travel for the Delegate worth it? Groups approve the Area budget. They need to step up and support it. Groups can say what they don't want to spend money on before approving the budget.
- We need a definition of "Other" in the budgets. What items are covered under "Other"?

How are we cooperating with Area 36 (Southern Minnesota)? How can we improve? Some areas we have cooperated are Joint A35/A36 Workshop, State Fair Booth, Statewide Corrections.

- Need clarification of what is meant by "cooperation".
- How can we work together to carry the message?
- We have statewide cooperation with Corrections committees, and we cooperate on the Public Information booth at the State Fair.
- Professionals we want to work with don't see us as two Areas and don't care who contributes what to our efforts. They want to know how they can get alcoholics to us. We need to present a unified voice to the State of MN. How can we improve?
- Facilitator Ted S. – Trying to work together in a state is not uncommon. California has seven different Areas.
- Who heads up the cooperation?
- Area Chair – We have three joint efforts with Area 36 – the State Fair, the Joint Workshop, which we haven't done lately, and Corrections. The State Fair falls under Public Information, the Joint Workshop is something the Area Chair heads up, and Corrections, which of course falls under Corrections. In March there will be new way to cooperate with Area 36, a statewide Treatment conference, which will be the Treatment chair's responsibility.
- The word cooperation brings up a question, which is "Are we in harmony with Area 36?" Are we in unity with Area 36? We need to have unity in order to best carry the message. What can I do?
- One person has talked to Area 36 Chair. A35 and A36 are talking a lot, which is helpful. They have gone through a lot this year.
- We have less than 50% representation by GSRs here, which is something we need to consider. People in service have lofty goals. We need to serve our own districts first. We need to get our local people involved. How do we get more participation?
- We need to place Principles before Personalities and remember who we are working for – the alcoholic who still suffers.

When Area decisions are made, is there correct balance between group conscience and the tradition "Right of Decision?" (Concept III)

- District 6 asked themselves the same question. They decided they were acting businesslike and would try "attraction rather than promotion". They started focusing on fun. Their participation is up, donations are increasing, there are more people to have an informed group

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conscience about things. Without representation at the Area, people feel like they are not being heard.

- Read Concept III.

Are the Traditions and Concepts guiding our decisions and actions when we conduct business at assemblies?

- Only 1/5 of groups are represented here. He has told his groups that a minority of the groups in the Area are making decisions, voting, and electing people. The minority is ruling. That is not a true representation.
- One person stated that he has to work on keeping his own house in order to keep from making wrong decisions. Goes back to page 164 in the Big Book.
- Another person stated that he doesn't like to lose an argument. If he follows the Traditions and Concepts, it usually works out better. He feels no shame about opinions. He feels better about the issue.

Does the current format and scheduling, of Assemblies and ACMs, effectively address communication and the business to be conducted? Consider the following: Length of reports, Assembly topics, Time allowed at microphone, Conducting business, Breaks, Sunday format.

- Person on Zoom not able to attend in person, so Zoom is essential. If we continue to use Zoom, we need to invest in better technology. She can hear the podium mic just fine, but not the crowd mic. Not hearing everything so might not be prepared to vote if she can't hear everything.
- We should take care of business on Saturday and hear reports on Sunday. The way things are now, Sundays are rushed. People are fresher on Saturdays. Was it ever done that way, and if so, why did it change?
- Would it be possible to form an ad hoc committee to examine and possibly restructure the Assembly format? That would probably require a motion.
- Can we have Assemblies in a central location, always?
- Assemblies used to be in one location. The Area decided to move it around to increase participation. Area is divided into four zones, and events are rotated through the zones. The Area Chair is tasked with coming up with the agenda. If you want change, talk with the Chair. It would be best to have a group discussion on changes. Do we all understand the Rights of Decision and Participation? We need to talk about these things. The Right of Decision means going through the group discussion, and that takes time.
- If we change the order and have business on Saturday, how many would stick around for reports on Sunday? Would people be rushing home to go watch the Vikings game? Rotation was heatedly discussed in the 80's for about a year and a half before it was decided to rotate. This is a common discussion in many Areas.
- People give their reports, and they are put into the Northern Light. Need to be present to take care of the business. It is up to people to stay for the business on Sunday.
- Is it necessary to have the reports read at the mic? Can't we just read them in the NL?

Are Area Officers effectively reporting their activities? Are they making themselves available to groups and districts? Is the Area preparing and providing our Trusted Servants with the tools, equipment and resources needed to effectively perform their duties? What can be improved? Officers are Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Area Chair, Treasurer, Secretary NOTE: Evaluate the positions not the people

- The consensus "yes" when it came to answering questions online.
- One Area Committee Chair said officers not explaining the duties of a position. Help needed.
- Attendee of the Zonal Forum said the face-to-face contact was good. It was helpful to put faces to names. Area Officers are doing a good job.

How are Committee Chairs communicating with their District counterparts? Are they making themselves available? Is the Area preparing and providing our Trusted Servants with the tools, equipment and resources needed to effectively perform their duties? What can be improved? Action Committee Chairs are Archivist/Archives, Corrections, CPC, Grapevine, Literature, PI, Treatment, Group Records, NL Editor, Webmaster. NOTE: Evaluate the positions not the people

- One person said Committee Chairs are doing a fantastic job. She attends the Area Committee Meetings, and the meetings are very helpful.
- The service manual has nothing about Committee Chair responsibilities. Public Information has a small workbook that is helpful.
- QR Codes are helpful for finding information.
- Need more contact with the Chair. If don't go to ACM or Assembly, don't get squat.
- Treatment Chair – Service Manual says CPC and Corrections should cooperate some with Treatment and CPC/PI. He has gone to meet with institutions with more than on Area Chair and that has worked well.

What other concerns do you have that aren't addressed in this inventory?

- This rotation, we are struggling to get GSRs. What can we do to be more attractive? There has been inventory-taking at the mic and in print. We might be the only example of service that people see.
- We are spending too much money. We are not collecting \$0.50 per head. Some groups don't send money anywhere. What do Zoom and Archives cost? Are we overspending?
- Area Chair – How can Area Committee Chairs and Area Officers be more helpful to Districts? We need to hear from you what you need.
- How can the Area instill a sense of responsibility in the groups? Sponsorship, and DCMs visiting the groups.
- There were hardships and hard feelings, especially after last fall. It was devastating. We must find common ground. How can we come together and be strong? A strong Area will trickle down to strong groups.
- One member has been in AA for almost 43 years and is extremely proud of people in service. He holds them in high regard. We need to look at the positives. We need to be happy, joyous, and free to attract people.
- Explain the pie chart on the handout. What percentage of the respondents were GSRs?
- One person did not have enough time to bring the inventory to the group.
- How do we improve on the time factor?
- Area Chair – Pie chart shows that 36% were GSRs, 20% were DCMs, Area Officers and Chairs were 32%, and District Officers and Chairs were 8%.
- Can we add all the GSRs to the Area Chair's mailing list?
- It is not the Chair's responsibility to communicate directly with GSRs. That is the DCM's job.
- The purpose of an inventory is to look at my life. If DCM doesn't forward information, people can die. It is not the job of Area Officers to help groups.
- Delegate – Question to GSRs – how many received Final Conference Report from DCMs? Less than half in the room received the report.
- 32% of the members who answered the online inventory. They are not representing a group.
- Emails can go to the Junk folder. Check the Junk folder.
- We need more GSRs! Area Officers and Committee Chairs are a small part of the potential voting pool.
- The number of people in the pie chart is small – only 25 people. Doing an inventory is difficult.
- The problems are constant, the same as 40 years ago. We need to have a Higher Power. Gratitude is necessary, and we must keep doing the work.

Area Chair wrapped up the inventory and asked, how do we proceed with our Inventory? Open up the online survey again?

*Position titles were used only when a Trusted Servant was speaking about their service position.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Area Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

District 6 donated the \$356.00 proceeds from their tailgating basket from the weekend.

There is a two-minute time limit for sharing at the mic.

Please write down any motions that are more than five words.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee – Will be discussed at the December 2022 ACM.

Tabled motion: "Past Delegates are eligible to be nominated for Area service positions not previously held."

One group does not think it is a good idea. Past Delegates should not serve but be there for support. Tradition 2 was not followed to get a group conscience.

Absolutely they can serve. Don't put them out to pasture.

The Past Action book has been used to justify positions for or against allowing Past Delegates to serve. Past Delegates can fill in for positions. Some Areas automatically rotate the Delegate into the position of Area Chair.

Not all Areas put their Past Delegates out to pasture.

What if the Area got to be full of Past Delegates? The Area is a training ground for new people to gain experience. Area needs some sort of policy – use Delegates as resources to fill in if necessary.

One person took the issue back to the groups. Eight out of nine voted to approve the motion. District voted for the motion.

We have elections, and the incoming Chair appoints the Area Committee. These appointments can be disapproved at the December ACM.

Different Areas do things differently. Some Past Delegates can be on ad hoc committees, rotate to Chair, or be elected to committee chairs. We need to decide.

The nomination happened before we had discussion. Does not think Past Delegates should serve. If they do serve, others can't. Area has 100's of groups. This goes against the spirit of rotation.

(Continued from page 9)

One person said his sponsor is a past Area Chair, and he spoke to other past Chairs. Area Chair is the hardest position. Not in favor of Past Delegate serving as Committee Chair but is in favor of Past Delegate serving as Area Chair.

What about the spirit of rotation? Tradition 12 reminds us to place principles before personalities. Does not want the Area to be bound to a decision. Each Area should make its own decision.

Delegate is just another position.

If the motion is voted down, a Past Delegate will not be able to serve. The Motion will be in the Actions Book.

If they are qualified and willing, why not let them serve? Pick the best qualified for the position.

Vote: 79 total voting members present in person and on Zoom. 2/3 would be 53 votes needed. Total votes for the motion – 54. MOTION PASSED. Minority opinion: Goes against service manual which says Past Delegates shouldn't serve. This means that a Past Delegate can be nominated for any position.

Area Inventory Next Steps

Do we want the survey open again online? Not all were aware of online survey and didn't feel heard. Can appoint an ad hoc committee.

Being at Assembly was part of the inventory. Online were part of the inventory.

Invitations and reminders were sent out, GSRs gave out information.

Online survey should be opened up again.

One person sent out multiple emails and thought it needed to be done right away.

An inventory is a benchmark, how do we improve? Need better communication. This inventory is closed, and we can do another one later.

Open the inventory for another couple of weeks.

Close the inventory, look at the info we received, and not discuss how it was done.

What were the results of the 2010 inventory? We should compare and see how we have changed.

One district did not receive the info, no one in the district received the info.

We should compare inventories. Need to consider that questions are different. Should do inventory every couple of years or so.

Area Chair – Who is opposed to opening up the survey again? (No one opposed.) Will put together an ad hoc committee to go over the results.

Ad-Hoc Technology Committee – Web Webmaster – How do we budget/use Office, Word, Excel, etc.? The way we do it is broken. We could use Microsoft for Business for \$3 per person per month. It has all the tools we need. Can use it to make Archives available, can control who has access, can get officers and chairs using the same tools.

We need to improve Zoom capabilities. Need to work on Office tools first.

Right now, we are paying approximately \$700/yr. The cost for MS for Business will be a little higher. This proposal is not included in the budget.

Have we checked with other Areas? Are we getting the non-profit rate?

Webmaster – yes, we are getting the non-profit rate.

Webmaster - We need to have something that is take-over-able by the incoming rotation. The cost will be approximately \$1800/yr. for all licenses, \$750/yr. for online technology. There would be costs for new devices as needed.

If we get the MS system, do we need to have new downloads even if we already have Office on our computers? Is this a network?

Webmaster – Can get Office on all devices – phone, tablet, computer. We rotate every two years. If we use this, we will have continuity, and we can retrieve emails from the previous rotation. Email accounts would rotate to the next people. Same email addresses, new passwords.

Could we use the apps Group Me or What's App?

Webmaster – We have different levels of technical aptitude; email is the lowest common denominator.

Would MS Teams be useful instead of Zoom? Webmaster – It could be useful for small meetings, still need Zoom for big meetings.

Could Districts latch on to this?

Google is not useful. Thanks for all your work.

Statewide Corrections Committee - Corrections Corrections Chair – There is an upcoming workshop on October 8, 2022, in St. Cloud. There are flyers on the table outside the room. There will be a Class A Trustee, Kerry Meyer, participating. Other presenters will discuss what it's like on the inside, and how to get into Correctional facilities.

Area 35/36 Joint Workshop Update - What was held in September was not really a workshop, it was more of a meet and greet session.

Area Chair – How do we want to proceed?

Discussion – We should continue to work with them. We need to communicate and coordinate, especially regarding statewide institutions.

Area Chair will talk to Area 36 about continuing the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

GSR Sharing Session Report – Sarah C.

GSR Sharing Session

Chair: Sarah C

Secretary: Jess S

Sharing session started at 5:00.

