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March 1, 2023

This is YOUR Newsletter

Area 35

Ada, Aitkin, Akeley, Alango, Albany, Alexandria, Audubon, Aurora, Avon, Babbitt, Backus, Badger, Bagley, Barnesville, Barnum, Battle Lake, Baudette, Baxter, Beaver Bay, Becker, Bemidji, Bethel, Big Lake, Biwabik, Blackduck, Bowstring, Boy River, Braham, Brainerd, Brimson, Brookston, Browerville, Browns Valley, Cambridge, Carlos, Cass Lake, Chisholm, Clarissa, Cloquet, Cohasset, Cold Spring, Cook, Cormorant, Cotton, Crookston, Cross Lake, Debs, Deer Creek, Deer River, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Duluth, Eagle Bend, Effie, Elbow Lake, Elizabeth, Elk River, Ely, Erhard, Erskine, Esko, Evansville, Eveleth, Fergus Falls, Fertile, Finland, Finlayson, Floodwood, Foley, Forest Lake, Fort Ripley, Fosston, Foxboro, Frazee, Fredenberg, Garrison, Gilbert, Glenwood, Goodland, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Grand Rapids, Grasston, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Harris, Hawley, Henning, Henriette, Herman, Hermantown, Hibbing, Hill City, Hinckley, Holdingford, Hoyt Lakes, International Falls, Ironston, Isanti, Isle, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Kensington, Kimball, Knife River, Lake Henry, Lake Lena, Lake Park, Lawrence Lake, Little Falls, Littlefork, Long Prairie, Longville, Lutsen, Mahnommen, Mahtowa, Malmo, McGregor, Melrose, Menahga, Middle River, Milaca, Moorhead, Moose Lake, Mora, Morris, Motley, Mountain Iron, Nashwauk, Naytahwaush, Nett Lake, Nisswa, North Branch, Ogilvie, Onigum, Orr, Osage, Osakis, Otsego, Ottertail, Palisade, Palo, Park Rapids, Parkers Prairie, Paynesville, Pelican Rapids, Pequot Lakes, Perham, Pierz, Pike, Pike Lake, Pillager, Pine City, Pine River, Princeton, Proctor, Quamba, Rainy River, Red Lake, Red Lake Falls, Remer, Rice, Richmond, Rock Creek, Roseau, Rush City, Sandstone, Sartell, Sauk Centre, Sauk Rapids, Sawyer, Shevlin, Side Lake, Silver Bay, Solway, Squaw Lake, St. Cloud, St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Stacy, Staples, Stephen, Superior, Thief River Falls, Toivola, Tower, Twin Valley, Two Harbors, Underwood, Verndale, Virginia, Wadena, Wahkon, Waite Park, Walker, Warba, Warren, Warroad, Watkins, Waubun, Williams, Willow River, Zim, Zimmerman

Attention SNOWBIRDS let us know you are leaving!
Send address change request to
grouprecords@area35.org.

Send articles and comments for publication to
northernlight@area35.org

Don't forget to visit and bookmark your Area 35 web site! - <http://area35.org>



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** - Big Fork, Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake*, Longville, Remer, Warba
- 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

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

District Meeting Location Information

District 1

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

District 2

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

District 3

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

District 4

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

District 5

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

District 6

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

District 7

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

District 8

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

District 9

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

District 11

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

District 12

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

District 13

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

District 14

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

District 15

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

District 16

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

District 17

Not currently active or unknown

District 18

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

District 21

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

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)

Area 35 December 2022 ACM Minutes
Aitkin, MN
December 4, 2022

Call to Order: Area Chair Christine G. called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, 2022, and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Recognition of Past Delegates In Attendance: None present.

Additions to agenda: Discussion on hybrid ACMs going forward; Treasurer’s budget; Bridging the Gap; January Service Workshop hybrid

Point of order: Two-minute limit for sharing at the mic

Approval of August 2022 ACM Minutes: Heidi B. motioned to approve the minutes, Jeff seconded, **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OFFICER REPORTS
DELEGATE – STEVEN L

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen - It has been busy since my last report. I finally received the printed copies of the 2022 final General Service Conference (GSC) report. They were stuck in Chicago for the past month and a half. Please take as many as you want to bring back to your Districts, they are stacked on the back tables. I’ve been in correspondence with a District to help them hold a GSR workshop in February to try to get more GSR participation in their District. On Dec 15th, I attended a zoom meeting with 80+ Delegates to welcome the new panel 73s and say goodbye to the panel 71s. It was interesting to hear the concerns of the incoming Delegates on what the conference is like, what to wear, how to pack and what to expect. I welcomed three new groups to the Area and invited them to attend our workshop in January.

At the WCR Delegates meeting Nov 28th, Mike L., (WCR Trustee), reported that we moved \$1.1 million from the reserve fund (this came from the insurance money received on the cancelled International Convention which was to be held in Detroit) to the General Operating fund to cover deficits. \$250k of the Insurance money stayed in the reserve fund. We are now on track with the revised budgets. Grapevine’s operating loss is currently at \$300,000. Through Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW) there is one Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) going to the Grapevine Conference Committee, three items are going to the Finance Conference Committee, two items are going to Corrections Conference Committee, and two are going to the Treatment Conference Committee with about five other items distributed among the other committees. Public Information (PI) still has the bulk of PAIs with 16 proposed items. Literature is second with 11 proposed items with one new addition. If an item was previously distributed to a committee, we kept it on that committee due to the work already/previously done on the item.

The Grapevine Inc. has been hard at work with an app development. Bids have gone out. We anticipate half a dozen vendors responding, costs will probably be between \$250,000 to \$300,000 to develop this app. Tentative rollout date will be September 2023.

The GV podcast has over 300,000 downloads now. Another podcast is in the works with shorter topics and different moderators. We have noticed that Grapevine products in digital material provide the most downloaded material available and is the most complete material we provide. Even on the AAWS side, the audio books were downloaded much more frequently than the printed material. Call the GV if you haven’t received a GV product you ordered for 3 months or more.

I booked my rooms at both the Area workshop in Duluth and the WCRAASC in Omaha. Speaking of the WCRAASC, there was a snafu on getting fliers distributed in the Northern Light (NL). I brought 200 copies of the flier for the event, please take ten or more home with you to distribute at your district meetings. You can also download them off of our website. I’m happy to announce that the WCRAASC will be a hybrid meeting this time also.

I have heard from the conference coordinator about all the proposed agenda items (PAI) our Area sent in.

PAI#121: Consider the use of QR codes to carry the information contained in pamphlets using diverse technologies.

The following is the outcome of their deliberations:
“The committee discussed three proposed agenda items related to the use of QR codes and took no action to forward this item to the 2023 General Service Conference. The committee discussed that use of QR codes on materials is occurring on various projects at the General Service Office (GSO), such as the Young People’s Video project and the PI/CPC service cards under development. The ability to determine when to incorporate QR coding into materials should remain within the purview of the office.”
Why the TPIC I don’t know, possibly because of equitable distribution of workload (EDW).

PAI #77: Motion to shuffle the Daily Reflections pages.

The following is the outcome of their deliberation:
“The A.A.W.S. Board discussed the proposed agenda item related to the motion to shuffle the Daily Reflections pages and is forwarding this item to trustees’ Literature Committee.”

PAI #47: Motion to change the wording of the Open Meeting Statement on the Primary Purpose Statement F-17 (blue card) to incorporate the Open meeting Statement in the AA Group Pamphlet - The new "open meeting statement" to read - "This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. We are glad you are all here - especially newcomers. In support of our Third Tradition that states "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking" we ask that nonalcoholics attend as observers only.

The following is the outcome of their deliberation:
“The A.A.W.S. Board discussed the proposed agenda item related to the motion to incorporate the Open Meeting Statement in the AA Group pamphlet and took no action to forward this item to the General Service Conference, noting that this topic was considered in 2019 by the 69th General Service Conference and was not carried forward.”

PAI #46: Motion for any new, updated or addition to existing service material to be sent to the appropriate conference committee for review before being printed or posted on our website www.aa.org. Those items that clearly do not fit under a specific committee can be referred to the Report and Charter Committee.

The following is the outcome of their deliberation:
“The A.A.W.S. Board discussed the proposed agenda item related to the motion to have any new, updated or addition to existing service material be sent to the appropriate conference committee for review and took no action to forward this item to the General Service Conference, noting that processes related to service material are currently being studied by the A.A.W.S. board.”

PAI #44: The trustees’ Literature Committee discussed your proposed agenda item PAI 44: We are making a proposal regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (fourth edition) into plain and simple language. We propose that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not to be translated into plain language in any way; that these remain in the existing form in English as in the Fourth Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous.

The following is the outcome of their deliberations:
“The trustees’ Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After legal consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored closed reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.”

PAI #45: The 2002 Conference unanimously recommended the Advisory Action that the text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published. We propose that changes made by the 71st General Service Conference: Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, “No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health” with “No one want to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony” in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to their original text.
Note: This would include the Introduction be returned to its original text.

The following is the outcome of their deliberations:
“The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Action to the Fellowship. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions PAIs: The trustees’ Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current literature. The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.”
This reply by the trustees Literature Committee was discussed at a Conference Literature Committee (CLC) meeting on Oct 18th. I’ve had a few sleepless nights over this recommendation.

To me, the request that the Trustees Literature Committee wanting the AA fellowship to discuss a policy on the changing the writings of AA founders for a year (2023 to 2024) is redundant, also to note: a Conference action is not binding on future Conferences.

I believe, if the discussion is to make a policy and get group input until the 74th GSC in 2024, there should be a moratorium on the publishing and selling of the 12X12 until this issue is resolved. In 2021, 400,000 copies of the 12X12 were printed. If we keep printing and selling the 12X12 in its changed form that would make 1.5 million to two million copies of the 12X12 distributed out to the fellowship by 2024 and cause further confusion and disunity

if this change is revoked.

I sent an email to the Trustees Literature Chair and the Delegates on the Literature Committee about my concerns. I also brought this concern up at the WCR Delegates meeting and Mike L., (WCR Trustee), stated that it would take a conference action to put a moratorium on the publishing and selling of the 12X12, since it was a conference action to sell the 12x12 in its current changed form.

In Service, Steven L

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W

Greetings Friends, Vicki has assumed the Treasury responsibilities and I believe the Area finances are in much better hands now. She has significant accounting experience and I think I’ve asked more questions of her than she has of me.