Charla started the session with a motion for the group to come up with 5 questions that we GSRs have and then follow up with discussion on those questions. Motion 2nd by Becky, group voted, motion passed unanimously. Once the 5 questions were selected, we discussed time left in the sharing session. Nate made a motion to allot 7 minutes to each question, with a limit to 1 minute [or less] per person. Motion was 2nd by Bruce, group

voted, motion passed unanimously.

Question #1 (Kurt, GSR District 11)

“What are some ideas for GSRs presenting information and reports to groups, to keep group members interested?”

Question #1 Responses

- Have information available in every form possible to group members (ie, paper, email, website, verbally)
- Group conscious meetings
- Travel with your DCM to other meetings to inform members of the GSR position
- Give GSR report during announcements in your meeting
- Give report right after the meeting
- Stress to your group that the GSR is the voice for their group.
- Explain the position of GSR
- Give examples of successful feedback
- Simplify things for the group, help them understand

Question #2 (Jack, GSR District 9)

“How do we keep ‘old timers’ from pushing ‘newcomers’ away”?

Question #2 Responses

- Pull newcomer aside after the meeting and talk with them
- Pay attention to first impressions of a newcomer
- Chairperson is responsible for interjecting in these moments to avoid both crosstalk, and the newcomer leaving the meeting.
- Pull the old timer aside after the meeting and explain “nobody is in charge here”.
- Be gentle with newcomers. Just be kind.

Question #3 (John, GSR District 6)

“How do we get new GSRs and get people interested in service work in general?”

Question #3 Responses

- Moving District meetings and potluck to other AA meeting locations and then stay and attend that meeting. [Similar response was repeated multiple times]
- Sponsorship. [Also stressed multiple times]
- Getting newcomers involved right away with small duties such as making coffee, cleaning up after meetings, reading literature, etc.
- Give out pamphlets and flyers with service opportunities.
- Be healthy, structured groups of AA [Response repeated twice]
- Be cautious of pushing new members into service positions. [Response repeated]
- Pay attention to people who seem to want to help and are already doing extra and help them recognize that.

Question #4 (Ken, GSR District 7)

“How do we deal with someone begging for food and/or money, before, during or after the meetings?”

Question #4 Responses

- Never give them money. Maybe offer to follow them to the gas station and put some gas in their car or offer to go sit down and buy them dinner. [Response repeated multiple times]
- Help them with a list of resources such as the Department of Human Services, Shelters in the area, etc.
- Help them realize their problem isn't food or money, it's alcoholism.
- Tell them “It's just not okay” and offer to follow up with conversation.
- The Big Book tells us, we are not helping them by giving them money.
- Ask them to leave because of the effect it has on the group, especially a newcomer.

Question #5 (Stephanie, GSR District 3)

“How do we get younger members to stay involved?”

Question #5 Responses

- Get to know them, take them out for coffee, show interest in them
 - Don't put them on the spot their first meeting
 - Make it fun [Response repeated multiple times]
 - Split up groups based on age range
 - Greet people, make it welcoming
 - Ask if there's any newcomers and welcome them.
 - Don't assume young people are different.
 - When new people come in, offer a ‘newcomers meeting’ and ask members to speak about how they ended up in the rooms.
 - Get to the meeting early
 - Keep politics/religion/etc. out of conversations
 - Visit treatment centers to attract them [Response repeated, Bridging the Gap mentioned]
 - Have 24-hour medallions available to hand out
 - Create ‘welcome envelopes’ that consist of items like phone list, meeting list, 24 hour medallion
- Ended Sharing Session at 6:00 pm.

DCM Sharing Session Report – Diane R.

We had 12 DCMs and Alternate DCMs at the DCM Sharing Session. We were from Districts 15, 16, 8,7, 12, 11, 21, 6,6, 3, 3, 2, 13, 9. We had four questions. Time allowed us to share on two questions and the last two questions had time constraints.

How are past actions (proposals) kept track of in your district? Such as what district officers and chairs will be reimbursed to attend area events. Past district minutes are computer searched using key words. The secretary keeps track of and uses key word searches.

Each district rotation can draft a financial policy. The district can do a google search on how to draft a financial policy.
Past policy or actions are hard to find when you are handed totes full of past information.
3-ring binder is used keep past minutes.
One district has an action booklet in a PDF format which makes it a searchable document. District pays actual costs for attending area functions.
Past district minutes are saved on a computer although it is hard to find the past action you are looking for.

How can we as DCMs better communicate with and pass information on to the district GSRs and district officers and committee chairs?
Email all information and then send a reminder. Email each piece of information separately. Bring this information up at the district meeting. Tell the district that anyone can be on the email list not just GSRs and district committee chairs and officers.
Emails are forwarded to the district email list. Ask past DCMs for their experience. Text information too.
Calling and getting others to communicate with each other. Talk face to face. Check up with GSRs that have drifted away. Sponsor AAs into service and get an AA service sponsor.
Lots of AAs do not know how to use email. Divide up the tasks.
Information gets lost transitioning from one rotation to the next.
Personally stay connected. With all the spam out there, some of us are hesitant to open emails because it is risky to open files and click on links. There may be new ways to communicate such as computer boards.
Communication is done through intergroup in one district. They attend board meetings with intergroup. They depend on others in the district to help communicate.

We are in a culture of change. There are a lot of new communications tools out there. We need to figure out what form will work for a task we want done.

We still have some AAs that we mail information to. Sometimes they do not even answer the phone. Technology has come a long way.
Asking questions in the district about communications.
Information is sent via email. Sometimes files are so big they are hard to read on phones. There are still people who do not use email and want a paper copy. The area minutes are used to communicate at the district meeting what is going on in the area.

How do you do a district inventory?
Download a district inventory from aa.org.
One district takes one inventory question a month.

Should we have two DCM sharing sessions instead of participating in the Area action committees?
The intention of the DCMs attending the action committee meetings is to show what the action committees are doing and how to chair an action committee meeting. At rotation time, a DCM can be the next committee chair of that action committee. That person would know what the committee has been working on. In Service Diane R,

Officers/Action Chairs Session Report – Area Chair
In our Officer/committee Chair meeting we discussed:
Web Technology Committee update / Office 365
Home addresses being published in the NL should be a personal preference
Northern Light processing lead times
Northern Light Reports

State Fair Booth – Public Information Chair - PI Chair – We started talking about the booth in January. There was not much interest in manning the booth. Is participating in the booth the best use of Area Resources? At the June ACM, the Right of Decision about whether to participate in the booth with Area 36 was granted. It was a heavy decision to not participate this year.

Discussion – Two years ago, a member stayed all day at the Fair and checked the booth every two hours, and Area 35 showed up; had to do one extra shift; not in favor or against participating in the booth. People cancelled due to COVID.
Is staffing the booth required? Yes.

Jim R. – We had this discussion at the ACM. **Made a motion that “Area 35 not participate financially or by staffing the State Fair Booth.” Scott seconded the motion.**
Discussion: If someone wants to serve, can participate directly with Area 36.
This is a way we can participate with Area 36. This is a state fair – we can find people and money
Is the motion for perpetuity or for this coming year? Are we utilizing the booth? No. We need visibility. Make the booth educational and show what the history of AA is in MN. Need to participate in booth design. It is all of MN, people from up north do visit. We need to continue to support the booth.
Family members more often pick up pamphlets; we need people to staff the booth.
In the past, we had four people from each district; we had half of the days at the booth. It is hard work, but very rewarding. We need visibility. This is service work, and it needs effort.
Next March, professionals will meet, and AA is invited to participate. The more we work with Area 36, the more we could improve the relationship.

In favor of PI booth.
Would love to see us mend the fence. Three words that come to mind are gratitude, accountability, and responsibility.
PI Chair – Area 35’s part is covering the first weekend. We have had no say in how the booth is run or what is displayed there. Is this the best use of our time and resources?
One group does not want to lose the opportunity for Twelfth Step work.

Vote will be by simple majority. Those in favor of the motion – 14 in person, 4 on zoom; Opposed – 73; Motion FAILED
Minority voice – Are we reaching the still-suffering alcoholic, or just those already in recovery?

Area 35 will support financially and by staffing the State Fair Booth with Area 36 in 2023

Delegate Nomination Process Discussion - How do we elect Delegates? Procedure now is that each district can nominate one person – why is that? Action Book and Service Manual – qualified people are invited to just STAND for election with no nomination needed. Do we need to nominate? What is the history?
We are not missing someone in the pool doing it the current way.
Would like more than two people to choose from. Maybe people would like to stand and have no one to nominate them.
In the past, the Delegate was chosen by who could afford it. Later, people were nominated because of personality. Some were elected because no one else wanted the job. Current method in place to take personalities out of it. Can nominate someone from another district.
How many people read the resumes in the Northern Light before they vote? Should we have nominees share their experience before the vote? Not going to “run” for office; need to be asked to serve
Maybe have someone from the district take a minute to say why they nominated the person.
Area Chair – Will keep this under Old Business

Northern Light Information - Northern Light Chair – The NL is limited to 28 pages. Sometimes there is more information than will fit, so we need to determine what to print. What do people want to see in the Northern Light?
Discussion – Want to see more District events.
Can we bring this back to the groups?
One person likes to read District and Area reports.
Area Chair – Will keep this under Old Business; bring back to groups

2023 Budgets - Individual budgets were discussed one at a time; total budget to be voted on after all budgets discussed.
Delegate explained his expenses – Other exp. Includes registration fees, \$600 for Conference expenses, District travel costs, room expenses vary and may have increased from last year.
Everything costs more than last year, so expenses increase.
Room rates may vary from budget to budget because some people know that they will be room-sharing. Others budget for rooming alone, though they may wind up with a roommate. Someone’s roommate may have to miss the event for one reason or another, so that can be budgeted for. We are using \$5.00 per gallon of gas. Actual cost may be less than that and the expense will be submitted accordingly.
Budgets are estimates. We generally spend less than budgeted. Have to budget higher than what the actual costs will likely be so if something happens, we don’t have to go to the groups and ask for more money later in the year.
Treasurer budget could be adjusted when a new treasurer is elected because travel expenses may be different.
This year’s budget is higher than last year's budget because the West Central Regional Forum is added in. It is being held in Montana.
Webmaster budget does not have the MS Office for Business included.

Rich motion – Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCMs, Area Officers, and Committee Members. Scott seconded.
Discussion – There has been discussion ongoing about records and communications.

Jess made a motion to Table the motion and bring it back to the groups. Rachel seconded.
Vote – Motion to Table passed with 2/3 majority, substantial unanimity. Motion tabled until Spring Assembly.

Budgets this year included Archives storage, WCRAASC in Nebraska, and Forum in Montana.
Why are we sending everyone?
Action Book job descriptions require everyone to attend.

There were no questions on budgets for Alternate Delegate, Area Chair, Secretary, Northern Light, Group Records, Literature, Public Information, Corrections, Treatment, Grapevine, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Archivist, Archives, Area Events, Financial Oversight Committee, and Sound Tech.

Total budget for 2023 is \$89,464.21.

Treasurer – 160 groups have contributed this year. To meet this budget with only 160 groups contributing would require each group to contribute approximately \$560.00.
If we have a \$13,000 deficit so far this year, how do we cover that?
Treasurer – From now to the end of the year, we have only the ACM for

(Continued from page 11)
expenses. This time of year, groups contribute more. Groups need to be reminded that things cost more than they did before. We need to educate the groups. Now is the time to cut expenses if we want to lower the budget. If we pass this budget, we are committing to cover these expenses.
Why is there such a big difference between Fall Assembly and Spring Assembly? Amenities cost more, and the venue costs more due to Fall being an election Assembly.
If we want the best people, we need to send them places. Need to trust our trusted servants.
If the checkbook won't allow sending everyone, can limit who we send.

Motion to approve the budget made by Jess. Jeff seconded.
Vote – Only one opposed to passing the budget. Budget PASSED.
Minority voice – I only spend what I have. Don't know if the money will come in. Have Committee go back and revise budget. Rather not have "hopeful" budget.

Treasurer Election - John D made a motion – All Area Officer positions shall have an Alternate Officer. Motion seconded.
Discussion: If all officers have alternates, expenses will be doubled. Wouldn't send alternates to events, would have alternates available in the event someone had to resign.
Only the Area Chair, Secretary and Treasurer would have alternates.
Vote – Only four voted in favor. Motion Failed.
Minority voice – motion was made due to the Treasurer resigning and having the Chair and Alternate Delegate fill in, which is against our own rules.

Election – Marvel nominated Vicki R.; Vicki accepted.
Tom nominated Terry P.; Terry accepted.

Justin W. made a motion to pause the Treasurer election and have the two nominees give a brief service resumé. Denise R. seconded.
Steve L. offered a friendly amendment to have the nominators give reasons why the nominee is qualified. Friendly amendment not accepted.
Discussion – one member said he would have to abstain from voting since he knows nothing about either nominee.
Vote using simple majority – 29 in favor, 31 opposed. Motion Failed.

Vote for Treasurer went to second ballot; Vicki R. elected as Treasurer.

Ask-it-basket questions were answered by Past Delegates during the election.