I’ve been working on the 47th Annual Service Workshop coming up in January. If you haven’t already, please take a copy of the agenda and flyer off the table in the back of the room. The presentation topics were distributed to districts 3, 8, 9, 12, 16 and 21 last Monday via email. I placed phone calls to 5 of the districts yesterday to make sure that they had received the email, and it looks like we may have an issue with the email forwarding for Districts 8 and 3 because they did not receive the email. At this point I have confirmation and acceptance from all 6 of the districts and have offered to share my experience with any of them that might ask. **Can I get a show of hands of all of the people in here who have been involved in giving presentations at the workshop in the past?...**For those of you that are presenting this year, you can see that there is an extensive amount of experience in this room for you to draw from. Also, this is a perfect opportunity to use the experience of our beloved past delegates. I can assure you that they would be glad to help. Thanks so much to you folks that have accepted the responsibility, we are grateful for your service and the sacrifices that each of you makes in order to serve this fellowship.

I have made the airline reservation for Brooke to fly in from Billings Montana on Friday and leave on Sunday. I was able to get the ticket for almost \$200 under what we budgeted. Our other guest speaker Dennis will be picking her up from the airport and bringing her up to Duluth, so they’ll have plenty of time together and they’re long-time friends. I have had a couple of video conferences with Dennis and one with the three of us and I think they’re comfortable with their presentation material and we’ve come up with an interesting format for their presentations.

I still have to get the voice book updated and a few other odds and ends, but we’re in good shape for the event and I’m excited and looking forward to it. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

CHAIR – CHRISTINE G

Greetings Area 35, Since my report in the Northern Light, I have compiled the results from the area inventory and created two committees to review the responses and come up with any recommendations that they may have. Thank you to all who agreed to be a part of the committee. Each committee consists of a GSR, DCM, Area Officer/Committee Chair, a Past Delegate and a secretary for taking notes.

Each committee has met one time and has another time scheduled. The plan is to have all recommendations typed up and made available at the Spring Assembly so you can take them back to your districts and groups for discussion. Groups are more than welcome to come up with additional recommendations/motions for the assembly to consider. At the Fall Assembly we will discuss the recommendations/motions to see what needs to happen next.

On October 29, I presented at a District 13 workshop and the topic was “Basics & Intro to AA Service.” I presented on what the area make up is and what the basic responsibilities are of the Area Officers and Committee Chairs. I spoke about the events the area has and what takes place at those events. I also spoke about 7th Tradition Contributions to the three entities that are a part of the Area 35 general service structure.

Prior to this workshop, I met with new Area Treasurer at Wells Fargo to get her set up as a signer on the checking account with full administrative rights. I was also able to hand over the information that was given to me from our past Treasurer.

As we are coming into the year, I would like all the committee chairs and officers to think about how you can help districts/groups that are local to you. DCM’s, we have the WCRAASC coming up and all committee chairs and officers can help with going over agenda items. Our Delegate is not the only individual who can help you with the agenda items. Please contact an Area Officer/Committee chair that is close to you. All individuals should be knowledgeable in the agenda items if they attend the WCRAASC. By visiting districts that are close to us we help save expenses of gas and lodging. This afternoon we will need to discuss if we are going to send all our area officers and committee chairs to the WCRAASC to attend in person. I have taken some time over the weekend to touch base with each committee chair to see if they have a preference how they attend the WCRAASC. Whatever the Area Committee decides to do, we have trusted servants willing to do what is best for the area and your finances.

This first quarter will be a quarter that we will need to be extra prudent with our spending. There may be less printing and less color copies while being mindful when travel and making sure we are pairing up and sharing expenses, like we always try and do.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Chair. In Unity and Service, 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. I participated in the first meeting of the ad hoc committee meeting for the review of the Area Inventory. We are going to have another meeting to continue our work of coming up with possible recommendations for the Spring Assembly. I look forward to continuing this review.

Please get your reports to me by December 12th so I can get the minutes sent to the Northern Light editor.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Sally L.

TREASURER – VICKI R

Thank you for allowing me to serve as treasurer. I’ve spent the time since elected learning the procedures and getting help, mostly from Justin. He said it’s okay if I say I’ve paid the Archives storage bill on time twice!

As you can see on the IEC and the Financial Summary I provided, the Area finances are as follows:

Group contributions for period 6 = \$4,636.72 and other income sources = \$3,489.79 totaling \$8,126.51 for the period.

Area expenses for period 6 total \$14,316.44 leaving a net loss for the period of (\$6,189.93).

Year to date group contributions = \$28,884.08 and other income sources = \$12,044.11 totaling \$40,928.19.

Total Area expenses are \$59,187.50 leaving a net loss of (\$18,259.31) for the end of November.

To meet the budgeted income of \$60,432 we need to bring in \$19,503.81 by Dec. 31.

I expect we will spend over the \$60,437.01 budgeted expenses by the end of Dec. 31. There is \$1,249.51 remaining but this meeting will generate more expenses than that.

I have concerns about the 2023 budget we passed at the Fall Assembly. The budget totals \$88,457.21 in expenses and the most I can estimate we would take in as income it \$42,000, leaving a shortfall of \$46,457.21, well beyond our prudent reserve of \$6,000 should we have to spend into it.

Therefore, I am requesting a discussion to find a solution to bring the 2023 budgeted expenses in line with the expected income.

I have added the budget totals for WCRAASC, WCR Forum, and District travel to be budgeted at \$32,758.95, which would make up most of the estimated shortfall. Should we decide to remove those budgeted items, there is still a shortfall of \$13,698.26 to reduce from the budgets.

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

WEBMASTER – KYLE H

No Report.

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B

Hello Area 35, This morning we had 6 in attendance for our committee meeting.

In the past month, I worked on the last edition of the Northern Light for 2022. I’ve added flyer and report due dates for 2023 and am getting current costs from our printer. We print 1000 newsletters, mail approx. 750 newsletters and then I hand out an additional 130 to DCM’s to bring to their districts. That leaves just over 100 newsletters for committee meetings and assemblies. We may be able to cut that print run down reducing waste, which will also cut some costs. I’m also getting current costs for adding printed event flyers to each issue. **Please note** that if you make your own copies of your flyer for our printer to blow into every newsletter, our current print run is 1000. If you only want them in the mailed newsletters, you must send at least 750. Instructions for adding flyers, as well as costs, are in each issue of the Northern Light. And if you want your event flyer included in the Northern Light, please send it to me at least 3 months prior or you may miss the deadline.

I was asked to participate in one of the two groups that is going through the Area inventory. Our group has already met once and discussed the first question. We will be meeting via Zoom again this week for the 2nd assigned question. I look forward to putting together recommendations based on the feedback from the Area.

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.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Heidi B.

DISTRICT 3 – MELVIN S

Season's Greetings, my name is Melvin DCM from District 3. With visiting meetings in our district and the homework assignments that the area has given us I am staying busy. I could’ve sworn that I retired a few months ago!

Our November district meeting had 12 in attendance with two new GSRs.

(Continued from page 5)

District 3 has been making steady progress. Several members are still doing double duty trying to keep positions moving, hoping one day that they can be filled with bright enthusiastic new members. Speaking of which, we now have a new treasurer. Will K. has quite the service background. He has moved here from the big city and we're introducing him to rural Minnesota. We will be working on budgets, financial policy and possibly adjusting our prudent reserve. Also, we are investigating lower web site costs and printing costs for paper meeting schedules.

Melissia our Alt. DCM and I are tackling the task of updating the meeting list, this is a big undertaking. If we need to visit meetings because of lack of contacts they are sometimes 50 miles away. Some of these groups have been going on up to 50+ years. I am not sure why they don't attend district meetings or at least send in group change forms. We do tell them about the new-comer looking for meetings and how we get calls on the helpline about finding meetings.

Patti D. our treatment chair has been busy with zoom meetings with area 35 and contacting treatment centers.

Bill D. Corrections has been contacting jails in our district and delivering literature.

Pete S. Webmaster keeping up with lots of changes and networking with others to discuss cutting costs of site. I attended the Wadena round robin, very good speakers. Wadena has been going through changes like many meetings in our area but I did make a contact at the meeting. Looks like the round robins will be taking a break for the winter, some meetings have a low attendance. There is a slight decrease in attendance at meetings in district due to the snowbirds flying the coop.

In Service, Melvin

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R

Greetings Area 35, I continue to work with several DCM's that are going through the process of verifying their Groups, Group Contacts and meeting information. I update the new information as they give it to me. Thank you DCM's for your hard work and taking the time to make sure the Groups in your Districts are correct so we can have accurate information! Please continue to send me updates as needed.

I received 2 messages through aaminnesota.org from students asking about Alcoholics Anonymous and if they are able to attend meetings to learn. It has been my pleasure to be able to direct them where to attend. I am grateful to be part of the process.

For the first time in a long time I have had no Northern Light's returned as undeliverable!

I attended the monthly Registrar's meeting that is hosted by Area 15 South Florida. It is interesting to hear how other Area Registrar's work in their service positions. I plan to attend each month to continue learning.

I will attend the Quarterly Registrar's meeting hosted by GSO on Dec 14th. GSO did not have a 3rd Quarter meeting so I am sure there will be lots to catch up on. I did hear that the GSR Kits are still backordered and should be available sometime in December. I will learn more at the Dec. 14th meeting. I have had several GSR's asking when they will receive their kits, so hopefully by the end of the year?

Area 36 Group Records, Erica, who will be rotating out at the end of the year. We have had conversations, shared many emails and I have learned a great deal from her. It has been wonderful to be able to work together with her over this last year of service.

I have been asked to be on an Ad Hoc committee to review the Area Inventory Questions. We met once and made a plan on to move forward as a committee planning to have our recommendations ready for the Spring Assembly. I look forward to working with the committee on this task.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 35, Denise R

DISTRICT 16 – DAVE C

Hi I'm Dave C and I'm an Alcoholic and DCM for District 16. Just a word on the Big Book workshop we put on. It went really well. Something like 40 folks showed up. A big thank you to the group from Detroit Lakes for showing up and joining in. Your questions made a big impact on the info we received thanks again from us all in district 16.

We had our Literature Chair step down and we were sorry to see her go. She did a fine job. Katy has stepped up to do the job, so were good. That's all I have for now.