Calendar of Events was read.

Motion to adjourn – Jim R. made a motion to adjourn, Heidi B. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sally L., Area 35 Secretary

Area 35 Balance Sheet		
	Sep 28, 22	Sep 28, 21
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	10,176.31	21,917.50
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,050.48	6,049.88
Total Checking/Savings	16,226.79	27,967.38
Other Current Assets		
12000 · Undeposited Funds	0.00	1,211.00
Total Other Current Assets	0.00	1,211.00
Total Current Assets	16,226.79	29,178.38
TOTAL ASSETS	16,226.79	29,178.38
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
20000 · Accounts Payable	-500.00	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	-500.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	-500.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	-500.00	0.00
Equity		
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	18,725.52	18,725.52
32000 · Retained Earnings	11,648.65	0.00
Net Income	#####	10,452.86
Total Equity	16,726.79	29,178.38
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	16,226.79	29,178.38

NEW AREA 35 TREASURER

Effective immediately, please send all
AREA contribution checks to:

NMAA
37258 Lakeland Rd
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

NEW GSO CONTRIBUTION ADDRESS

Effective immediately, please send all
GSO contribution checks to:

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

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

MARCH 3-5, 2023

Hosted by
Area 41

2023
West Central
Regional A.A.
Service Conference

Event Registration - \$20

Mail In Registration: Coming soon!
Register Online: [Bit.ly/WCR23Reg](https://bit.ly/WCR23Reg)
QR Code:

Hotel Information

DoubleTree Omaha Downtown
1616 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68102

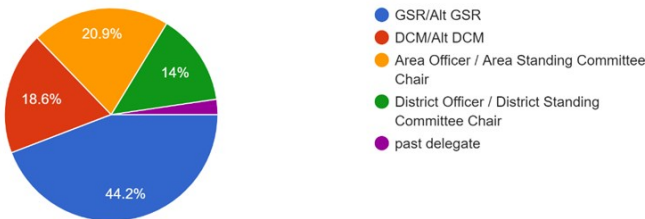
Hotel Reservation - \$119/night
Online Link: [Bit.ly/WCR23Hotel](https://bit.ly/WCR23Hotel)
QR Code:

More Information Coming Soon at westcentralregion.org

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.

Your Current Service Position
43 responses



FINAL AREA INVENTORY

GSR/Alt GSR = 44.2% (19 responses)
DCM/Alt DCM = 18.6% (8 responses)
Area Officer/Area Standing Committee Chair = 20.9% (9 responses)
District Officer/District Standing Committee Chair = 14% (6 responses)
Past Delegate = 2.3% (1 response)
**Comments published as written.*

Is the Area communicating and sharing information, in an effective and timely manner, with the Groups and Districts to prepare them for Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings? (44 responses)

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes. I feel the Area does a great job at keeping everyone informed.
- Yes,i feel we are very informed.
- The area does share information in a timely manner. I sometimes wonder why the area is selective to whom they share some information with.
- DCMs have to make sure they are getting the information from the area to the GSRs so they can share it with their groups.
- I think so
- I'm the CPC/PI Chair for my District and I am new at service work so I can't give you an answer from experience other than I have not heard from the Area Chair for either CPC or PI before the Area Assemblies or committee meetings.
- overall well but could be a little more sooner
- Yes, overall our group is satisfied with info/communication for assemblies/meetings
- Probably the best they can
- No. I know the meeting is being held but no agenda has been shared. I do not have access to the agenda published on the Area 35 website.
- ?
- Yes
- I read about it in the Northern Light and out DCM gives us feedback at our District meetings
- Yes I believe so, the new website is great
- There is a lack of communication. It is broken between the district and GSR. Usually get info too late to be effective with what we need to do to be prepared for assembly.
- Yes for the most part
- I'm not sure
- It truly falls on the DCM to get important information out to our GSR and to remind them a few times.
- The Area is, yes. I believe those involved with Area do the very best they can to get info out.

What keeps groups from sending GSRs to Area Assembly? Is adequate opportunity given to all to speak and participate in Area Assemblies, workshops, and activities? (46 responses)

- Yes
- I have not attended an area assembly yet.
- It has been my experience that there is a great deal of apathy regarding GSR's participating in AREA activities. In talking with most Districts, it is difficult to get meaningful participation of GSR's even at the District level, much less AREA.I think those of us immersed in service work lose sight of how important it is to FIRST make sure there is near full participation of groups via GSR's before branching out into all the various areas of service we do. We need to do a better job in our own backyards.
- I BELIEVE FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS KEEP SOME GSR's FROM GOING TO AREA ASSEMBLIES. I HAVE BEEN A GSR, CORRECTIONS CHAIR & DCM AT ASSEMBLIES AND FEEL I HAVE ALWAYS HAD ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND PARTICIPATE, HOWEVER KNOWING WHAT TO SPEAK ABOUT WAS MORE OF A LEARNING CURVE ISSUE.
- Costs can keep them away, also lack of interest of groups towards service. I believe there is adequate time for participation. Have to make sure to have late enough time before the hotel kicks us out to get everything thoroughly discussed.
- I don't really know! Too much going on in their lives and don't realize the benefits and fun.
- Travel is difficult especially if it's far
- \$ having affordable venues, yes

- Lack of GSR's and money. There are small meetings in my district that not only don't have a GSR, but they don't have the money to send someone to the events. Hotels are so expensive now compared to when I was a GSR. They may not have/want a roommate to share expenses. Discuss during events is great - however we need to stick to our time limits as a courtesy and respect for others.
- I believe that smaller groups may not have the financial resources to send them due to costs of hotel rooms, meals and fuel.I think everyone has the opportunity to speak and is given adequate time to do so.Also the agenda is given out with plenty of notice giving groups or their GSR,DCM keeping them informed.
- I think that is the time and travel involved with the Area Assembly. We are all busy and it takes all weekend to attend these events. Usually, we have lots of family things to attend.
- Not being knowledgeable of what the benefits are to send a Group Representative. Just not being aware of the importance.
- ?, Yes
- finances, interest in general service is lacking. yes ample time is given to speak
- ?
- Some don't have Gsrs and some Gsrs Just don't want to come or group don't have the funds
- Finances are probably the leading cause, but the lack of GSRs in our district is relevant here too
- Work. Need the paycheck
- I understand that cost is a factor, however a personal belief is that the groups are not aware of the importance of a GSR and the excitement of being involved.
- lack of funds and interest
- It is felt that some smaller, less active groups do not have the volunteers and/ or money to send a GSR to the area assembly. Experience has shown that ample opportunity/ time is given to those who wish to share in assembly activities
- finances...uninteresting topics ...not understanding the purpose
- I can't speak for other groups as to why other GSRs to attend, but there are a LOT of different meetings to attend and I believe that some don't want to give up a full weekend to attend an assembly. I agree that there is a lot of opportunities to speak and participate at assemblies, workshops and other events.
- Expense for motel and meals. the district doesn't pay for GSR's because we don't have the funds. GSRs aren't asking groups to pay or expressing an interest
- They are a waste of time and money
- money yes
- Money and not helping them to go
- I believe so...
- For me, I have a work conflict this time of year
- If a group is small. There is not enough money to send GSR. I think there is opportunities to speak
- Apathy
- I work and can't get time off
- Time & money
- Nothing, the district right now has the means to help get GSRs to area functions.
- Lack of persons available. Yes
- They don't have GSRs. Lack of interest by GSRs and Groups.
- Lack of volunteers. Negative responses regarding length of time at area meetings due to long winded members at microphone.
- Lack of interest in AA as a whole. I am sad that there are so many groups that don't care about the greater whole.
- I think lack of interest of GSR's attending due to distance of travel, confusion about what happens there and their role. Many groups don't even have GSR's.
- It is the job of the GSR to convey to the group the importance of attending and representing the group. The GSR must take the role seriously and inform the group that attending functions is necessary for a healthy Area
- Cost to the groups. Complacency by GSR. Adequate opportunities to speak are given to all.
- nothing keeps groups from attending. Yes, all who wish are given equal opportunity
- My observations lead me to conclude that many AA members have too many other family or community commitments; many of our newer members may not understand the critical nature of our commitments to Area or even District activities.
- Our district is very active at this time. Everyone that want to go. our district will give a ride and help with rooms. Nobody should be left behind
- I think there's a lack of connection to district and area stuff. I believe we all need to be getting out to meetings in our districts and areas to spread the word, meet members, and make those meaningful connections!

Are services that are provided by the Area still purposeful, effective and prudent? How can they be improved? IE. Northern Light, aaminnesota.org, Area35.org, archives office/storage space, financial reports, AA literature, Grapevine literature, audio/recording equipment. (43 responses)

- Yes
- yes

(Continued from page 13)

- I think they are...but I think they can and should be much better. But again, that starts with better participation.
- I BELIEVE SO, NOTHING I CAN THINK OF AT THIS TIME.
- I think the NL is still needed. It is a valuable tool. aaminnesota.org is useful, and it is where the AA meeting locator app gets its info about meeting times. The AA database does not track meeting times. I think the Archives office/storage space is money well-spent. We need our history to be available. We also need our financial reports, literature, and GV. The audio/recording equipment is also needed for reference and archives.
- Yes. We could be better at providing hybrid meetings with effective equipment.
- The websites are helpful but could be more user friendly, it's hard to find necessary items. Northern Light could be online instead of paper. No one reads it at our club.
- Staying focused on serving the groups by helping them have access to opportunities with new comers
- Home addresses in the Northern Light should be removed from both versions (online and print version). Stop using personal email addresses for Area work - Area35.org email addresses should be available to all Area positions, as well as past delegates (Area 36 does this). Listing personal email addresses is proving problematic.
- I think they are.
- Yes although I like the application on my phone put the app by GSO to locate a meeting. AAminnesota.org is confusing and I feel I am somewhat computer literate.
- Financial reports are expensive to print and it doesn't seem that the printed copies are getting taken. would email be adequate for financials? Are we duplicating efforts of aaminnesota.org and what the Meeting Guide App provides? If utilizing more hybrid meetings, what equipment is needed to ensure quality hybrid meetings? What is the purpose of the Northern Light? Is it supposed to be used to bash people and make them feel less than? Is it a tool to communicate what is going on in the Area and to report our meetings? what are we publishing and are we attracting people into service or are we deterring them?
- Still purposeful
- I think it is time to look at the literature and grapevine positions and their usefulness. It is so easy now to get your own literature, even download books electronically now. What is the purpose of those positions other than setting up literature at events? I think Northern light could be emailed out instead of paper. The Area could save money having it in a digital format. Area 35.org website could use updating- I looked at Area36.org and there is so much more useable information on their website and user friendly. AA Minnesota.org would be more user friendly if it was just our Area.
- Yes, I think it's all still purposeful, effective and prudent
- Yed
- Overall, I think the services are great, however I would like to see more of the district websites linked to the Area35.org website.
- maybe too much focus on information in one place and not enough brought to districts
- Yes.
- The only small comment is make the address to the Area Meeting easier to find in NL
- you do a good job
- Yes
- They are fine as far as I'm concerned
- I think upgrading are audio/video equipment will help with maybe offering zoom for those that can't afford or it's gets to far
- New to the GSR position, no input at this time
- Seems to be some trouble with audio/ recording equipment.
- Sometimes I think it is too much information
- All services are still important for the area.
- In our digital world we should also be digital in passing on info. Still need face to face meetings, assemblies etc.
- Absolutely.
- I don't have enough information to answer.
- Yes to the services provided.
- yes, they are effective
- I think the Area is performing well, particularly so in spite of the upheavals of the past 2 years due to Covid.
- As I'm learning it looks good
- If we want to get to every member, we need to make sure we are both physically and digitally accessible in an easy, convenient way. I think we def need an all-around update when feasible.

Is the Area spending 7th Tradition contributions prudently? Consider the following: Expenses, Committee work, Communications (financials, mailings) and Accommodations (coffee, room rates, Area Committee Meetings, Assemblies) (45 responses)

- Yes
- yes
- I WOULD SAY THAT WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND FORUMS THAT ARE FAR AWAY SHOULD ONLY HAVE THE AREA CHAIR AND DELEGATE ATTEND.
- I think the Area can save money by having more people sharing hotel rooms with more than one other person. I think we can also save money by not sending everyone to distant WCRAASCs. I don't think we are

spending enough on Committee work. Committees should be going to district workshops, meetings, zonal forums, etc. Most corresponding is done by email and doesn't cost anything. I think we do a good job of getting the lowest costs possible for events.

- I think they try hard!
- I assume so
- No
- Yes, I think we are limited in hotel/room rates/coffee options for events so we can't be as prudent as we could be.
- The only thing I feel should be addressed is splitting a room with someone if possible at events.
- I feel we have been spending money wisely.
- With the costs increasing for travel are we prudent sending all Area Officers and Committee chairs to the WCRAASC and WCR Forums? Rooms and Venue costs are on the rise. Before setting the budget, reaching out to Area 36 to see what statewide events may be coming up so the cost can be budgeted.
- Yes prudently
- Paying \$700 for the state fair when we are not participating is not prudent considering where our budget is at- Sending all officers/Chairs to the West Central SC and Forum is a nice idea but is it effective? What is the purpose of that? With our Budget being \$80,000+ I am sure this will have to be looked at- I do think Room Rates and accommodations are reasonable and don't know where we could improve that.
- Ithink so
- I believe that we are doing exactly what Bill Suggested
- Yes, from my experience
- To the best of my knowledge, yes they are.
- way too much on archives...not enough people sharing rooms and expenses...sending out all the northern lights then bringing a big stack back to give to same people is foolish
- It is hard to say how the money is spent. I don't see a lot out of the area other than the Northern Lights publication, and at the area assemblies. I don't hear many details from our DSM about what is discussed.
- Yes, good job
- Yes
- As far as I know, yes
- I think so
- I believe we are
- I am wondering if it is prudent to send all area chairs to out of state events.
- Not sure
- Yes as long as they remain prudent.
- I think they are doing the best they can.
- I dont have enough information
- More consideration needs to be given to room rates and accommodations. Look for less expensive venues, making it easier for others to attend, even if there group can not afford their expenses.
- No comment
- Good it is what it is.
- I believe so.

How are we cooperating with Area 36 (Southern Minnesota)? How can we improve? Some areas we have cooperated are Joint A35/A36 Workshop, State Fair Booth, Statewide Corrections (40 responses)

- I think that connection is important, but we probably have 80% of the Fellowship in these two AREA's that don't even know what an AREA is!! We spend so much time trying to educate the public that I think we often neglect properly educating our own Fellowship.
- I THINK THAT MOST THINGS WE DO WITH AREA 36 ARE GREAT, I WOULD SAY THAT WE SHOULD STOP PARTICIPATING IN THE STATE FAIR. I DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE GO TO THE STATE FAIR TO FIND AA, ESPECIALLY WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY.
- I like the cooperation with Minneapolis Intergroup for helping people find meetings when they come back up north. We don't get any say in the State Fair booth, so not sure how that's helping us.
- Not sure, but there seems to be arguments which is contrary to the Traditions in AA
- It appears we have had a struggle with Area 36 for years, including the 10+ years I've been in service. When I was a district Corrections chair, there were multiple issues/struggles between the areas, before, during and after my term. I think it's a good time to evaluate our participation with them, including the State Fair booth - maybe allow members to work directly with Area 36 chair for scheduling? I've attended several Joint Area workshops and was disappointed in the lack of participation with Area 36. Some of us had very long drives to get there, only to be met with no Area 36 chairs. Yet, I feel that Area 35 is consistently labeled as creating disunity or difficult to work with. Virtual workshop is a much better option and may have better participation.
- I feel as though there has been some division between the two areas for quite some time now and that both area 35 and 36 need to address issues with themselves. I feel as an area we have continued to talk about how we can be better and what we can do better. I feel as if there is plenty of finger pointing instead of accountability for past mistakes and for there to be harmony this needs to happen.
- If we make commitments with Area 36 we need to carry them out
- whether we want to or not. Area people are asked to read through their

responsibilities before they take the positions and if they do not feel they can or don't want to, someone who wants to do the position should take it. Do not commit to something that you are not willing to do.

- Area officers and Committee chairs should be communicating regularly with their counterparts to see how they can cooperate and work together on Statewide projects. We need to be able to work together and accept each other's ideas and suggestions for improvement. Just because we have always done it, doesn't mean we need to always do it especially when there isn't interest in volunteering (ie. State Fair) If it's something the groups want to have, then they need to support it not only financially but with their time.

- Can always work on it and get better
- I think it is a great idea to cooperate with Area 36 as much as possible. I think we need to reestablish relationships- maybe start with quarterly meetings online with combined Area 35/36 online/zoom meetings- everyone meet together for the first half hour to hear what the Officers of the perspective Area's are doing and overall things the Area is doing and then break out rooms for the Committee Chairs to see what the Chairs are doing and learn from each other. Start with online to see who participates-

- ok
- My opinion is that we could do more with area 36 as far as work shops
- Very well, as far as I can tell
- Idk

- I am unsure
- I think if we continue to grow the Joint Area35/36 Workshops it is very beneficial to have new ideas and input for reaching the still suffering alcoholic in our districts. Zoom meetings work well and are easier to attend without the high cost of travel.

- good
- Treatment committee - cooperating same with corrections , all others good
- just more busy work for officers and committee chairs
- No opinion.
- I've attended joint report back from the delegate and other joint functions. Not the workshop or the fair
- your good
- Should meet with them more
- We seem to be cooperating as far as I can tell
- Try to get more people involved so when there is personality conflict the cooperation isn't completely dropped
- NA
- It appears the state fair booth is not a cooperative endeavor.
- Not sure
- Don't know
- Area 35 is doing well with cooperating with Area 36
- Yes
- Not sure.
- I don't see any problem.
- Again, I don't know
- Unsure
- I think that cooperation with Area36 is a good idea. I don't have much experience in the joint ventures to comment further.
- As far as i know, cooperation is good
- Not sufficiently informed to offer my observations
- Do more with them we are only Divided by an invisible line we are one state that can help with the resources that are available in both areas
- Yeah, this needs some work - lol. Definitely need more communication with them and more joint stuff. I get an "us" and "them" vibe.

When Area decisions are made, is there correct balance between group conscience and the tradition "Right of Decision?" (Concept III) (42 responses)

- Yes
- Yes
- I think so
- yes
- Currently yes...but it all gets better and more complete with better participation.
- IN SOME CASES IT IS PRUDENT THAT "RIGHT OF DECISION" BE USED. I BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN THE RIGHT BALANCE IN MY EXPERIENCE.
- Not sure, things may need to slow down a bit and a more concerted effort to obtain a group conscious from groups by physically meeting with groups, surveys like this or providing zoom access to GSRs at area assembly meetings, polls etc
- I feel that the group conscience is the preferred choice for most Area decisions. The "Right of Decision" has not been well received lately, even when the group conscience made that decision. AND when a "right of decision" is used, the Area should accept this as an Area conscience to allow the right of decision.
- Yes,i feel we do a great job of using the group conscience and apply the Right of Decision when its right time to do so.
- I often feel that the groups are not asked enough for their input. We are not willing to listen to long discussions sometimes because of time. The excuse that the groups are not interested is not true for all groups. At least we should afford them the opportunity to make it.

- This is not always the case and I feel we are making a conscience effort to ensure this is happening.
- good question
- I don't think we give the groups enough time to allow the groups for proper decision making
- Yed
- It seems that sometimes there is not enough time from when we get the information and are able to get a good group conscience to bring to the area meeting for a vote.
- schedule glitches , covid breaks issues are being addressed
- group conscience is pretty much limited to area committee...right of decision is after talking thru issues
- No opinion.
- in most cases
- With the amount of participation it is but we sure could use more group participation.
- Seems to be
- There have been very few groups involved at the District level, lately and I'm not sure how much information is getting down to the group level to have a group conscience.
- The group itself should always be part of the decision. Because some groups don't participate above the group level, voices aren't heard from individuals in those groups.
- I think this is hard to accomplish but is always strived for.

Are the Traditions and Concepts guiding our decisions and actions when we conduct business at assemblies? (43 responses)

- Yes
- yes
- Yes
- Yes, I believe so.
- Currently, yes.
- I BELIEVE AS MUCH AS INDIVIDUALS ARE EDUCATED IN THEM THEY ARE. I BELIEVE THE CONCEPTS ARE SIMPLY NOT AS WELL KNOWN TO MOST ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLIES. *** FOR ME, I ALSO BELIEVE THE 12 STEPS OF AA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS DISCUSSION. AFTER THE 2021 FALL ASSEMBLY I HAVE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED CONTINUED RESENTMENT. THE 12 STEPS ARE WHAT SHOULD BE DIRECTING OUR CONDUCT AS MEMBERS OF AREA 35.
- Idk yet
- They certainly seem to be the goal
- Yes and no. Lots of public inventory taking this rotation and it's disappointing and unbecoming of our Area. Every voice in our Area matters and is not dependent on the amount of service or sobriety they have. I appreciate and respect the guidance from our elders, but that should not include gaslighting when their opinions and suggestions aren't followed.
- No. We follow the service manual when it suits us. We should be looking to the service manual and traditions when we make our decisions. At least seriously consider them.
- Always improving.
- I believe so-
- good question
- I think we are following them the best that we can
- Yes, definitely
- Maybe
- Yed
- I believe they are.
- At the last one - just flack about ex-delegates - not handled well
- some people use them as spiritual tools others treat them as laws not a good understanding of history spiritually
- for the most part
- Don't know
- I hope so.
- I believe so.
- As far as I have seen, yes.
- I think we need to do more teaching of each at assemblies and workshops. Not sure everyone is very familiar?

Does the current format and scheduling, of Assemblies and ACMs, effectively address communication and the business to be conducted? Consider the following: Length of reports, Assembly topics, Time allowed at microphone, Conducting business, Breaks, Sunday format. (43 responses)

- Yes
- Currently working, but I think having a committee look at revamping and revitalizing would be a good idea.
- MY THOUGHT IS THAT ALL THE REPORTS THAT ARE READ AT THE ACM ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE NORTHERN LIGHT. I FEEL WE COULD LESSEN THE REPORTS THAT ARE READ AT THE ACM's. I FEEL WE COULD DELVE INTO OTHER TOPICS RATHER THAN HAVE ALL THE REPORTS READ.
- We are always working on it. Sometimes reports provide too lengthy

a report.

- Idk yet
- Not sure tough question, for zoom a better microphone would be good
- Time at the microphone should be consistent and enforced for all members, whether they have service positions or past service positions. Again, every voice in our Area matters and is not dependent on the amount of service or sobriety they have. All members should respect the timer. Area reports are detailed and informative.
- Yes except for observing the time at the microphone, the timer needs to be respected regardless of service position.
- Sunday seems like a terrible time to do business. Lots of GSRs and others have left for home because they only came one day. I noticed at one ACM, DCMS and others leaving after their reports.
- Spring Assembly gets long with going through all agenda items. People have to be mindful of time limits and staying on topic, when at the mic, as well as chair making sure time is followed. It's a two way street. Put some time on the agenda for "What's on Your Mind" sharing sessions. This may help facilitate sharing on topics that arise during the assembly that didn't make the agenda.
- Not enough time spent on important issues- I think we need to move the business to Saturday when we have the GSR's full attention, so we are not feeling rushed and doing important business when we are tired and want to get home. Save the reports for Sunday. Keep the allowed 2 minutes at the microphone for past delegates too- no special privilege unless they are asked to clarify a specific topic from their experience as a delegate. If they offer their own opinions or ideas as a member of AA on a topic, they should be held to the 2 minute time limit like everyone else. Do we have Assembly Topics? Usually the Spring Assembly is for Agenda Items and the Fall Assembly is for Elections-although there is more time at the Fall Assembly, I don't recall actually having topics?
- I think so
- Sometimes I think we rush to try and get something past or don't allow enough discussion so everyone understands
- Na
- I believe it is good.
- yes
- Have been in the past
- for the most part yes
- Eating at the assemblies has been difficult. Slow restaurants, poor service makes it hard to squeeze meals in based on the schedule.
- We should honor the time limit more. And institute something so that someone who has expressed an opinion isn't able to get up to the mic multiple times to say the same thing
- yes
- Yes
- Maybe we should do business first and reports at the end
- It would be nice to have business conducted on Saturday.
- Am not able to meet at ACM as they meet on Sundays as conflicts with church
- Don't know
- No. Please consider having business first on Saturday mornings. Too many people do not attend Sunday mornings or are in a hurry to leave.
- Yes works well
- All good in my opinion.
- Honestly, I have only been to 2 Assemblies but the feedback I have heard is that it would be better for all concerned to have the business portion on Saturday when everyone is fresh. and not waiting to go home.
- Time at microphone should be monitored.
- I have witnessed the ACMs, time at the microphone is good, format is good, and overall business is good.
- Generally, yes. Sometimes a "topic of the day" or someone's latest complaint about not getting a group conscience to deal with the amount of the rent charged by the church becomes a major crisis...in the minds of some.
- We really should have new business on the first day of assemblies so that we can talk out what needs to be talked out. Put our reports on Sunday.
- I do. If it were changed, I'm afraid more people would dip out on Sundays. We need to find a way to get people to want to stay and participate!

Are Area Officers effectively reporting their activities? Are they making themselves available to groups and districts? Is the Area preparing and providing our Trusted Servants with the tools, equipment and resources needed to effectively perform their duties? What can be improved? Officers are Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Area Chair, Treasurer, Secretary NOTE: Evaluate the positions not the people (44 responses)

- Yes
- yes
- Yes
- We should always strive to do better. But I think we do an above average job in all these activities. Again, I think we actually need to do a better job at the District level to prepare future AREA participants on what to expect.
- I BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS YES, THEY ARE EFFECTIVE.
- I think the Area Officers are doing a good job reporting their activities. The NL report between events is a good idea. Officers are available to

attend district events and Zonal forums when asked. Tools, resources, and equipment are provided.