Yours in service, Dave Clark

LITERATURE – PAT M

Hello Area 35, this is your Area 35 Literature Chair Pat. We had eight in attendance at our area Aitkin committee meeting. We talked about the importance of the chain of group, district, area and of receiving literature through your area, district and group and how the area can buy books at a cheaper cost for the groups. We also talked about the importance of groups and districts in the understanding of all the literature that is out there. There's so much literature that they do not know we have and it's a shame because there's some very good literature. Groups should be taking a look at it. I talked about Christmas sometimes and sponsors. Thank you, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Literature Chair, Pat M

DISTRICT 12 – TERRY A

Terry was unable to attend 12/4/22 ACM. I will attempt to report on district 12. It became clear to me after PI/CPC meeting that our participation at St Louis Co Health Convention was a success, because we joined their event, rather than inviting them to ours. I will be looking at hospital websites and other opportunities to participate with professionals who also work with alcoholics. Corrections is starting to get into jails, but is slow; 2 out of 9 so far - St Louis Co and Douglas Co. Treatment is still not going into facilities and Treatment centers are not 12 step based any more. Many more out-patient facilities are springing up. We need to get creative to carry the message. Intergroup continues to do a great job and is supported by the body. Our district web site is taking off and is a wonderful resource for everyone including professionals. We look forward to the Winter Workshop coming up and proud to be hosts.

Yours in service, Richard G, PI/CPC

DISTRICT 5 – JARRIN V

Hello everyone, Jarrin V, District 5 DCM. Things have been running well in district 5. We have recently completed a district inventory, and now we can start to try to figure out ways to make improvements at the district level to better serve the meetings and groups in our area. I've also just been to the print shop and finally got all of the updated meeting information put on to new meeting cards so we can distribute them throughout the area and everything should be accurate now after the changes that we went through during covid. I would also like to share that we are looking forward to our upcoming meet the district potluck and fellowship gathering that will be happening from 12:00 to 4:00 on February 19th at the Elk River Alano. Come and find out what the chairpersons in district 5 do in their positions at the district. And find out what the district can be helpful with in your meetings and clubs. Also enjoy some delicious food with us and some great fellowship. At the end of the meeting, we will have a speaker. Kelly D will be coming to share her story of experience, strength and hope with us all. Hope to see you there.

One more thing, thanks to a hard-working corrections chair I'm now going to be able to bring meetings into two more county jails. Sherburne county jail is allowing us to bring in zoom meetings, and Milaca county jail is allowing us to bring in meetings in person. I enjoy being able to go there and talk to the people that are in custody because I was once there also.

Yours in service, Jarrin V

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings Area 35, I'm sorry I missed everyone at the December ACM due to some health issues that thankfully are starting to get better. I do not have much to report on as I've had a few surgeries and a few trips to the hospital so I was preoccupied, but I'm on the mend now and very much look forward to seeing everyone at the January workshop.

In Service, Nels P

DISTRICT 2 – DAVID N

District 2 is the five counties in NW Minnesota. Our area is large in area and low in people. I am going to try and get it up and running again. Our meetings are on the first Sunday of odd months at the Thief River Falls Alano Club.

God Bless, Dave N.

DISTRICT 4 – JAMES W

No report

TREATMENT – RICCO R

There were ten committee members present at the 11/6/2022 zoom Treatment Committee meeting: Dani District 13, Robin J. District 13 secretary, Jeff T. District 16 Alternate DCM, Jeff J. District 9 Treatment Chair, Patti D. District 3 Treatment Chair, Nate C. District 6 Treatment Chair, Peggy M. District 13 Treatment Chair, Tom T. District 9 CPC-PI Chair, Diane R. District 9 DCM, Ricco R. Area 35 Treatment Chair.

We went over the corrections and changes for the Temporary Contact form, and the Treatment Facility Client Form made in our previous meeting. (Both fixed by Robin), and the Bridging the Gap / Temporary Contact Program Brochure just finished. (Will be fixed by Dani). We also had discussions on the Bridging the Gap Area 35 Spreadsheet which includes individual district temporary contact lists, made by Dani. We had some discussion on how the program will run when finished and how it can be self-sustaining when the new rotation of service positions takes place.

We had 6 committee members present at our 11/27/22 zoom meeting: Dani GSR District 13, Robin J. Secretary District 13, Jeff T. Alt DCM District 16, Patti D. Treatment Chair District 3, Diane R. DCM District 9, Ricco Area 35 Treatment Chair.

We had a very productive meeting. We finalized enough ground and material to move on to the Area 35 ACM meeting in Aitkin on Dec. 4, 2022, which we will ask Area 35 to fund the printing of the brochure for the BTG Temporary Contact Program the committee has completed. We are finalizing our forms for the volunteers and Clients for the Temporary Contact Program. We have made progress with the Excel Spreadsheet which Dani made for our project and are in the process of working with Kyle, our Area 35 webmaster to see if we can use the area's data base to store our project materials.

We had nine committee members present at our 12/4/22 Area 35 Treatment

Committee in Aitkin: Peggy M. District 13 Treatment Chair, Julie N. District 6 DCM, Jeff T. District 16 Alt. DCM, Jeff J. District 9 Treatment Chair, Scott S. District 18 DCM, Bob N. District 7 DCM, Patti D. District 3 Treatment Chair, Nate C. District 6 Treatment Chair. Ricco R.

DISTRICT 6 – JULIE N

Hey, hey, hey it's District 6. Our district has been working hard staying warm here in central Minnesota. We have slowed down on our tailgate party before meeting. We have a few new meetings that have started up in our area, one women's meeting, a yoga in recovery meeting and also a meeting that has been down in area 36 and has relocated to area 35. We are trying to work on an action book for our district to look back at records quickly and setting a budget for our future. We have new attendees and GSR's, it's great to watch our district grow. Each of our chairs have been doing a wonderful job in the district starting off with treatment chair has been attending zoom meetings putting together a list of connections for bridging the gap between treatment and AA. We have our corrections chair working on getting more people involved in the jails in our counties. PI and CPC has put together new business cards with QR code on it easy to get to our website. And we have a few ads in the newspaper and we put up a billboard for this month of December to get in contact with us. In the month of November, we had 2200 clicks on our website. We are all getting excited about our workshop in January so hope to see you there to have some fun and sobriety.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Julie N

DISTRICT 7 – ROBERT N

Greetings from AA District 7 - We meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. At Decembers meeting we will be having a potluck at our meeting beginning at 6pm December 15th. We discussed asking our groups to contribute more to Area and GSO. Agreed as a group that we will share at our district meetings what we are doing at an individual level to get people/groups more active or involved in.

At our November meeting Mike U our area Grapevine chair attended the meeting and shared and answered questions on the Grapevine literature and magazine. At this meeting it was brought up that the GSR's submit written reports at the district meetings, giving us an insight on what their groups are doing in carrying the AA message to those that are still suffering. We also discussed making up newcomer's packets.

Thanks for letting me serve, Bob N.

CPC – GREG C

I have been reaching out to area hospitals to get AA website information on their hospital websites under "Services Available". Response has been good. Many radio stations have websites these days, with news features and also links to other organizations. This is another spot to get AA website information listed at no charge. On Oct 30th I traveled to District 9 and put on a presentation encouraging them to develop a website. There was good attendance and the outcome resulted in District 9 moving ahead with the project. I have also been in communication with District 3 as they move to re-design their website and possibly move to the same Web Master that has worked with several AREA 35 Districts.

On December 8th I will be doing a presentation to a group of Probation Officers that cover Douglas, Pope, Todd, Grant and parts of Stearns counties. The power point video portion of this is available to any District who wishes to utilize it.

The Bridge the Gap program, which has been out for probably 10 years, originally developed for patients to have an AA contact in their community upon returning from treatment. It is also a good model to use with Corrections, Probation and even Social Services. It is a useful program for any number of professional groups who inter-act with Alcoholics.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35.

DISTRICT 18 – SCOTT S

Season's greetings from Dist 18. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We still have our district 18 meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm in Long Prairie and we still need to fill some chairs but other than that we are doing well. The Staples group had their Thanksgiving gratitude dinner and it was well supported. Sunday December 11th is Eagle Bends Christmas party starts at 5 and I put fliers on the table. It's that time of the year again for our drunks on ice fishing contest and chili cook off. Fishing will be on Lake Irene and the speakers will be at the Parker Prairie event center on February 18 2023. There are no fliers yet but will be soon. Also, sad to announce the Monday Long Prairie women's meeting is closed for the winter and the Verndale night owl meeting is closed for good due to lack of participation.

Well hope everyone has a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Scott S

DISTRICT 15 – LISA M

No report.

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Thanks to people who submitted comments regarding archives in the Fall Assembly Evaluations. While a trailer with portable archive display is too spendy for us now the virtual archive as part of the Area35 website is in process, but only a couple items will be there as the start. This kind of input is what is needed to help our members carry our message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

To date I have been asked some quite direct questions:

- When and who founded NA? and why is it different?

- Are there 12 steps to enter Stepping Stones?
- Is Ebby not pictured because he was Black?
- Did Bill W drop acid?

A couple questions not asked:

- Was Noah really the first alcoholic?
- Did Romans put spiders in drinks to discourage excessive drinking?

Regarding earlier mention of past treatment methods, the archives do not include:

- The country western "I'd rather have a bottle in front of than have frontal lobotomy"
- The movie "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

These questions were not answered directly, but rather by encouraging and assisting with research of our archives and others. As I am preparing this report, I am a bit overcome with money concerns while at the same time reminding myself that when I can't, WE can, and more so that when we can't, God can, let him. I am eternally grateful for those who stepped up to help accomplish the things that help the success of the archive's objectives.

Finally, as my closing reminder, please contact me to arrange a visit to your district meeting or for an event exhibit. Regardless of where you meet, if it's in area 35, it's not too far. In Service, Marc N.

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

No report.

DISTRICT 11 – VICKI R

Regularly have 6-7 in attendance. Hosted a breakfast meeting with Sandstone group in Nov In 2 jails: Pine City, Moose Lake, Willow River, Rush City prison. Not in Kennebec - closed Still looking for a DCM to fill my spot. As DCM - thought I had to do it all, it occurred to me to ask for help from Dist officers to visit meetings, and I can make phone calls to group contacts to check in. I like the Chairs suggestion to focus on the local level and look forward to continuing to nurture participation.

DISTRICT 14 –

No DCM

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings everyone, I'm Mike Urman, your Area 35 Grapevine Chair. At the ACM Aitkin, literature and grapevine committees met with 8 in attendance. We talked about the upcoming changes with book pricing and new distributor in Grapevine. With the new distributor, they are having trouble getting orders filled and out on time. Some groups said they are seeing more interest in the Grapevine and things are going well. Some are talking to jails to make books or the magazine available. Since the fall assembly, I have attended the St Cloud correction workshop and visited Hibbing, Cook, Detroit Lakes and Brainerd. I attended meet and greet with all area chairs in the country and abroad. It was a very interesting event. Not much time to share, it lasted an hour. We will meet again in a couple months. I also brought some magazine to the Pine, Mora, Cambridge jails - they were very excited to get them. Thanks to all the groups for allowing me to come and present Grapevine and visit with everyone. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I will be attending the Duluth workshop. Pray I will see you all there. Merry Christmas and happy new year. Yours in service, Mike U.

DISTRICT 1 –

No DCM

DISTRICT 13 – JIM R

We had our first tailgate meeting on Thursday, December 1st at the Rice Mn Thursday night meeting. It was held inside with hot chocolate, coffee, & cookies. They had closed over covid & this was their 1st meeting in 2-1/2 years. We had 7 in attendance. The plan now is to do 1 tailgate meeting a month inside meetings, focusing on meetings that do not currently have GSR's and reassess once the weather warms up.

Our PI committee put a fantastic holiday meeting flyer together which shows all the meetings that will be open thanksgiving, Christmas & new year's.

The district 13 website continues to have several thousand views per month.

Our treatment committee is continuing to make strides into getting into as many centers as they can.

Our corrections currently has Benton County doing virtual meetings at the jail, Stearns County jail is accepting volunteer applications with no date or time set yet, but they plan on starting with virtual meetings & moving into in person meetings. The St Cloud prison is still under covid protocol and no timeline in opening.

I do plan on attending the January workshop in Duluth. Thank you for allowing me to Serve, Jim R

DISTRICT 21 – JENNIFER T

Greetings. My name is Jennifer T, District 21 DCM. Our district business meeting is located at the Bemidji Alano Club at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month in Gratitude Hall. Average attendance is 8-10. We have a potluck speaker meeting on the last Saturday of each month.

I have visited several local meetings and updated our district meeting list with our group records chair. We have a committee currently planning a Feb-

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ruary GSR workshop with a presentation from our delegate, Steve L. We voted an alternate delegate, Chad, to attend the January service workshop in Duluth and will financially support him to attend in person.

We have open corrections, treatment and PI positions currently.

CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A

We had a great meeting this morning with 9 in attendance. Diane reported that she attended the statewide workshop and she has been supportive in that workshop. Garry Dist 11 has plenty to do with 6 Jails, prisons and boot camps - he has Sandstone federal prison, Moose Lake state prison, MSOP, Rush City state prison, Pine Co jail, Willow River boot camp and all are open and commitments met. The only one still closed is Kennebec and they are working on zoom. Heather DCM reports they still don't have a corrections chair. She is going to check on Thistledeew. Jim, Dist13, Benton Co. is virtual both men and women. Stearns Co. taking names for volunteers. No date set. They will start virtual and then go in person. St Cloud is still closed due to covid. Aaron dist. 6 Isanti city jail open mtg. on Monday and Thursday, 13 Mark Mille Lacs Co. open, Sherburne co. is on zoom

Jim said we should start a list for volunteers who would like to put on zoom meetings, that way if we get jails or prisons interested in zoom, we would be ready.

There is going to be a transition fair at Stillwater in March, it is the first one since covid. We are having our statewide corrections meetings monthly. It is the first Wednesday of the month, anyone interested contact me.

If anyone wants me to come to their District meeting or workshop just ask. I am looking forward to it. Thank You for allowing me to serve, Arden

DISTRICT 9 – DIANE R

We had 14 A.A.'s at the last District 9 meeting.

Our Treatment Chair, Jeff, notified groups about the opportunity to volunteer for Bridging the Gap and being a temporary contract. He has had some volunteers.

Tom, our Cooperation with the Professional Community and the Public Information Chair, has our District 9 meetings back in the paper. This was done by a volunteer on CPC/PI Committee, Phyllis. Our phone line has had some calls.

Area 35 CPC Chair, Greg C. attended our district meeting on 10/30/22. Thank you, Greg, for driving to Hibbing and for your A.A. service. Greg gave a wonderful presentation on a Website and used District 4's as an example. He showed all the important information on the website and talked about benefits of having a website. Thank you, Greg, for a great presentation. A motion was made to acquire a website for District 9. The motion passed with substantial unanimity. All information has been sent to set up our website. We are just waiting to hear that it is ready to go and review the web content. Phyllis will be the Web Manager who will keep the website updated. We discussed and will continue to have a Zoom option for anyone wanting to attend the district meeting.

Our next joint Workshop Committee meeting with District 8, 9 and 16 will be on December 11 at 5:00pm on Zoom. We will discuss workshops for next year.

We are looking to see what we can do to bring meetings into Nursing Homes and Residential Care Facilities.

We discussed the Delegate Nomination Process. The qualification out of the service manual were read. Discussion followed such as districts having more than one nomination, allow a person to stand before the Area 35 Committee to announce interest. It was said that it would be good to have more than two or three to stand for Delegate.

We discussed the Northern Light and what we would like to see in the Northern Lights or leave out. Discussion followed such as we do not need to print long reports, we like to see Bill's writings.

I attended the Joint Area 35 and 36 Correction Workshop in St. Cloud. Our Class A Trustee gave a wonderful presentation. The workshop had many wonderful presentations.

We have a topic for the January Service Workshop. Thank you, Justin.

I am on the Ad Hoc Committee looking at the Fall Inventory. We have met once.

Thank you, Christine, for allowing me to serve. In Service, Diane

DISTRICT 8 – HEATHER L

My name is Heather Lococo, DCM for District 8. Our district meets the first full week of each month, rotating Monday through Friday hosted by different groups. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 7th, hosted by Alango Friday Night Big Book. We still read a chapter from the service manual at our district meetings.

Mike Urman Area Grapevine Chair came to our November meeting. Thank you, Mike, for coming during hunting season to share about the upcoming price changes and the other goodies you brought with you.

Craig alternate DCM attended the Fall Assembly. Thanks to Craig for stepping in, while I was away.

Corrections Committee- no chair, I'm going to request information from members that used to attend jails.
Literature/Grapevine- previous chair stepped down, alternate chair Kathy stepped up.
Treatment- centers are open, chair Sally is keeping AA volunteers lined up for sharing their experience, strength, and hope.
Archives- John is doing old-timer interviews and has gone through material. He is very involved in his role.
PI/CPC- Doug talking about looking into getting luncheons going again. We've had some new GSRs attend district meetings. And other groups stepping up to host district meetings who haven't in the last year.

I'm still making my rounds to groups in the district, slowly but surely.

I plan to attend the West Central Regional Conference in Omaha, I made plans, but I don't plan the outcome. Thank you for letting me serve.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee – Books checked out fine. In order to be prudent, the report was given electronically.

Tabled Motion – “Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCMs, Area Officers, and Committee Members.” This will be discussed and voted on at the Spring 2023 Assembly.

Area Inventory – Tabled until Spring 2023 Assembly

Ad Hoc Technology Committee – Webmaster had nothing to report.

Joint A35/A36 Workshop, Sept. 18th – The workshop has been scheduled for July 23, 2023, on Zoom. This date was selected due to Area 36's tight calendar schedule. Area Chair will be working with the incoming Area 36 chair to put this together.

Statewide Corrections – Corrections Chair stated that there will be elections in January for Statewide Corrections Committee officers. There is going to be a meeting on Wednesday, but acting Secretary is unable to attend. Corrections Chair will send out an email if meeting is cancelled.

State Fair Booth – We committed to support the State Fair Booth with finances and participation. Anyone willing to volunteer, contact our PI Chair.

Delegate Nomination Process Discussion – We will be discussing this at the Spring Assembly, so discuss this with the groups. Question: Where in the Actions Book does it say that districts can only nominate one person? Answer: In the Elections section, page 19. This started in March 1977.

Northern Light Content Discussion – There are 28 pages in the Northern Light. Sometimes we have more information than we can print. Discuss with your groups to see what information they would like to have in the Northern Light.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Budget Presentation – Treasurer made a presentation to the Committee.

Treasurer – We don't have funds to meet our budget. She could send the budgets back to the Officers and Committee Chairs for revision. How do we want to approach this budget overage?
Alt. Del. – We can't vote on this at this ACM. The groups voted to approve the budget. Possible suggestion: don't send everyone to the WCRAASC in Omaha.
Treas. – Budget projection for 2023 is \$46,000. Can we reduce Archives and NL expenses? Get serious about digitizing and lower printing costs by reducing number of NLs printed. Can we reduce expenses for WCRAASC and Regional Forum? Hold WCRAASC gatherings locally.
Archivist – Can reduce supplies budget. Equipment for digitizing is \$1300. If we don't get it, we can't digitize. Space under 500 SF for Archives is very hard to find. There is one available only for storage with no workspace. Other spaces cost more. Need climate-controlled space. Can we have NL be electronic rather than printed? Answer: The only problem with that is it is anonymity-protected, which means that contact info for officers, chairs, and DCMs will be harder to get. No phone numbers will be online.
If people carpool and share rooms, can save \$1800. Treasurer: Projected balance in the checkbook when WCRAASC comes around is only \$2000. If we don't have the funds, we don't send people. We have to decide what to do
We need to talk about budgets and how \$1 in the basket is not enough. Many groups have a lot of money in their treasury. What are they doing with that money?

Denise R – MOTION TO HAVE AREA OFFICERS AND CHAIRS ATTEND WCRAASC BY ZOOM, AND SEND DEL. AND ALT. DEL. Second – Jim R
Discussion – Archives: Individuals can pay their own way if they want to go. **Friendly amendment: MOTION SHOULD SAY “REIMBURSE” RATHER THAN “SEND.” Friendly amendment accepted.**
Discussion – There is a difference between in-person and Zoom. Why didn't we have this discussion at the Assembly? GSRs needed to know this so they could bring this back to their groups. Only one GSR at the

assembly was opposed to the budget they voted on.

Chair – This is not an uncommon conversation. Action Book shows that we have had to have these discussions in the past at ACMs.