- Yes, they are very accessible.
- Idk
- It's so important for people currently serving to rely on those that served before them, in AA we don't do things alone
- I feel they are all making themselves available, but the Districts may not be interested/able to invite them to give a presentation. I think Covid is still affecting in-person events. In my district, events (zoom or in-person) are not well attended at this time.
- Yes to all of the above.
- Yes, they make themselves available and show up when asked. People need to make sure they are reaching out to them if they would like their assistance with anything.
- Good job
- I think the groups don't really know who the Area officers are and what they even have to offer. What could an Area Officer actually be doing for a group? For what purpose would they visit a group? what would the purpose of an Area Officer at a District meeting be? What would they have to offer??
- I believe they are doing a fantastic job or have done a fantastic job
- At the area level, as far as I can tell, yes. Again, our district could use some help. (District 7)
- Idk
- I think they are doing a spectacular job.
- workshops are good
- i believe officers are willing but some lack of workshops and questions from districts...district 9 has focused more on workshops which is helping i think
- We have not had an area officer at any of our district meetings. I don't see any tools from the area to assist me as a GSR.
- Yes. I think the financial report could be simpler and easier to read
- Yes, I believe so
- Yes have been working well for many years
- We are working on getting better. E-mail
- From my perspective they are all doing what they can,
- Keeping mind that these positions are filled by volunteers, with some remuneration for expenses, I think the duties are performed very effectively.
- I think both the long-standing practice of previous Area Officers, passed on to newcomers, has established a practice of good quality reports. I really complement the officers for their willingness to meet with groups and their openness to sharing. I yield to the Area Officers regarding the question of having sufficient tools and equipment.
- Not entirely sure about all the other districts, but I would imagine there needs to be more involvement all around from area to districts to groups.

How are Committee Chairs communicating with their District counterparts? Are they making themselves available? Is the Area preparing and providing our Trusted Servants with the tools, equipment and resources needed to effectively perform their duties? What can be improved? Action Committee Chairs are Archivist/Archives, Corrections, CPC, Grapevine, Literature, PI, Treatment, Group Records, NL Editor, Webmaster. NOTE: Evaluate the positions not the people (43 responses)

- Yes
- Not sure
- From what I have observed and experienced over the past 7 years, it has been good. However, when Districts are weak, it is difficult for the AREA officers and chairs to make full use of their resources without sometimes stepping on toes at the District level.
- NOT SURE ON THIS ONE.
- I think the Committee chairs can try harder to communicate with the districts. If the district chairpeople are contacted, they might be more energized and engaged with service. The Area Committee Chairs are provided with what they need.
- The committees have been very helpful.
- It appears there is good communication. I've seen all chairs offer their services and help to the districts.
- I feel we do a good job supporting the chairs and district counterparts.
- Should we be providing 'outside' information to committees and telling them to use them when they meet the public. Shouldn't we be telling them about our program and not someone else's study.
- Yes, they make themselves available and show up when asked. People need to make sure they are reaching out to them if they would like their assistance with anything. Have more Zoom committee meetings??
- Good enough
- I am not sure what is all happening besides meeting in Aitken- if the counterparts aren't meeting in Aitken, I wouldn't know.
- ok
- As the Grapevine chair I am slowly getting out to the districts to present the Grapevine and make it available for the districts GSR's to bring back to their group
- Idk
- Yed
- With the experience I have with them they have always made themselves available at our district workshops and committee training sessions.

- for the most part
- Grapevine and treatment have been available and effective
- not enough committee chairs...lots of talk but not much action
- I do not know.
- yes
- well i think
- Yes
- I could always email if I wanted to.
- I think so
- All areas of service are dealing with lack of persons due to pandemic but I trust things to get better.
- Yes E-mail are helping
- No opinion
- I think that all area and district chairs could do a better job of interacting with each other.
- Yes but I think, we tend to forget that we can utilize their services
- How about combining CPC and PI in one committee and CORRECTIONS and TREATMENT in another. Just a thought .
- They do well
- I'm not sufficiently informed to offer an opinion regarding all Committee chairs, but we have been receiving really timely, clearly stated direct assistance at the District level from at least two of the Chairs...CPC and Literature. I strongly believe that any of the Committee chairs would respond to questions or requests for assistance.
- Yes great job
- Again, same answer.

What other concerns do you have that aren’t addressed in this inventory? (32 responses)

- None
- none
- N/A
- ZOOM is not the answer. You eliminate the pre & post discussions that take place in meetings.
- I think that the frequency of AREA meetings could be reduced. I also think that redundancy is an issue. For example, we go over conference material at three different events. I think we need to streamline our calendar which in turn should reduce redundant topics. if we look at DCM's and GSR's, they are being asked to attend 12 District meetings as well as 12 AREA events annually. I believe that starts to burn people out and make volunteering a big job.
- THE PARTICIPATION OF PAST DELEGATES, SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING THE 2022 SPRING ASSEMBLY WHERE A PAST DELEGAT USED "ASK IT BASKET" TIME TO MAKE A PERSONNAL APOLOGY THAT I FEEL WAS INAPROPRIATE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT A SMALL GROUP OF PAST DELEGATES WERE "VERY" INAPRPRIATE AFTER THE FALL ASSEMBLY OF 2021. MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WAS AT A LUNCH TABLE WHERE DIRECT CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE FROM 4 PAST DELEGATES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY BECAME BELIGERENT SAYING THEY COULD NOW BE THIS OR THAT AT THE AREA LEVEL, WHICH I BELEIVE WOULD NEVER HAPPEN, YET THEY HAVE CONTINUED SOME OF THIS DISCUSSION EVEN TO THIS DAY. IF THE PAST DELEGATES ARE LISTED IN THE NORTHERN LIGHT AS RESOURCES, THAT IS HOW THEY SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES, NOT TRYING TO BRING DISSENTION TO THE AREA WHEN THEY DISAGREE WITH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE "DECEASED" PAST DELEGATES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE NORTHERN LIGHT AS THEY ARE NOT RESOURCES, AND I DO NOT MEAN THIS IN ANY DISRESPECTFUL WAY. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT UNDER THE Q: WHY DO WE LIST OUR PAST DELEGATES A: THEY ARE A RESOUIRCE TO YOU....THE LAST LINE EXPLAINING THIS THERE IS A LINE" SOME OF THEM EVEN OFFER GREAT COMPANY WHILE FISHING" SHOULD BE REMOVED AS IT IS NOT RELEVENT TO THE EXPLANATION.
- None at this time.
- unity on AA principles is number one and we in AA must avoid outside issues
- I think that issues can be addressed without taking other peoples inventory at the microphone or in print in the northern light.We are all just trusted servants and I think that gets forgotten sometimes.If we don't agree on issues that's ok and people need to let it go when that happens and support the area in its decisions when the group conscience has spoken.
- Past delegates have been disrespected. 2. Robert's Rules of order are not followed when making proposals and reporting discussion. I have seen complete paragraphs dedicated to some comments, a one line comment, and others left out completely. This is put into our minutes and used for future reference. Not all the information is there. Either include all comments or include no discussion comments (per Roberts Rules of Order) and therefore it is not felt as biased one way or other.
- Communication is a two way street and information needs to flow both ways in order to get a good group conscience. We need to make sure we are reaching out to people who have served before us and we don't put anyone on pedestals. It is important to remember that any past delegate that has not attended any assembly or ACM is doing so by their own choice, the Area has never asked them to not attend any

events. We have a good group of trusted servants and the Area is doing a good job getting business done regardless of the hurdles and unnecessary obstacles they have been faced with that seem to divert them focusing on important issues. We need to be able to learn from mistakes, be kind and move forward.

- Coming out of the Pandemic it is hard to evaluate as that rotation was not a normal rotation. I do think we need to use online "zoom" meetings to be able to include as many as possible. I think we need to move the focus on importance from the Delegates to the GSR's. The GSR's are representing the groups which have the ultimate voice, so we should do all we can to make the GSR's feel welcomed and help them understand better. I think we should do away with the "Dias" as a place for "most important" to sit at. I definitely think we need to do away with the "hugging line" at the voting assemblies! That is just uncomfortable to even watch! Maybe we should do a hugging line for all the new GSR's that attend for their first time!! Welcome them in a big way! Maybe we would have more involvement from the Groups and GSR's if we really put the emphasis on them- how about when we introduce ourselves at the microphone we include our home group and the name of our GSR? First name and initial along with whatever else we think we need to include to "qualify"- oh I could go on- but I won't thank you!
- Keep trudging the road of happy destiny.
- Zonal forum was great, detailed open and helpful
- Allowing the new rotation their right to be wrong or right and not monitoring every move
- Tom A
- It was so much fun driving 4 hrs to Ely and listening to everyone outside of district 13 complain about Christine"s election all weekend. Stop physically going to places its a complete waste of money.
- Do elections on Saturday instead
- I just need to get more on the job experience, then I will be able to add more to the discussions.
- Ice cream
- To much we against them.
- None. If I was concerned, I would get involved again.
- Rethink where assemblies are held to make them more centrally located for all. Crookston was really a ways
- Some of the rules about holding consecutive offices at Area level. We need to keep hard working and dedicated people around. They can choose not to run for positions. Adjust the guidelines.
- There is a consequence of non-participation by newcomers which could be addressed in part by officers or chairs. I realize that you can "only lead the horse to water but you can't make him drink." A large concern is for what I observe as a lack of participation at the District level caused, in part, by groups which have not developed a strong history of how to "pass along our responsibility" to newcomers. My observations lead me to conclude that newcomers, even some long-time members, show up for the meeting and do not know (or maybe not care) that there are news items or recommendations from District or Area which can help anyone to better understand the "big picture" of AA. Perhaps this is a "normal" progression of groups as they age, but there are many meetings I've attended where groups fail to grow, not only by measuring the numbers or participants, but by the lack of knowledge of AA's purpose and history. Another complicating factor for some groups is the insistence that a newcomer can be addicted to other substances and be considered a member of that AA group because "there aren't enough NA or other 12 step programs to meet their needs." So "come on in"...we deal not only with Alcoholic dependency but also with other drugs. Does not bode well for AA long term.
- We need to have more fun in sobriety. Rule 62 don’t take yourself so seriously
- I don’t know. Looks like the practice of acceptance and removal of egos needs to be looked at by each individual on a personal and honest level. Those in trusted servant positions should be examples of AA Models for the newcomer and I feel like that gets lost often

“AA membership cannot depend upon any particular belief whatever... our Twelve Steps contain no article of religious faith except faith in God – as each of us understands him.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., September 1950,
“We Came of Age”, *The Language of the Heart*

2022 Fall Assembly Evaluations Summary

GSRs (26 total – 6 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

12	GSR Orientation	3	Area Committee Reports
N/A	Breakout Sessions	9	Old/New Business
5	Inventory Discussion	14	Guest Speaker
13	GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions		

Any improvements for the next Fall Assembly?

- Dance or Karaoke party on Saturday night or music during ice cream social
- Make sure enough rooms are available
- Provide a list of local restaurants in area
- Make sure we are handicap accessible
- More microphones on the floor so people don't have to walk very far
- Have time after the GSR Orientation to have an ice breaker session to meet people one on one
- Officer reports and Old/New business on Saturday
- DCM and Committee Chair reports on Sunday
- Don't run out of ice cream
- Just reports from Area officers and committee chairs, DCMs provide report to secretary for printing
- Have written committee and DCM reports in written form only
- Keep officer reports / presentations
- Focus assembly time on old/new business, agenda items and elections as appropriate.
- Have the GSR orientation and sharing sessions again
- Quit pushing the Ask-it basket
- Calendar of events doesn't need to be in new business. We can read it in the Northern Light
- Put information used to: inventory, committee report, etc.
- Listen to GSRs, review the last 3 sharing sessions, including this week-end and see what the GSRs are asking for and start responding to those needs where applicable.
- Reports don't need to be read individually, make available online or passed out for review
- NO Zoom- Fellowship is important
- Move business to Saturday, Reports to Sunday.
- See agenda sooner and make sure the agenda on the website is available
- Do away OR upgrade Zoom, its distracting.
- We should be able to connect to facilities and use Wi-Fi

Additional Comments?

- Too much time spent on area inventory at the assembly
- Area Chair should have asked for help to make sure the DCMs were getting the inventory out to the GSRs, more follow-up with DCMs
- More comfortable chairs to sit in
- Old/New business on Saturday
- Committee Chair and DCM reports at a different time. Too much time spent on these reports
- Mobile type Archives to travel to different districts
- A virtual Archives Museum
- Make a Technologies Trainer position
- Voting on Saturday
- The GSR Orientation was very information
- Take more time explaining business so new people understand better
- More important business on Saturday i.e.. Elections, business, officer reports
- Good Job
- Assembly was done very well
- I'm pumped up
- Love the ice cream social
- Good Job
- Thank you for all time and energy to do this. Thanks to all the officers for being great role models and trusted servants
- Assembly was run very efficiently and kept on time with everything
- We are all doing better than we think. It was a good weekend.
- Worst ever facility
- Assembly was well organized and stayed on schedule
- Well Done
- Confused at where we are at with the Technology report – Next steps??
- More time needed for GSR Sharing session
- Loved the tailgates
- Ice cream social was a disappointment, hand off to the district to handle instead of area
- Thank you for your service
- Workshop on navigating technologies, hosted by the Webmaster and committee.
- Before talking about budget explain changes from last year and why there is an increase
- Need more information on voting items to be better informed

DCMs (8 total – 0 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

N/A	GSR Orientation	3	Area Committee Reports
6	Action Committee Breakout Sessions	5	Old/New Business
4	Inventory Discussion	5	Guest Speaker
7	GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions		

Any improvements for the next Fall Assembly?

- Have more tailgating. Districts sponsor meals. Spread the love.
- Have business at beginning of Saturday and reports later.
- Move business to beginning of Conference. People would be more engaged because on Sunday people are ready to go and are not focused.
- Extremely uncomfortable chairs
- Good job, kept things moving along on time
- Move priority business up on the agenda, and reports later

Additional Comments?

- Great cooperation and end mic on time
- This assembly was one of the best I have been to, well organized and ran smoothly. Great job.
- Keep improving AV/Zoom capabilities
- Enjoyed tailgating and fellowship

Other Positions (14 total – 0 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

1	GSR Orientation	0	Area Committee Reports
8	Action Committee Breakout Sessions	5	Old/New Business
6	Inventory Discussion	5	Guest Speaker
1	GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions		

Any improvements for the next Fall Assembly?

- 3-6 Topic specific workshops versus committee/DCM reports for attendees
- Very well ran
- Business first on Saturday morning
- Let us see the people on Zoom
- Moving business to Saturday is a good idea
- Better coffee
- Nope. Doing a great job.
- Make an outline for area committee reports to touch on (keep simple and how their business is reaching the still suffering alcoholic. How are committees work is specifically impacting the areas and districts)

Additional Comments?

- Thank you for serving
- Awful coffee
- Area officers are doing a great job. Thank you for your service.
- Working pool for relaxing at end of day
- Area Chair did a great job.
- Enjoyed the guest speaker – great choice.
- Tailgating was enjoyable and help me save money
- Nice for the most part but need to enforce buzzer across the board
- Not all the amenities were available at the facility
- Much better energy this assembly.
- We do need to lighten up as an Area. Too serious.



AREA OFFICER & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

OFFICER REPORTS
DELEGATE – STEVEN L

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen, First off, thank you to all the Groups that participated in the Public Information (PI) Membership Survey this year. Our Area had eight groups chosen and seven of those completed the survey. Next, thank you to the DCMs for helping me get the surveys to the groups and especially for the rapid return of the surveys to meet the survey’s deadline. I went to the Post office on Thursday to next-day deliver the completed surveys to the General Service Office (GSO) and met the deadline. When I got home, there was an email stating that the deadline was extended by ten days. Typical, “Hurry up and wait.”

I hope you enjoyed the Fall Assembly as much as I did. It was great talking to old friends and meeting some new GSRs and two new DCMs. Can’t beat the tailgate meals and fellowship that District 6 furnished for all who wanted to participate. I found the discussions on, “Giving a quick summary about someone willing to stand for an Area officer”, exhilarating. This came up as a spur of the moment motion, in the middle of an election with two people standing for Treasurer. People wanted to hear the experiences of the nominees, so the voting members weren’t voting blind. The motion was defeated by two votes. I placed an article in this issue of the NL going into more detail on a proposal for changing the Area’s election procedure for Area officers. Please take the time to read the essay and discuss it with your Group.

Planning of the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) is underway. One thing that is still to be discussed at our monthly WCR Delegate’s meeting is, “Do we want to turn the WCRAASC into a hybrid meeting?” We are looking into the cost and function of the meeting place. We have just a few small tweaks to make and then the updated guidelines will be ready for approval at the next Delegate’s meeting. We have two new people rotating in as Panel 73 Delegates, Meg H. from Area 36, S MN and Julie S. from Area 24, Iowa.

I’m writing this report on Halloween, it’s a beautiful day, warm and sunny, the complete opposite of the Halloween of 1991, when a huge blizzard hit and dumped tons of snow on us. I feel like the calm before the storm knowing a blizzard is about to hit, pertaining to what’s going to happen come agenda item season starting in February. There are 185 new proposed agenda items to be considered for next year’s conference. That’s 185 plus what was passed through to reconsider from last year’s conference. Of the 185, 92 are for the Literature Committee, which is the committee I sit on, that’s a whopping 50% of the proposed agenda items. Of the 92 proposed agenda items for the Literature Committee, roughly a little over half are about two things, changes to the 12x12 and the plain and simple translation of the Big Book. The Literature Committee (CLC) met with the Marita R., Chair of the Trustees Literature Committee (TLC). The meeting’s purpose was to discuss how to handle agenda items addressing the same topic. I’ll follow up on this thread in person at the December ACM. It will be interesting to see how the Trustees dole out agenda items with the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) test in its second year.

I’m sorry and disappointed to say that at the time of this writing, I have not received the Final Conference Reports in printed form yet! If anyone is interested, GSO is updating its file of applications from A.A. members who are interested in being considered for possible future openings for the position of G.S.O. staff members. G.S.O. staff people are A.A.s who carry out rotating assignments and correspond with A.A.s throughout the world on all aspects of recovery and service. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me.

Now would be a good time to start thinking if you want to have me come visit your District to discuss agenda items before our Spring Assembly. The next time ACM meets is the end of February 2023. The list of agenda items according to Mike L., WCR Trustee, is that translations have begun, and we should expect to have agenda items available the middle of February.

In Service, Steven L

ALT DELEGATE - JUSTIN W - Not Given

CHAIR – CHRISTINE G

Greeting Area 35, Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Assembly in Crookston. Our final count was 98 in person and 17 on ZOOM. There was a lot of business that took place and I appreciate all your patience with the Area as we navigated ZOOM per the request of the Area Committee in August. If this is something the area wants to continue to explore, we do need more time to get the equipment needed to make a better experience for all.

I have reviewed all the evaluations from the assembly and I appreciate all the time you all took to fill them out. There was an overwhelming number of comments regarding possibly having business earlier Saturday before hearing reports. We will have a discussion about this at the December ACM. Emails will be sent out to the Area Committee regarding this to give people a heads up. The evaluations will be listed after my reports.

On October 8th, I attended the Statewide Correction Workshop at the River’s Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. There was a good turnout and the committee did a great job planning and facilitating the meeting.

I opened the online area inventory per the request of the assembly, it was

opened up on October 4th and I closed it on October 19th. There was a total of 46 responses and I extracted them and these will also be printed in this edition of the Northern Light. I will be forming (2) ad hoc committees that will each review half of the question and report their findings. I will have an update at the December ACM. I am excited to see how we can improve the way we communicate and do our business in the area along with other suggestions that may be offered.

I also want to let you know that the inventory responses have been published, as written, without any revisions, alterations, or spelling corrections. I recognize that there are some responses that may be hurtful toward individuals. I did not want to start editing and adjusting what people wrote so NO edits were made to any of the inventory responses. I pray that God will be invited into the inventory review process and we are able to overcome these challenges.

I spoke with Area 36 Chair and we have decided to have an Area 35/A36 Joint Committee Meeting on July 23rd, 2023 via ZOOM. We needed to quickly come up with a date so Area 36 could get it on their event calendar. This gets set and is made available for their fall assembly.

I look forward to seeing you all at the December ACM on December 4th. The first year of this rotation went by fast.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Christine G.

SECRETARY – SALLY L

Greetings, Area 35. Since the Fall Assembly in Crookston, I got the Assembly minutes out and sent to the Northern Light editor, reviewed the compilations of the online Area Inventory questions and the Assembly review forms, and agreed to be on an ad hoc committee to address the inventory items and see what next steps can be taken to implement any changes the Area needs to make. I am looking forward to being involved in the ad hoc committee, and I am happy to be of service to the Area. In service, Sally L.

TREASURER - VICKI R

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer. Since Fall Assembly I have met with Christine and gotten on the signature card at the bank (Sat 10/29). I also met with Justin that same afternoon and he set up my computer with QuickBooks and access to the files on google. He walked me through the process on QuickBooks and was very organized and thorough. I appreciate the support of both Christine and Justin. Coming on board was made much less painful by their preparation and willingness to spend time showing me the ropes. I look forward to serving and am anxious to get into a rhythm here at home to fulfill the responsibility.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

WEBMASTER – KYLE H - Not Given

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B

Greetings, I have been working on the most recent issue of Northern Light. Our deadlines have shortened a bit so I really appreciate everyone sending their reports on time.

Fall Assembly was fun and filled with so much information. I proposed a question to the assembly regarding what information groups would like to see in the Northern Light. We are limited to 28 pages, so I would like to know what the groups find most helpful. Over the past year, there were a few issues where I wasn’t able to include the financials or submissions due to business that needed to be included. If our committee knows what the groups find most helpful, we can add or subtract the information that you would like to see printed when space is tight. We will always include the minutes from committee minutes and assemblies, we could also include financials, committee reports, results from online questionnaires, agenda items, Delegate conference report, meeting agendas, events and committee contact information. Which of these do you find most helpful and is there anything else that should be included? DCM’s please discuss this with your groups and send me an email with suggestions.

Nels (PI Chair) and I had the opportunity to share our stories and answer questions regarding AA at the New Moon treatment center in Tower at the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. It was an honor to be asked and we really enjoyed chatting with the clients. We have been talking to our district treatment chair about bringing a meeting to them as transportation to meetings is difficult. AA has not been part of this treatment center for 15+ years, so I really appreciate the interest in bringing us in to share our experience, strength and hope.

Please remember to send me your event flyers so that they can be included in the Northern Light and on area35.org. Flyer guidelines must be followed - you can find them on page 25. Send them to northerlight@area35.org. Flyers and reports for the Jan/Feb 2023 issue are due January 22. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R

Greetings Area 35, At the Assembly I met many new GSR’s and DCM’s that gave me changes for their groups and districts which have all been completed. I learned something new again working with a member from Crookston to correct their meeting time. I was unaware that there are other websites that have meeting listings that might include our meetings. So if someone comes to your group and states the meeting information is different than

(Continued from page 19)

what the website says, ask what website they are using.

I attended the Corrections Workshop that was held in St. Cloud on October 8th. It was great to see so many people from Area 35 in attendance. A bunch of us went for lunch and enjoyed some good fellowship. It was great to hear the presentations from all the speakers and listen to our Class A Trustee Judge Kerry Meyer.

I continue to update the Northern Light mailing list and have had returns again totaling \$18.20. We get charged \$.70 for each return and as you can see it does add up. If you are leaving for the winter to be a snowbird, please let me know so I can update the address change. The majority of the returns I receive are from people that have moved and we are not notified.

I continue to work on sending DCM's their Group Records for their District's and have recently sent District 3 their information. I continue to work with Groups that were inactivated and want to be reactivated during the Pandemic, general meeting listings that have changes and all regular duties.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Denise R

LITERATURE – PAT M - Not Given

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings, I'm pleased to announce that the area now has decided to fully support the state fair booth and the opportunity to be of service as voted on at the Fall Assembly (corn dogs, cheese curds, yay!). I had the opportunity to speak at the treatment center at Bois Forte about Alcoholics Anonymous and what it is and what it is not and hopefully someone may find us as a result. I had planned on attending the St Louis County health fair, but was unable to do so due to health issues. However, I was able to speak with the organizer about assisting District 12 next year. I plan to speak with District 12 and get an idea of how they viewed the experience. I look forward to seeing everyone at the December ACM.

In Service, Nels P

TREATMENT – RICCO R

I attended the MARRCH conference/Expo in St. Paul MN. This is mainly being written to let the Area 35 Treatment Committee know what went on at the MARRCH booth that Carla the Area 36 Chair invited me to attend and help Ken S. The Area 36 CPC chair to staff the Alcoholics Anonymous booth.

I thought of the committee often while I was there. It was exciting, informative, and productive for the Area 36 booth to be there. Ken brought a ton of pamphlets, and other materials to give out to the people (Professionals, Treatment Centers, and many professionals in many fields that are out there helping to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholics and alcoholics that are recovering from alcoholism. There were also other booths with different recovery programs.

We had a very busy booth. Sometimes both me and Ken were talking with someone at the same time and there were people looking at the things Ken brought or just waiting to talk to one of us. We had a lot of treatment centers, halfway houses for alcoholics, and a wide variety of professionals that were involved in helping alcoholics in other ways. I brought some of our Area 35 literature on the Bridging the Gap Temporary contact program. I explained the program and gave out our district sheets for A.A. members to fill out and gave them the Client Sheet for the treatment center to fill out. I also explained that they could just change the district number to their district on the sheet and use it like District 9 uses it.