We have to show responsibility and leadership. Treas. has shown that we have a problem. We are trying to be responsible with funds.

We approved the budget. Budget is \$40,000 more than we have. Can't go to bank and get a loan. We need to talk about the budget at District meetings. How many DCMs have talked to their GSRs? Ask what is their sobriety worth? Budget was approved, now need to contribute. What services do they want?

GSRs at the Assembly didn't know we were going to be \$40,000 short when they approved the budget.

All for using Zoom and saving money. We didn't have Zoom in the past, but now people can get all the info online, so we don't need to send everyone.

We need to have unity and keep the doors open for new people. Groups could use Venmo and use their debit cards because a lot of people don't carry cash. Would be willing to rent a bus to get people to events.

That would save roughly \$7,000.

That would save only 20% of the budget.

Had this discussion at their group and talked about inflation. Got more money in the basket. Have to discuss with group where to send the money. A lot of groups don't contribute to the Area.

Comm. Chair – We can save \$7000 now, but that won't instantly fix the problem. Things have to fundamentally shift. Right now, the 175 groups that contribute to the Area would have to send in \$500 per year to meet the budget. If we get a bunch of contributions before the next ACM, we can revisit.

We are \$18,000 in the hole right now. This is urgent.

This does not address the underlying problem. Groups must increase contributions. Where is the money? Are groups exercising the power of the purse?

The WCRAASC and the Forum cost \$25,000. That is where the overage is compared to last year's budget. We were asked to budget for these events. The minimum requirements for an Area are to have one Assembly per year and to send the Delegate to the General Service Conference. What do we want to cut? Educating our Area Committee members? Quit reimbursing for travel to ACMs?

We have spent last year's budget exactly, but we were sent \$20,000 less than what was voted for by the Assembly.

Aaron made a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO HAVE THE DELEGATE AND ALT. DELEGATE CARPOOL AND SHARE A ROOM. Friendly amendment not accepted. MOTION TO HAVE AREA OFFICERS AND CHAIRS ATTEND WCRAASC BY ZOOM AND REIMBURSE DELEGATE AND ALT DELEGATE. Vote: 17 in favor, 5 opposed. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion – Treasurer: What do we want to do going forward? DCMs go to groups in their district that don't contribute and explain how they would benefit from contributing. Do we want to revisit this in February? Resubmit budgets?

Chair – Have to bring this back to groups. Area Committee has to be prudent. We will talk about this again at the February ACM and the Spring Assembly.

If we take away the Regional Forum, we could save \$25,000. We can consider this later.

Spring Assembly Agenda Format Discussion

Chair – According to the evaluations from the Fall Assembly, many want to have the business done on Saturday. Do a trial run at the Spring Assembly? Can shift things around. Focus of Spring Assembly is on agenda items.

Discussion – Agenda items are important. Talk about old and new business before the agenda items. This was discussed in the morning's committee meeting.

Trust Area Chair to change format. Heard many discussions about wanting change.

Chair – Area 35 uses Roberts Rules as the basis for the agenda.

There are many comments in the Area Inventory about wanting change.

People are in a rush to get out on Sunday. There is not enough patience on Sundays. Budget discussion was rushed. We need exhaustive discussion to get the true group conscience.

We are here for AA, not for ourselves.

Chair asked for a sense of the meeting. How many would be opposed to changing the agenda? Only two were opposed.

Area Officer Elections Discussion

Delegate – At the General Service Conference, the Delegate from the Area that is nominating a Trustee gives a two-minute introduction of the person being nominated. These include qualifications of the nominee, and some may get more personal. Idea – Have the person doing the nominating give a one-minute introduction of the nominee explaining why they think the person is qualified. This would be for the Chair, the Treasurer, and the Secretary positions. For Delegate nominations, have the DCM of the nominating district do the same thing.

Discussion – It is a good idea. New people have no idea who the people they are voting for are.

Need to know who they are. Do they have the qualifications. Tricky when nominating from podium - might be considered politicking. Use resumé. Do away with nominations and just have people stand for positions.

Chair – We will leave this on the agenda and bring it back to the groups. Why are we talking about this now?

This came up at the Fall Assembly because people did not know anything

about the nominees. Getting to know something about them would help a lot in choosing who to vote for.

Can we get resumes in advance, so we know who they are? Answer: That is what we want to know. Bring this back to the groups to discuss.

Do we want to form a nominating committee? **Sense of the meeting was no.**

Bridging the Gap Brochure

Ricco R. made a motion that the AREA 35 COMMITTEE PAY \$178.24 FOR 1,000 BROCHURES PRINTED ON COLORED PAPER AND FOLDED, FOR THE BRIDGING THE GAP/ TEMPORARY CONTACT PROGRAM. Denise R. seconded the motion.

Treatment Chair Ricco explained what the brochure is and why it can be helpful. The brochure explains the Bridging the Gap Program, how to become a volunteer, and why this can help the treatment center's clients. It also explains what to do and what to avoid, and it explains what pamphlets may be helpful. The brochure cost about \$0.18 each.

Discussion – Is this going to be a statewide thing involving MPLS Intergroup? Treatment Chair has heard nothing about that.

It is possible there could be 100 calls per week. Can the Committee handle that?

Treatment Chair – This will be done by district. District Treatment Chair will give brochures to the treatment centers and the volunteers. Could have DCMs of the districts arrange for contacts.

Are the forms online? Will be using paper for forms. Motion is for printing brochures only. Forms will have to be printed out by districts/ individuals.

Shouldn't this expense be covered under the Treatment Chair's budget?

Treatment Chair – It wasn't included in the Treatment budget. Didn't know this would come up. It came up during treatment committee meetings.

Why not use what comes from GSO? This brochure is personalized for our Area and our districts.

GSO brochure is generic. We could just put a label on it and use that. Cost would be about the same.

Treatment Chair: that is a question for the Area.

Corr. Chair – Forms for treatment and corrections are different, require different information. Minneapolis Intergroup will be involved with the statewide Corrections contact program.

Vote – Ten votes in favor of the motion, 8 opposed. MOTION PASSED.

Minority opinion – GSO has this form, and our budget is already maxed out. Now we are going to spend more?

GSO's brochure is \$0.20 each, plus shipping costs.

Hybrid Meetings for Area Events Going Forward

Discussion

NL Chair – We looked at costs in our committee meeting.

Treasurer – ACM costs \$1500 to \$2500 per meeting. The Workshop costs \$8000.

If that is based on travel and lodging, we have already booked those rooms.

If we start now, does the Area have to pay for rooms not used? YES

Zoom is not a reason for us not to go.

Zoom would get more attendees.

What was the cost of adding Zoom at the Fall Assembly? Was it worth it?

Webmaster – Requirements of having Zoom at hotels might be a problem.

Equipment rental/purchase is \$100 to \$300 per month.

We need costs and specifics to bring to groups.

Delegate – We are not the only Area with this dilemma. How do we want to produce this? Some venues are better than others.

Chair – Webmaster will provide costs

Discussion about January Workshop –

Some people can't afford to attend. Do we have the needed equipment?

Using Zoom would give people an excuse to stay home.

Webmaster – Can get some equipment for a trial run for free.

Justin W. made a motion: MAKE THE 2023 SERVICE WORKSHOP HYBRID. Seconded by Denise R.

Discussion

How do we get the word out to the groups?

We can put the info on area35.org.

Webmaster – Can get the information together pretty quickly.

Do we have email service? NO

This feels hurried and rushed. Maybe should rescind the motion.

Vote: Three in favor, fifteen opposed. MOTION FAILED.

Minority opinion – Why are we going backward? We have been doing virtual for a while now.

Webmaster – Are we acting out of fear? Can get us set up in time for the workshop. We can use Venmo in Zoom for registration.

Can that have same day registration? YES

Steve L. wanted to change his vote and made a MOTION TO RECONSIDER. Vicki R. seconded the motion.

Vote: 15 in favor, 3 opposed. MOTION PASSED

Justin W. made a motion to MAKE THE 2023 SERVICE WORKSHOP HYBRID. Denise R. seconded.

Vote: Eleven in favor, four opposed. MOTION PASSED

Calendar of Events was read.

Motion to adjourn – Jim R. made a MOTION TO ADJOURN, Dave C. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted, Sally L.

Area 35 Secretary

Norther Minnesota Area 35 Assembly
Expense Income Contribution Report
12/31/2022

	12/31/2022	YTD	Annual Budget	Under (Over)
Income Summary				
Dist 1	625.00			
Dist 2	2,100.00			
Dist 3	2,583.00			
Dist 4	1,485.00			
Dist 5	1,650.00			
Dist 6	1,610.90			
Dist 7	2,156.97			
Dist 8	3,569.31			
Dist 9	1,491.00			
Dist 10	1,080.75			
Dist 11				
Dist 12	2,708.71			
Dist 13	2,860.60			
Dist 14				
Dist 15	1,405.00			
Dist 16	2,903.49			
Dist 17	243.98			
Dist 18	975.00			
Dist 19				
Dist 20				
Dist 21	1,221.60			
Group Contributions				
Other	1,188.77			
Total Contributions	31,859.08		60,432.00	
Other	125.00			
BD Contrib	136.00			
Special Contrib	1,826.00			
Serv Wksp Reg	1,170.00			
Serv Wksp Coffee	349.00			
Fall Assembly Coffee	542.73			
Grapevine Sales	1,842.60			
Grapevine Purchases	(2,639.30)			
Literature Sales	9,147.41			
Literature Purchases	(9,699.69)			
NL Flyer insert	455.00			
Interest on dep	1.42			
Total	35,115.25	60,432.00	60,432.00	25,316.75

Expenses				
Committee Meeting Rent	400.00		300.00	(100.00)
Service Workshops	2,247.56		1,417.00	(830.56)
Spring Assembly	(320.65)		910.00	1,230.65
Zonal Forums			150.00	150.00
State Fair	700.00		700.00	-
Fall Assembly	3,194.19		2,310.00	(884.19)
Financial Oversight Com	152.84		236.80	83.96
Delegate	6,046.40		8,101.90	2,055.50
Alternate Delegate	1,218.05		2,702.00	1,483.95
Chairperson	3,731.03		3,443.00	(288.03)
Secretary	1,980.26		2,613.00	632.74
Treasurer	2,052.15		2,404.75	352.60
Archives Chair	2,319.25		1,783.00	(536.25)
Archivist	6,722.46		11,043.00	4,320.54
Corrections	1,532.40		1,715.00	182.60
CPC	2,936.54		2,159.00	(777.54)
Grapevine	2,416.74		2,772.21	355.47
Group Records Secretary	1,346.25		1,388.00	41.75
Literature	964.53		1,714.00	749.47
Northern Light	6,102.73		5,243.65	(859.08)
Public Information	894.72		1,661.00	766.28
Treatment	1,154.30		2,115.00	960.70
Webmaster	1,753.92		1,901.00	147.08
Web Technology	159.72		119.40	(40.32)
Audio Technician	1,591.87		1,595.95	4.08
Total Expense	51,297.26	-	60,498.66	9,201.40

Net Income(Loss)	(16,182.01)	60,432.00	(66.66)	(16,115.35)
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	Dec 31, 22	Dec 31, 21
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	7,640.72	22,300.88
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,051.44	6,050.02
Total Checking/Savings	13,692.16	28,350.90
Other Current Assets		
12000 · Undeposited Funds	0.00	2,023.27
Total Other Current Assets	0.00	2,023.27
Total Current Assets	13,692.16	30,374.17
TOTAL ASSETS	13,692.16	30,374.17
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	-16,182.01	11,648.65
Total Equity	14,192.16	30,374.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	13,692.16	30,374.17

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 num-
ber on all contributions. This will ensure that your
contributions get credited to your group.

	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 · Group Contributions	
4000-01 · District 01 Contributions	
138576 · 100510-Moment by Moment Grp	500.00
676989 · 104920-Fosston Thursday Night	125.00
Total 4000-01 · District 01 Contributions	625.00
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	
107962 · 80715-Stephen Group	100.00
107964 · 92880-The Alpha Group	300.00
122741 · 21298-Warroad AA	1,500.00
716253 · 10884-TRF Twin Rivers Recovery	200.00
Total 4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	2,100.00
4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	
107702 · 104860-The Formers Group	225.00
107884 · 48646-Perham Solutions Group	718.00
107968 · 16943-Underwood Mon Night Grp	40.00
119323 · 103393-Erhard Group	100.00
120337 · 83617-Sunday Eye Openers Group	260.00
147692 · 106426-Friday Noon Group-DL	390.00
635785 · 78689-St Mary's of the Lake	600.00
727916 · 224029-DL Monday Eye Opener	250.00
Total 4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	2,583.00
4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	
107752 · 13822-Glenwood Tuesday Night	70.00
137624 · 5284-Kensington Wednesday Nte	25.00
171076 · 92690-Thurs As Bill Sees It	85.00
289926 · Lakes Area Primary Purpose	100.00
637112 · 26999-Wed 7pm Non Smokers	225.00
647047 · 84237-Sun Night 630 12 & 12	80.00
661987 · 37888-Noon Step & Tradition Grp	100.00
663819 · 104638-Womens 12 X 12 Group	90.00
672301 · 99006-Friday 1 P.M. A.A. Group	60.00
690185 · 62983-Sat 10am BB Study Grp	100.00
707804 · 13874-Living The Solution Group	150.00
717046 · 90330-12 & 12 Step Trad Study	400.00
Total 4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	1,485.00
4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	
107570 · 42545-Zimtown AA Group	300.00
117918 · 95029-Becker Group	175.00
145149 · Squad 10 Elk River	10.00
147266 · 14751-Lost & Found AA Grp	220.00
319745 · A design for Living	180.00
668617 · Squad 11 Elk River Alano	25.00
704281 · 5616-The Way Out Group	615.00
709933 · 35289-Twelve & Twelve On Main	25.00
724470 · 6019-There Is A Solution Group	100.00
Total 4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	1,650.00
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	
107656 · 95486-Bethel Community Group	20.00
107681 · 97742-Cambridge Community Gp	30.00
107870 · 37224-North Branch Community	80.00
124462 · 77760-Squad 3 Isanti Thurs	198.83
132584 · 58560-Rock Creek Wed AA	300.00
137319 · 83177-Sun. Night Squad 4 Isanti	39.87
140016 · 85613-Fri AM AA North Branch	20.00
142131 · 90338-Forest Lake 12X12 Study	10.00
167901 · 7282-Thursday Night 7 pm AA	100.00
171884 · 17191-Unity AA	90.00
349376 · Saturday Night First 164	40.00
666121 · 24817-Isanti Mon Night Open	31.50
672898 · 70426-Simple Not Easy BB Group	120.00
680382 · 100899-Dalbo A.A. Group	80.00
684775 · 91822-A Woman's Way Group	165.00
684788 · 26582-Wed Nite AA 6 PM	85.00
699264 · 14361-Long Lake AA	90.00
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions - Other	110.70
Total 4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	1,610.90

	Jan - Dec 22
4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	
723452-112004 Isle Step & Trad	25.00
107749 · 106946-Mon Garrison Grp	100.00
123531 · 71823-Sleepy Hollow Group	175.00
129660 · 16875-Malmo Rhymer Rea-	122.60
132510 · 48607-Pequot Lakes AA	100.00
179367 · 12589-New Hope Group	96.10
609161 · 39348-Wednesday Woman's	285.27
609418 · 67938-Serenity in the Pines	179.00
699168 · 23087 Mille Lacs Prim Pur-	51.00
705579 · 112000 Isle Big Book	50.00
710094 · 73044 Sober Sailors Group	98.00
712369 · 15165 Daily Tune-Up	250.00
715820 · 12106-Tues. Night 12x12	60.00
716950 · 14932 Lots of Love	125.00
717883 · 112369-Joe & Charlie BB	50.00
718014 · 93663 As Bill Sees It Group	190.00
719598 · 76819 Spiritual Awakenings	50.00
726095 · 109491 Happy Hour Group	50.00
727272 · 223629 Design For Living	100.00
Total 4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	2,156.97
4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	
107486 · 96157 Biwabik Sun Night	200.00
107523 · 27578 Mount Iron 12 x 12	150.00
107553 · 94034-Aurora Big Book	550.00
107733 · 103231 Ely Saturday Night	125.00
107876 · 45232 Orr Tues. Nite AA	350.00
107970 · 106181 Virginia Fri Nite	150.00
121792 · 49288 Pike Sandy Group	150.00
126501 · 92589 Alango Friday Night	47.00
126625 · 235599 Gilbert Tues. AA	100.00
128079 · 100191 Cotton Big Book	75.00
142087 · 84297-Cook Sun. Night BB	242.00
171078 · 25414 Ely Monday Womens	89.41
635763 · 19836 Virginia Monday	150.00
657631 · 12912 Mon-Fri-Sat AM	200.00
674017 · Happy, Joyous & Free Ely	300.00
699684 · 27081-Wed. Back To Basics	50.00
709534 · 6306 Ladies by the Lake	425.00
716110 · 6836 Lake Vermillion 12x12	215.90
Total 4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	3,569.31
4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	
107763 · 110173 Thurs Morn Down-	90.00
107764 · 110172-Hibbing Downtown	170.00
107765 · 13824 Tues 8PM Hibbing	20.00
107861 · Nashwauk Fri. Nite Group	236.00
128162 · 83295 Sunday 12x12 Step	140.00
138250 · 110174 Hibbing Sat Morn	100.00
138435 · 94618 Sun. Balkan Group	110.00
611186 · 24189 Mon. Big Book	230.00
634677 · Happy Hour 6 pm Hibbing	15.00
646421 · 83126 Sun Morn Daily Re-	20.00
677065 · 64685-Keep It Simple Hib-	45.00
694149 · 12541 Tues Afternoon Hib-	175.00
719309 · 8471-Hibbing Thursday	140.00
Total 4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	1,491.00
4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	
107885 · 49354 Pine City AA Group	300.00
107949 · 93029 Sandstone Amethyst	100.00
122533 · 41787 Thurs Ogilvie AA	135.00
141987 · 97036 Quamba Mon AA	200.00
173665 · 24312 Saturday Sobriety	100.00
603818 · 104296 Finlayson Wed Nite	50.00
646266 · 109567 Happy Joyous &	100.00
647203 · 33873-Willow River AA	40.00
724683 · 19974 Moose Lake Vision	55.75
Total 4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	1,080.75

(cont'd from page 11)

	Jan - Dec 22
4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	
???? · It's Quitting Time Friday Grp	40.00
107512 · 27049 Wed Afternoon Grp	100.00
107573 · 100551 Crossroads AA	59.96
107708 · 239226 Phoenix AA Group	25.00
120338 · 83744 9am Sun Basic Text	100.00
123391 · 9916 A Vision for You Grp	200.00
127270 · 94477 Back to Basics	150.00
129540 · 78869 St. Scholastica AA	60.00
132613 · 67747 Serenity Club Inc.	600.00
133564 · 9922 Lester Park Thursday BB	190.00
167706 · Proctor AA Group	40.00
169328 · Finland AA Group	40.00
172668 · 78663 Tuesday Night AA	115.00
635620 · 47870 Pattison Park Group	355.00
637117 · 42746 On Awakening Group	350.00
657066 · Proctor Here & Now Group	35.00
695769 · 13560 Grand Marais Tue Night	10.00
697096 · Lutsen Thurs Topic Meeting	100.00
698824 · 6053 There Is A Solution Women	85.00
711810 · 94714 Barnum AA Group	53.75
Total 4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	2,708.71
4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	
107498 · 26978 Wed Happy Hour	475.00
107580 · 102570 Early Evening	485.60
123219 · 105732 Fri Living Sober	250.00
126445 · 13260 Tues Morning AA	125.00
139018 · 42404 Older Adult Group	90.00
146877 · 102573 Early Wed. Night	60.00
146993 · 6651 Thursday Morning BB	70.00
603252 · 6024 There is a Solution	550.00
697239 · 109894 Heard it Through the GV	150.00
712614 · 24677 Monday Night Live	75.00
718334 · 5123 Keep It Simple	350.00
721677 · 7385 Thursday Night BB	180.00
Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	2,860.60
4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	
107767 · 110646 Holdingford Group	350.00
107797 · 19359 Melrose AA Group	100.00
107881 · 47996 Paynesville Wed Night Grp	50.00
118632 · 94078 Avon Tues. Night Gp	125.00
118837 · 21679 Watkins Thurs. Night	50.00
146992 · 102471 Early Monday	75.00
150662 · 65276 Sauk Centre Friday Night	80.00
167100 · 7217 Sauk Centre Thurs. Morning	50.00
674373 · 83490 Cold Spring Sun. Night BB	50.00
679438 · 7529 Thurs Night Fellowship	225.00
695601 · 695601-93665 Cold Spring Mon Ni	50.00
718858 · 19361 Back 2 Basics	50.00
4000-15 · District 15 Contributions - Other	150.00
Total 4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	1,405.00
4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	
107701 · 101205 Deer River BB Study	150.00
107766 · 110454 Hill City AA Group	80.00
117890 · 25115 Mon Night BB Grand Rapids	100.00
118696 · 14449 Fri Night Longville	150.00
120344 · 103049 Effie Group	240.00
125990 · 86282 Lawrence Lake AA	425.00
259068 · Warba Discover AA	245.00
616207 · 7371 Thurs. Night BB Study	207.49
625896 · Wednesday Womans AA	125.00
640458 · Monday Night Big Book Longville	430.00
657490 · 13699 Tues Night Fireside Group	50.00
665046 · 14170 Tues Nite Solutions Group	45.00
689522 · 25254 Mon. Noon BB	150.00
696926 · 99576 Cohasset North Group	400.00
697943 · 63594 Saturday 6pm	106.00
Total 4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	2,903.49