I then told the treatment center professionals that we in Area 35 are printing up a brochure to explain the Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Program. I told them if they wanted a copy of the brochure they could leave me their e-mail address and I would send them a copy of it when it is finished. I got a total of 45 e-mail addresses. The Treatment Centers were really interested in the temporary contact program. I left a pile of our (District 9 A.A. member Temporary Contact Forms) and the (District 9 Treatment Client forms) and some meeting schedules that the Area 35 Districts gave me to bring to the expo. The meeting schedules also went well. Thanks again to those districts that gave me the schedules.

I attended the Area 35 and 36 Corrections workshop held in St Cloud on October 8, 2022. It was very well put together, nice crowd, good speakers, good questions, and feedback from the attendees, and in the mix of speakers we had a General Service Board Class A Trustee, The Honorable Judge Kerry Meyer, MA, JD, speak. Kerry is also the Minnesota Hennepin County Judge and sees a lot of DWI people come before her, so she mainly focused on that part of her responsibility. Arden our Area 35 Correction Chair did a very good job in his chairing position for the workshop.

Arden also asked Diane R. Area 35 District 9 Chair to join the planning committee for the corrections workshop, she agreed, and I just tagged along and attended the planning meetings. I didn't contribute much (just listened basically) but I learned a lot about putting on workshops with a more complicated bunch of things going on and things to do. Laura S. Area 36 Southern Minnesota Corrections Temporary Contact Coordinator Chaired the workshop planning committee and did a very good job and covered all the areas needed to put the workshop together. Ricco

CPC – GREG C - Not Given

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Several magazine covers were displayed at the Fall Assembly archives exhibit. A few people asked about how or why these were part of our archives. The answers were on the cover page as displayed. These magazines all had something to say about alcoholism and the solution offered by Alcoholics Anonymous. These were from the early years of Alcoholics Anonymous. Sometime later either these publications ceased publishing similar articles, or the articles were considered "outside issues" and were no longer valued to carry the AA message.

I was asked about Freedom Fest, two Minnesota events that happened in 1976 and 1986. I attended both, neither was exclusively AA, but both regarded sobriety or recovery from addictions. Yet there is very little noted in Area 35 archives. There are many local events around NMAA, some are called Round Robins, some are called Round Ups, and now there is a new one called Tailgating. These events remind us of the legacies of "Unity" and "Service" that are often forgotten as groups observe their autonomy. Many with long term sobriety have fond memories of service work and the unity observed, but these memories will be lost if not recorded in our collective archives.

In years past local newspapers included as public service the location and sometimes contact information for local AA meetings. Recently there have been websites and apps to help locate AA meetings. In some places there are billboards extending an invitation to problem drinkers. There are groups, districts, etc that have placed "business cards" with hotline phone numbers and various other information in locations frequented by people who might reach out for help to get sober. An album of published announcements, the cards, or pictures of billboards would be welcomed into our archives.

So here is a challenge: Reach out to the archivist in your district or your area (me) to tell them your story of how you or your group has experienced unity with other AAs via service work. Our area archive committee has already begun to assemble memories into written short stories that will serve well as archive exhibits in the future. Some of these memory short stories could become part of NMAA online archives. Add to this that pictures of Tailgating, Round Robins, or Roundups could become part of our archives (remember anonymity, no full names, no pictures showing faces).

I would like to be invited to your district meeting to present some ideas for recording our memories.

Thank you for allowing to serve as your archivist, Marc N

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

It is hard to believe that it has been 4 weeks already, since seeing many of you at Fall Assembly! At the assembly we were a small group for archives, yet we had many great ideas and possibilities for preserving our past for the future.

We had planned to meet at our new archives storage location, to sort through several more totes and boxes, but that workday has been cancelled due to conflicts for committee members. We have plans to meet at the location either before and/or after the Area Committee Meeting on Sunday, December 4th. Remember our new location is at: 9 3rd Street NE, Aitken, MN

Yours in Service, Renell P

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings everyone, I'm Mike U Area 35 Grapevine Chair and an alcoholic. I attended the fall assembly in Crookston, Mn where the agenda items were discussed as was the treasurer position. Welcome Vicki for this service chair. I also participated in the District 6 tail gate event and the money was donated back to the area. Thank you District 6. The event had lots of costumes, even ELVIS showed up. It was a great time and a lot of work was done - fun was had by all. Now for Grapevine... you might know that Grapevine is the international meeting in print and makes for a great way to send or give a subscription to a newcomer or a friend. I have been to a couple of districts Hibbing, Great Lake and my next is Cook, Mn. I'll be visiting your District soon. Also attended the St. Cloud round-up, great speakers and great service work. I have been presenting the Grapevine at some round-robins and has been well received. I went to the local jails, talked to the program director about letting the Grapevine magazine in for those to read. I couldn't give em fast enough, so if any of you district chairs need help with Corrections, Treatment or CPC, I'll help the best that I can to get the information too you. I also sent some magazines to district 4 corrections chair for their jail. If your District needs anything, email or call.

Thanks for letting me serve. Yours in service, Mike U

CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A

Since the fall assembly, we have had a Statewide Corrections Workshop which was well attended. We had 56 in attendance, 11 were on line. We had some very good presenters including the Honorable Judge Kerry Meyers who is our Class A Trustee. The Statewide Corrections Committee will continue to meet on the 1st Wed of every month. Anyone interested in corrections work is welcome to attend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Arden A



Your Experience, Strength and Hope

Proposed Area Officer Election Changes

While anxiously waiting for the election of a new Treasurer for our Area, a very interesting floor motion was put on the floor for the Assembly to resolve. Ballots cast, but not counted, there was a motion put forth on the floor that the voting body hear a brief summary of the people standing for Treasurer, the motion was seconded, followed by discussion at the mic. A vote was taken, the motion was defeated, but it was close. The election process was resumed, and the Area voted on a new Treasurer.

I'm enthused people were inspired to have a discussion about how the Assembly holds its election procedure at an election Assembly. Though, the middle of a vote is poor timing to have this conversation. I think the Area should consider having a discussion about changing the Area's election process at the 2023 Spring Assembly. There is always new GSRs and other voting members attending our Fall Election Assemblies. Some of these new voting members may have no idea who the nominated people standing for the elected positions are. Adding a quick description of the nominees will help give an awareness of who they are voting for.

Currently, only people standing for Delegate post a resumé of their qualifications for the membership to review. After the vote for Delegate is decided, only the remaining pool of people that stood for Delegate are able to stand for Alt Delegate. Presently, in the Area's election procedure there is no provision to introduce the voting members to the people standing for Treasurer, Secretary or the Chairperson. I believe that this is a disservice to the voting members because people are voting blind. Some call it promoting or campaigning when describing a nominee's qualifications, yes extremes can happen, but I call this informing the voting members.

At the General Service Conference (GSC), I observed two Trustee elections. Before the voting began for the elections, every Delegate that put forth a person to stand for Trustee from their Area, was allowed to give a two-minute presentation on why they thought their nominee for Trustee should be selected. These presentations took on different forms, from giving just a service resumé to giving a personal profile on what a good person and AA member they were. Then the third legacy procedure started, and a Trustee was decided on. I found this to be fascinating and beneficial. I couldn't wait to bring this idea back to our Area and see if we wanted to implement a similar process.

What I am proposing, is that the Area change its election procedure when voting for Area officers. Before the voting begins, we include time for a 60 second introduction about the person standing for Delegate given by the DCM of their nominating District. Subsequently, we do the same thing for the people standing for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. After the nominations close and before the voting begins, let the person who nominates a candidate give up to a 60 second introduction on why they nominated that person to stand for that position.

In summary, I believe that changing the voting procedure will better inform the voting members at an Election Assembly about the people that are asking to serve them. This will help give the Area the great leadership it has come to expect. By posting this in the Northern Light, I'm hoping to give Groups time to discuss this issue for changing the election process before the next Spring Assembly. If approved, we can implement this voting change at our next Election Assembly (Fall 2023). I'm also bringing this topic up at the December Area Committee Meeting so the DCMs have plenty of time to discuss this proposal at their District meetings and this will give you plenty of time for discussion at your home Group. We should have ample time to get an informed group conscious before the Spring Assembly.

In Service,
Steven Lere, Area 35 Delegate

"I offer these suggestions neither as one man's dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past."

Bill W - April, 1946 Grapevine,
"Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition."

Our Primary Purpose

To the Editor:
I offer this commentary in an effort to continue efforts within AA to remind us how Bill W. spoke so eloquently regarding our Primary Purpose. An earlier version of this appeared about two years ago in the Northern Light. Recent observations and conversations at various local or area meetings lead me to believe that Our Primary Purpose once again deserves some special attention through outlets such as the Northern Light.

My 41 years attending meetings of this invaluable means of dealing with alcoholism, combined with an appreciation of our founders' messages, spurs me to better appreciate what gift we have been given. I also believe that we dilute that basic message when our 12-step program is compromised by someone's insistence that "an addiction is an addiction is an addiction."

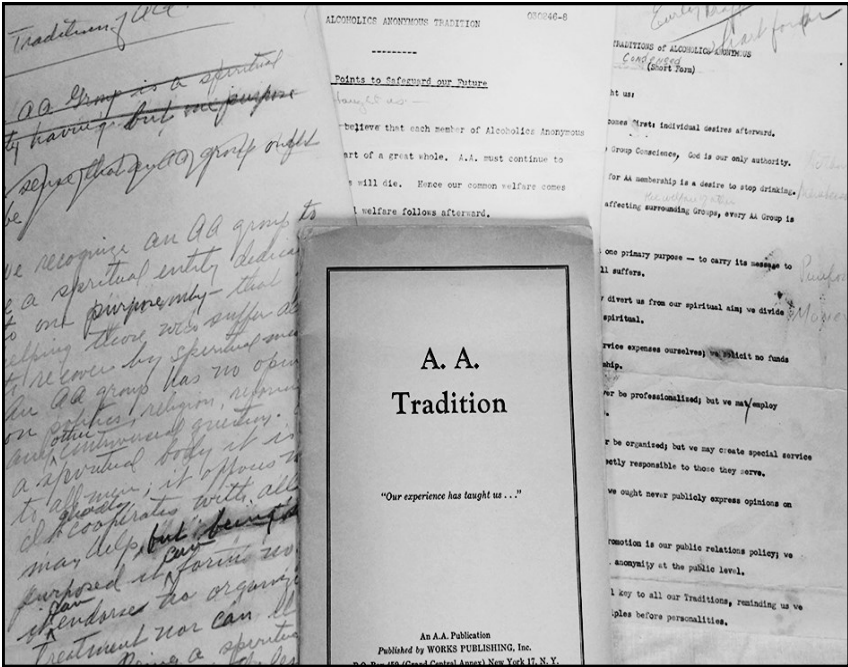
I ask that you publish it at your convenience when it works within the very challenging aspects of putting together our fine publication. Thank you.

Jim T/Brainerd, Mn

Share your experience, strength and hope with Area 35 by sending an article to be printed in the Northern Light. We want to hear from you!

Did you have a great time at an Assembly? Is your home group bringing a meeting to a local treatment center or correctional facility? Please tell us about it. Send an email to:
northernlight@area35.org.

****All submissions must be approved by the Northern Light committee.****



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

2022 Service Events

December 4: Area Committee Meeting, Aitkin

2023 Service Events

January 14-15: Area 35 Service Workshop
Holiday Inn, Duluth, MN

February 26: Area Committee Meeting, Aitkin

March 3 - 5: WCRAASC Omaha, NE

April 1 - 2: Spring Assembly, Alexandria, MN

Eagle Bend AA Christmas Party Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share
“Ugly Sweater Contest”

When: Sunday, December 11

5:00 Social Time
5:30 Potluck
7:00 AA speaker, Gary P

Where: Faith Lutheran Church
300 Main St W, Eagle Bend, Mn

Area 35 47th Annual Service Workshop “Our 3rd Legacy - So What Are We Doing Here?”