	Jan - Dec 22
4000-17 · District 17 Contributions	
123762 · 100545 Crosslake Tuesday	143.98
294129 · Crosslake Thurs AA	100.00
Total 4000-17 · District 17 Contributions	243.98
4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	
107722 · 102265 Eagle Bend AA	400.00
107785 · 19219 Little Falls AA Club	300.00
107787 · 14377 Long Prairie Alano	50.00
132913 · 47111 Parkers Prairie AA	225.00
Total 4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	975.00
4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	
107511 · 94573 Bagley AA	20.00
139141 · 76830 Spiritual Awareness	169.60
145909 · 38031 Nooners AA Group	360.00
662565 · 13687 Living Sober Group	60.00
663310 · 77955 Squaw Lake Tues	100.00
679835 · 105769 Big Book Study	460.00
683774 · Women's Way Group	52.00
Total 4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	1,221.60
4000 · Group Contributions - Other	1,188.77
Total 4000 · Group Contributions	31,859.08

“A.A.’s far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.

“Now where do A.A.’s services — worldwide, ar-
ea, local — fit into our scheme of things? Why
should we provide these functions with money?
The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A.
service is designed to make more and better
Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a
group meeting place, a central or intergroup
office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship,
or the world service Headquarters [now the Gen-
eral Service Office] to maintain unity and effec-
tiveness all over the globe.

“Though not costly, these service agencies are
absolutely essential to our continued expansion
— to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are
a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all
of us. Our support of services actually amounts
to recognition on our part that A.A. must every-
where function in full strength — and that, under
our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to
foot the bill.”

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

			(Over)Under				(Over)Under
	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	Annual Budget		Jan - Dec 22	Budget	Annual Budget
Gross Profit	47,454.24	60,432.00	28,572.92	7000 · Archives Chair			
Expense				7000-01 · Meals	140.36	358.00	217.64
5100 · Committee Meeting Rent	400.00	300.00	(100.00)	7000-02 · Travel	273.53	282.00	8.47
5120 · Grapevine Inventory	2,639.30		(2,639.30)	7000-03 · Lodging	643.23	1,058.00	414.77
5125 · AAWS Literature Inventory	9,699.69		(9,699.69)	7000-05 · Supplies	11.00		(11.00)
5200 · Service Workshop			-	7000-06 · Printing	0.00	50.00	50.00
5201 · Coffee	470.00		(470.00)	7000-08 · Other	1,235.00	35.00	(1,200.00)
5202 · Printing	0.00	25.00	25.00	7000-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.13		(16.13)
5203 · Room Rental	799.86	800.00	0.14	Total 7000 · Archives Chair	2,319.25	1,783.00	(536.25)
5204 · Speaker Expenses	752.39	592.00	(160.39)	7100 · Archivist			
5200 · Service Workshop - Other	225.31		(225.31)	7100-01 · Meals	334.62	443.00	108.38
Total 5200 · Service Workshop	2,247.56	1,417.00	(830.56)	7100-02 · Travel	977.15	815.00	(162.15)
5300 · Spring Assembly				7100-03 · Lodging	733.22	900.00	166.78
5301 · Room Rental	200.00	500.00	300.00	7100-05 · Supplies	112.47	1,250.00	1,137.53
5302 · Coffee	99.80	200.00	100.20	7100-08 · Other	4,565.00	7,635.00	3,070.00
5303 · Other	129.55	210.00	80.45	Total 7100 · Archivist	6,722.46	11,043.00	4,320.54
5300 · Spring Assembly - Other	-750.00		750.00	7200 · Corrections			
Total 5300 · Spring Assembly	-320.65	910.00	1,230.65	7200-01 · Meals	342.24	418.00	75.76
5350 · Zonal Forums	0.00	150.00	150.00	7200-02 · Travel	248.55	604.00	355.45
5360 · State Fair	700.00	700.00	-	7200-03 · Lodging	516.30	555.00	38.70
5400 · Fall Assembly			-	7200-05 · Supplies	171.00		(171.00)
5401 · Room Rental Costs	2,832.94	1,900.00	(932.94)	7200-06 · Printing	5.00	100.00	95.00
5402 · Coffee	274.25	200.00	(74.25)	7200-08 · Other	233.22	35.00	(198.22)
5403 · Printing	0.00	210.00	210.00	7200-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.09	3.00	(13.09)
5400 · Fall Assembly - Other	87.00		(87.00)	Total 7200 · Corrections	1,532.40	1,715.00	182.60
Total 5400 · Fall Assembly	3,194.19	2,310.00	(884.19)	7300 · CPC			
6550 · Finance Oversight Committee				7300-01 · Meals	346.35	373.00	26.65
6550-01 · Meals	7.00	28.00	21.00	7300-02 · Travel	649.23	726.00	76.77
6550-02 · Travel	90.48	208.80	118.32	7300-03 · Lodging	1,217.96	920.00	(297.96)
6550 · Finance Oversight Committee - Other	55.36		(55.36)	7300-05 · Supplies	8.00	75.00	67.00
Total 6550 · Finance Oversight Com	152.84	236.80	83.96	7300-06 · Printing	0.00	30.00	30.00
Total Expense	18,712.93	6,023.80	(12,689.13)	7300-08 · Other	715.00	35.00	(680.00)
Other Income/Expense				Total 7300 · CPC	2,936.54	2,159.00	(777.54)
Other Expense				7400 · Grapevine			
6100 · Delegate				7400-01 · Meals	204.00	388.00	184.00
6100-01 · Meals	493.36	688.00	194.64	7400-02 · Travel	590.72	818.59	227.87
6100-02 · Travel	1,893.50	1,494.00	(399.50)	7400-03 · Lodging	1,607.02	1,320.62	(286.40)
6100-03 · Lodging	931.57	3,545.55	2,613.98	7400-05 · Supplies	0.00	210.00	210.00
6100-05 · Supplies	57.04	100.00	42.96	7400-08 · Other	15.00	35.00	20.00
6100-06 · Printing	850.77	1,636.50	785.73	Total 7400 · Grapevine	2,416.74	2,772.21	355.47
6100-07 · Postage	20.16		(20.16)	7500 · Group Records Secretary			
6100-08 · Other	1,800.00	637.85	(1,162.15)	7500-01 · Meals	226.00	313.00	87.00
Total 6100 · Delegate	6,046.40	8,101.90	2,055.50	7500-02 · Travel	130.00	140.00	10.00
6200 · Alternate Delegate				7500-03 · Lodging	429.00	570.00	141.00
6200-01 · Meals	276.18	428.00	151.82	7500-06 · Printing	35.50	130.00	94.50
6200-02 · Travel	200.88	779.00	578.12	7500-07 · Postage	87.74	200.00	112.26
6200-03 · Lodging	657.64	1,260.00	602.36	7500-08 · Other	438.01	35.00	(403.01)
6200-05 · Supplies	0.00	150.00	150.00	Total 7500 · Group Records Secretary	1,346.25	1,388.00	41.75
6200-06 · Printing	60.50	50.00	(10.50)	7600 · Literature			
6200-08 · Other	22.85	35.00	12.15	7600-01 · Meals	196.00	148.00	(48.00)
Total 6200 · Alternate Delegate	1,218.05	2,702.00	1,483.95	7600-02 · Travel	300.00	530.00	230.00
6300 · Chairperson				7600-03 · Lodging	333.03	951.00	617.97
6300-01 · Meals	259.04	420.00	160.96	7600-05 · Supplies	0.00	50.00	50.00
6300-02 · Travel	541.90	785.00	243.10	7600-07 · Postage	120.50		(120.50)
6300-03 · Lodging	918.07	1,096.00	177.93	7600-08 · Other	15.00	35.00	20.00
6300-05 · Supplies	29.00	150.00	121.00	Total 7600 · Literature	964.53	1,714.00	749.47
6300-06 · Printing	1,644.39	654.00	(990.39)	7700 · Northern Light			
6300-08 · Other	113.17	35.00	(78.17)	7700-01 · Meals	306.77	448.00	141.23
6300-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	225.46	303.00	77.54	7700-02 · Travel	282.30	356.65	74.35
Total 6300 · Chairperson	3,731.03	3,443.00	(288.03)	7700-03 · Lodging	351.20	354.00	2.80
6400 · Secretary				7700-05 · Supplies	1.95		(1.95)
6400-01 · Meals	260.65	383.00	122.35	7700-06 · Printing	2,637.38	2,250.00	(387.38)
6400-02 · Travel	204.85	230.00	25.15	7700-07 · Postage	2,318.78	1,800.00	(518.78)
6400-03 · Lodging	674.45	800.00	125.55	7700-08 · Other	204.35	35.00	(169.35)
6400-06 · Printing	805.31	1,165.00	359.69	Total 7700 · Northern Light	6,102.73	5,243.65	(859.08)
6400-08 · Other	35.00	35.00	-	7800 · Public Information			
Total 6400 · Secretary	1,980.26	2,613.00	632.74	7800-01 · Meals	290.86	648.00	357.14
6500 · Treasurer				7800-02 · Travel	214.80	590.00	375.20
6500-01 · Meals	134.05	148.00	13.95	7800-03 · Lodging	351.21	354.00	2.79
6500-02 · Travel	313.48	316.75	3.27	7800-08 · Other	37.85	69.00	31.15
6500-03 · Lodging	697.96	1,095.00	397.04	Total 7800 · Public Information	894.72	1,661.00	766.28
6500-05 · Supplies	229.50	320.00	90.50	7900 · Treatment			
6500-06 · Printing	318.86	250.00	(68.86)	7900-01 · Meals	277.82	368.00	90.18
6500-07 · Postage	85.45	240.00	154.55	7900-02 · Travel	200.32	430.00	229.68
6500-08 · Other	272.85	35.00	(237.85)	7900-03 · Lodging	627.26	1,044.00	416.74
Total 6500 · Treasurer	2,052.15	2,404.75	352.60	7900-05 · Supplies	12.84	100.00	87.16
				7900-06 · Printing	0.00	96.00	96.00
				7900-07 · Postage	0.00	42.00	42.00
				7900-08 · Other	20.00	35.00	15.00
				7900-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	16.06		(16.06)
				Total 7900 · Treatment	1,154.30	2,115.00	960.70