Presentations by
Brooke C – Area 76 Wyoming - Past Delegate
Dennis B – Area 36 Southern Minnesota – Past Delegate

January 14th and 15th, 2023 – Registration 8am – Opening 9am
Registration is \$15

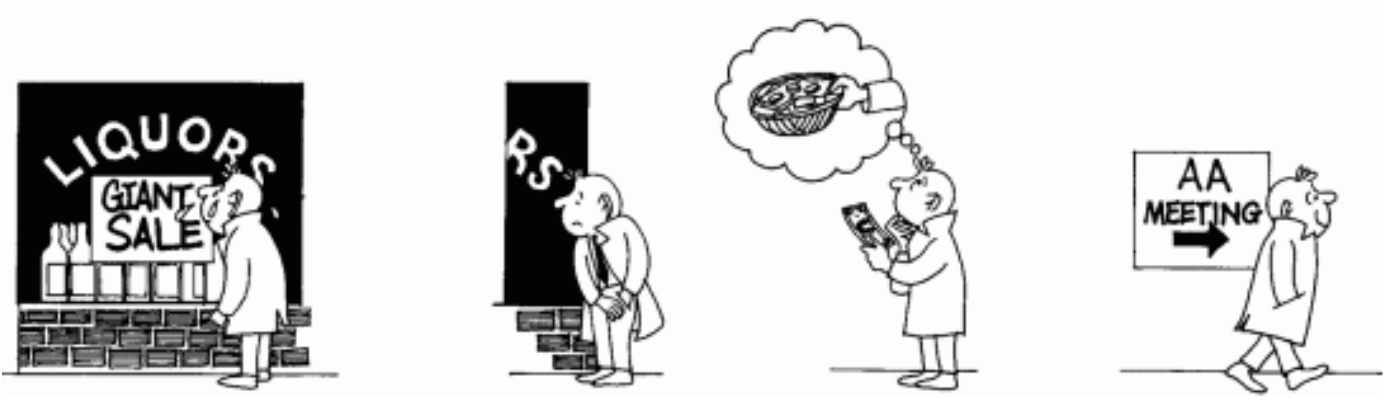
Holiday Inn Duluth - Downtown
200 West First Street | Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218.727.7492

Room rates - \$159 plus tax
Mention Group Code “NMAA” by Phone
Cutoff Date: *December 14th, 2022*

This is an annual service training workshop and is intended to be an educational experience about General Service in Alcoholics Anonymous. All A.A. members are welcome to attend. Brooke and Dennis will share their knowledge and experience regarding Service - Our Third Legacy with the intention of helping us understand a little better What We’re Supposed to be Doing Here. They will be addressing topics such as...

The Service Structure Explained
How and Why We Participate
How Our Participation Honors our Primary Purpose of Reaching the Still Suffering Alcoholic

They will also share their personal stories on Saturday Night...then ICE CREAM!



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

Start out the snowy New Year being inspired and encouraged!

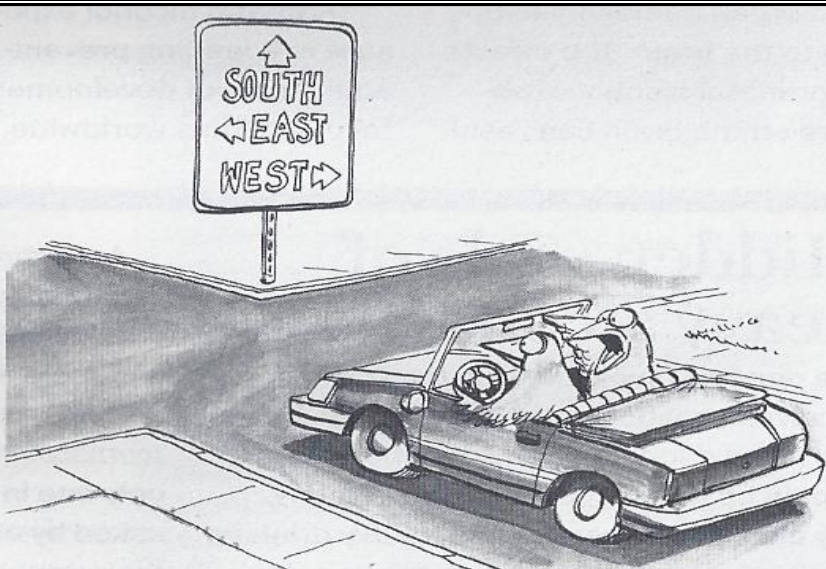
COOK SUNDAY NIGHT AA BIG BOOK
OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

Saturday, January 7, 2023

7:00 p.m. Alanon Speaker: Julie B. (Little Fork)
8:00 p.m. AA Speaker: Garrett S. (Alango)

Trinity Lutheran Church
231 – 2nd Street SE, Cook, MN

Come early, chat with new and old friends, and have a bite to eat.



“All my sponsor ever says is do the next right thing; now what?!”
-MIKE R., Chicago, Ill.

Area 35 Spring Assembly

April 1st-2nd, 2023

Holiday Inn Alexandria
5637 Highway 29 South
Alexandria, MN 56308

Room Rates: King Leisure Non-Smoking, \$129.99 + tax
Two Queen Beds Non-Smoking, \$119.99 + tax

To make reservations please call: (320) 763-6577
Reserve under: Area 35
Cut off Date is: MARCH 3rd, 2023

Saturday, April 1st
9:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, April 2nd
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. We will be going over the agenda items for the General Service Conference.

"Let us AAs no longer be takers from society. Instead, let us be givers."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1946
"Policy on Gift Funds" The Language of the Heart



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

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 tradition 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 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 to 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 of 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 the Area Group Records Chair, Area Webmaster and Area Audio Technician along with two D.C.M.s in Area 35. DCM’s are picked randomly at the start of each rotation and 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.

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Committee meets every other month, before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. If needed, additional meetings may be called.

NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:

General submissions are welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to AA and Area 35. All submissions will be approved by the Northern Light committee, in accordance with Tradition Two; For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. 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.

Please send submissions to northernlight@area35.org or my address on page 2. The deadline for each issue is printed on the front page.

All submissions should have a title. Please include the first name, last initial and city where the author is from. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. 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, **contact the Northern Light Editor** at northernlight@area35.org or call the phone number listed on page 3 of the print version of the Northern Light, for the Northern Light Editor (remember this will change every 2 year rotation).
2. Email a .pdf version of your flier to northernlight@area35.org for approval. Upon approval a copy will be forwarded to the webmaster to be placed on the Area 35 websites calendar of events.
3. Upon approval mail to :

Cold Spring Record
PO Box 456
403 West Wind Court
Cold Spring, MN 56320
With an Attn: Northern Light on the mailing address
Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light
4. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Currently there are **1000 copies printed with @725 pieces to mail**. What is not mailed is passed out at the Area meetings.

Number of Copies	Printing Costs		Insertion Fee	Total Cost
	1 Sided	2 Sided		
749	\$ 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
37258 Lakeland Rd
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

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 for A.A. Sponsored Events only.
- ◆ Fliers needed—749 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and handouts.

Northern Light Deadlines for 2023 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 22nd : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 1st : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ April 30th : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 2nd : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 2nd : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ October 29th : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

Area 35 Event Flyer Guidelines

To be included in the Northern Light, all flyers must answer the following questions.:

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

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

Only Area 35 AA members may submit a flier.
Fliers for AA sponsored events only.

Please submit flyers in PDF format when possible. Flyers will be posted on area35.org 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)

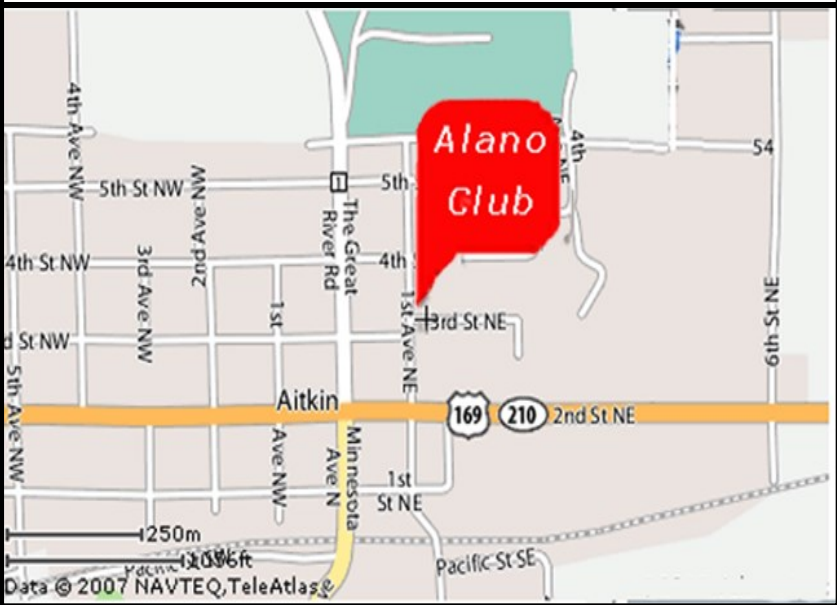
AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 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



Volume XLI Issue 6		NORTHERN LIGHT		Created 1982	
Nov/Dec 2022				Page 27	
Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly					
OUR PAST DELEGATES					
<u>Panel 70</u> 2020-2021 Jim S		<u>Panel 38</u> 1988-1989 Scott J		<u>Panel 12</u> 1962-1963 Donna T (deceased)	
<u>Panel 68</u> 2018-2019 Christine G		<u>Panel 36</u> 1986-1987 Louie H		<u>Panel 10</u> 1960-1961 Bob B (deceased)	
<u>Panel 66</u> 2016-2017 Kelly D		<u>Panel 34</u> 1984-1985 Bob P (deceased)		<u>Panel 8</u> 1958-1959 Pearl N (deceased)	
<u>Panel 64</u> 2014-2015 Michael “Jake” J		<u>Panel 32</u> 1982-1983 Tom L (deceased)		<u>Panel 6</u> 1956-1957 Waldo H (deceased)	
<u>Panel 62</u> 2012-2013 Jim K		<u>Panel 30</u> 1980-1981 Don M (deceased)		<u>Panel 4</u> 1954-1955 Wendell H (deceased)	
<u>Panel 60</u> 2010-2011 Jon C		<u>Panel 28</u> 1978-1979 Garfield (Duffy) S (deceased)		<u>Panel 2</u> 1952-1953 Arthur R (deceased)	
<u>Panel 58</u> 2008-2009 JoAnne M N		<u>Panel 26</u> 1976-1977 Vern R (deceased)			
<u>Panel 56</u> 2006-2007 Jerry S		<u>Panel 24</u> 1974-1975 Gordon B. H (deceased)			
<u>Panel 54</u> 2004-2005 Charlie C		<u>Panel 22</u> 1972-1973 Frank P. J (deceased)			
<u>Panel 52</u> 2002-2003 Tim C		<u>Panel 20</u> 1970-1971 Clarence B			
<u>Panel 50</u> 2000-2001 Tom A		<u>Panel 18</u> 1968-1969 Dave H (deceased)			
<u>Panel 48</u> 1998-1999 Susie A		<u>Panel 16</u> 1966-1967 Arno A (deceased)			
<u>Panel 46</u> 1996-1997 Bill P (deceased)		<u>Panel 14</u> 1964-1965 Donald F (deceased)			
<u>Panel 44</u> 1994-1995 Bruce B					
<u>Panel 42</u> 1992-1993 Greg G (deceased)					
<u>Panel 40</u> 1990-1991 Bob J					

Q: Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

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

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING
Agenda
Aitkin, MN
December 4th, 2022

<div><div>_____ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</div><div>(9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting</div><div>_____ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>_____ Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>_____ Add to Agenda</div><div>_____ Approve Minutes from last ACM</div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div>_____ Delegate – Steve L</div><div>_____ Alternate Delegate – Justin W</div><div>_____ Chair – Christine G</div><div>_____ Secretary – Sally L</div><div>_____ Treasurer – Vicki R</div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div>_____ WEBMASTER – Kyle H</div><div>_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Heidi B</div><div>_____ District 3 – Melvin S</div><div>_____ GROUP RECORDS – Denise R</div><div>_____ District 16 – Dave C</div><div>_____ LITERATURE – Pat M</div><div>_____ District 12 – Terry A</div><div>_____ District 5 – Jarrin V</div><div>_____ PUBLIC INFORMATION - Nels P</div><div>_____ District 2 – Dave N</div><div>_____ District 4 – James W</div><div>_____ TREATMENT – Ricco R</div><div>_____ District 6 – Julie N</div><div>_____ District 7 – Robert N</div><div>_____ CPC – Greg C</div><div>_____ District 18 – Scott S</div><div>_____ District 15 – Lisa M</div><div>_____ ARCHIVIST – Marc N</div><div>_____ ARCHIVES – Renell P</div><div>_____ District 11 –</div><div>_____ District 14 –</div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Mike U</div><div>_____ District 1 -</div><div>_____ District 13 – Jim R</div><div>_____ District 21 – Jennifer T</div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Arden A</div></div>	<div><div>_____ District 9 - Diane R</div><div>_____ District 8 - Heather L</div><div>12:00 P.M. Lunch</div><div>12:45 P.M. Reconvene</div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div>_____ Financial Oversight Committee Report</div><div>_____ Tabled motion: “Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCMs, Area Officers, and Committee Members.” – Spring Assy 2023</div><div>_____ Area Inventory – Update</div><div>_____ Ad-Hoc Technology Committee - Web</div><div>_____ Joint A35/A36 Meeting – Update</div><div>_____ Statewide Corrections – Corrections</div><div>_____ State Fair Booth – PI</div><div>_____ Delegate Nomination Process Discussion</div><div>_____ Northern Light Content Discussion</div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ Sending All Area 35 Officers and Action Committee Chair to WCRAASC - Chair</div><div>_____ Spring Assembly Agenda Format Discussion - Chair</div><div>_____ Area Officer Elections Discussion</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____ Calendar of Events</div><div>_____ Adjourn</div></div>
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*****Note - NEW AREA TREASURER ADDRESS*****



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

37258 Lakeland Rd

Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783