(cont'd from page 13)

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	(Over)Under Annual Budget
7950 · Webmaster			
7950-01 · Meals	352.00	368.00	16.00
7950-02 · Travel	699.74	668.00	(31.74)
7950-03 · Lodging	679.33	830.00	150.67
7950-08 · Other	22.85	35.00	12.15
Total 7950 · Webmaster	1,753.92	1,901.00	147.08
8000 · Web Technology			
8000-02 · Travel	-12.00		12.00
8000-08 · Software Products	171.72	119.40	(52.32)
Total 8000 · Web Technology	159.72	119.40	-40.32
8050 · Audio Technician			
8050-01 · Meals	134.00	218.00	84.00
8050-02 · Travel	272.20	499.95	227.75
8050-03 · Lodging	798.94	788.00	(10.94)
8050-05 · Supplies	371.73	25.00	(346.73)
8050-08 · Other	15.00	65.00	50.00
Total 8050 · Audio Technician	1,591.87	1,595.95	4.08
Total Other Expense	63,636.25	60,498.66	-3,137.59
Net Income(Loss)	(16,182.01)	(66.66)	(16,115.35)



Your Experience, Strength and Hope

WANTED: Pandemic Stories

For our NMAA Archives it would be nice to have stories of how our groups handled the issues that were thrust upon us during the time of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Group Name (optional, in interest of anonymity)
How many members are in your group?
Did everyone stay sober?
What measures did your group practice to prevent the spread of illness?
Did you meet outdoors?
Did you practice mask and social distance?
Did you use ZOOM or conference calling?
When you were able to meet again in person was attendance less than before?
Did your group gain or lose members?

Please send to Marc, Area 35 Archivist, at archives@area35.org

Singleness of Purpose

I recently completed the Eighth Step and have decided that my first amends should be to Alcoholics Anonymous itself, which I believe I have harmed to some extent by violating its singleness of purpose.

I used to identify myself as an alcoholic and an addict. I do not anymore because I now believe other addictions are irrelevant at AA meetings. But, aside from that, I also used to insist on talking about my other addictions beyond what was necessary to relate them to alcohol. I justified this by saying that alcohol was just another drug and so it was unfair to expect me not to talk about all my addictions. And refused to attend any other fellowship because I claimed to prefer the wisdom and sobriety in AA. I realize now how rude and self-centered this position was. It is not a question of what is fair or whether alcohol is just another drug. The Traditions and primary purpose of AA are what they are whether I agree with them or not.

In the past, when I was active, I often had dinner at the homes of people who did not use drugs, but who did drink. I never considered insisting that I had the right to smoke a joint at their dinner table because they were drinking wine. And imagine if I had, and then added insult to injury by saying: "And not only do I have a right to use any drug I want to around here if you're going to drink, but I'm going to keep coming back and I'm going to keep using any drug I want to in your home because I like the food you serve and your company better than the food and company I find in the homes of my drug addict friends. And I have a right to do this because all drugs are the same and I don't care what the rules or customs of your home are."

Such a gross abuse of hospitality sounds preposterous, but that is essentially what I was doing by insisting that I had a right to violate AA's singleness of purpose. I was abusing the hospitality of this Fellowship. This is not an apology. I was too sick to realize how selfishly I was acting, and a mere apology is not necessarily an amends. I am hoping to amend the harm I did by stating clearly what I did, for the benefit of others, and, further, by not doing it again.

PO Box 1980, August 1993
By: H. D. | New Medford, NJ
Submitted by Steve L., Area 35 Delegate, Biwabik, MN

PLEASE POST

“But we do have expenses...”

When you “put money in the basket” you support your group and A.A. worldwide. You help make sure that:

- Your group gets meeting space
 - Phones get answered
- Alcoholic inmates get Big Books
- Professionals get correct information about A.A.
 - Loner A.A.s get letters
 - Newcomers get literature and meeting lists
- A.A.s around the globe share experience, strength and hope



Region, Country, World
“I want the hand of A.A. always to be there...”

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, INC. • P.O. BOX 458 GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10163
(212) 670-3400 • FAX: (212) 670-3062 • www.aa.org

P-198-4/96 1M



Anonymity Online and Digital Media
Service Material from the General Service Office

In all A.A.’s public relations, A.A.’s sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic; always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity at the public level.

Public information takes many forms, from the simple sign outside a meeting place, to distribution of A.A. literature, A.A. websites, anonymity protected PSAs, informational videos, radio, television and digital media. A thoughtful and informed group conscience is encouraged to be responsible for deciding how best to inform members and the public about A.A. and how as members we can use digital media, practice anonymity and avoid anonymity breaks.

Below is sharing from A.A. resources as a reminder of the importance of A.A.’s anonymity Traditions in our digital lives.

In 2013 the General Service Conference affirmed “ . . . that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ‘ . . . at the level of press, radio and films. ’”

General Principles

“When appearing on radio, television, film or on the Internet as A.A. members, we refrain from showing our faces or revealing our last names. In printed articles, on websites or email, we are identified by our first names and last initials only.”

**The A.A. Group – Where it All Begins, p. 8*

“When using digital media, A.A. members are responsible for their own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.”

**Understanding Anonymity, p. 5*

A.A. Websites

“We observe all of A.A.’s principles and Traditions on our websites. As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on A.A. websites. Some A.A. websites contain password-protected sections for members only, but publicly accessible pages of an A.A. website have the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, require the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. For more sharing on this topic, see the resource page Anonymity — A Vital Spiritual Principle on G.S.O.’s website.”

**Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Websites, p.2*

“ . . . social networking websites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and non-A.A.s mingle...”

‘...As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, ‘ . . . our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed...’

‘...Even “closed” or “private” groups might still reveal an individual’s identity. Being well-informed prior to joining or starting such a group is the key to protecting your own anonymity, and that of others.’

**A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p.1,2*

Email

“When using email it is necessary to consider the anonymity of the recipients of messages. Sending messages to multiple recipients that disclose the email addresses of everyone on the addressee list is a potential break of someone else’s anonymity. Therefore, it is a good idea to obtain a recipient’s explicit permission before using his or her e-mail address for A.A. correspondence, especially if it is a workplace email address. When sending A.A. mail to multiple recipients who wish to remain anonymous, use can be made of the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) option available on most computers.”

**A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 4*

Internet

“Many technological options are possible and, presumably, more are being developed each day. Yet . . . it is important not to let the speed of technological development pressure a committee [or an A.A. group] into a quick solution as opposed to a well-thought-out A.A.-oriented decision. Of course, all decisions must include careful consideration of any situations where an A.A. member’s anonymity could be compromised at the public level.”

**A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 5*

Videos and Audios

Sound and visual media help to carry the message of recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous and to inform the public and professionals about A.A. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are available in both video and audio formats (for television and radio broadcast), as well as other materials specifically for young people and for professionals working with alcoholics. (These are examples of anonymity protected media to carry the A.A. message.)

**Videos and Audios, aa.org*

More Reflections on Anonymity

“Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical. On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.”

**Bill’s Last Message, aa.org*

At this level, according to Bill W., “ . . . anonymity—100 percent anonymity—was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities, without exception.”

**Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187*

“ . . . anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.”

**Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187*

“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches. Granting all its huge public benefits, this limitless world forum is nevertheless a hunting ground for all those who would seek money, acclaim and power at the expense of society in general...”

“Therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people—often with the best of intention on their part. Against all this, the sacrificial spirit of AA’s anonymity at the top public level is literally our shield and our buckler. Here again we must be confident that love of AA, and of God, will always carry the day.”

“Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours” Bill W., AA Grapevine, November 1960

“In my belief, the entire future of our fellowship hangs upon this vital principle. If we continue to be filled with the spirit and practice of anonymity, no shoal or reef can wreck us. If we forget this principle, the lid to Pandora’s box will be off and the spirits of Money, Power, and Prestige will be loosed among us. . . I am positive that A.A.’s anonymity is the key to long-time survival.”

**A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 131-132*

Share your experience, strength and hope with Area 35 by writing an article for 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.****

Tradition Three by Bill W.
Copyright © The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., February 1948

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer 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.” The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous so long as he says so. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the brother alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.

So when he asks, “Are there any conditions?” we joyfully reply, “No, not a one.” When skeptically he comes back saying, “But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe,” we quickly answer, “In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no musts.” Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, “What is this all going to cost me?” We are able to laugh and say, “Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues.” Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, “We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive.” That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.

Our membership tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that 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. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight A.A. activities. One can think of no A.A. member who would like, for example, to see the formation of “dry” A.A. groups, “wet” A.A. groups, Republican A.A. groups, Communist A.A. groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the A.A. name, even indirectly to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that A.A. should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of A.A. therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive, and never exclusive, offering all we have to all men save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life –and a useful one!

**“Not one of us is given a torch big enough to lead the drunks
of the world out of the darkness and into the light.**

**Instead, each of us has been given a candle that burns for a short while
with a flickering flame.**

If we stand together, the light will outshine the greatest torch.

**If we argue and bicker and blow at each other’s candle so that each of us
starts shielding our own little flame, then the alcoholics of the world
will continue to suffer in darkness, and so will we.”**

Gerry F, Western Canada Regional Trustee, 1995

Area 35 Spring Assembly

April 1st-2nd, 2023

Holiday Inn Alexandria
5637 Highway 29 South
Alexandria, MN 56308

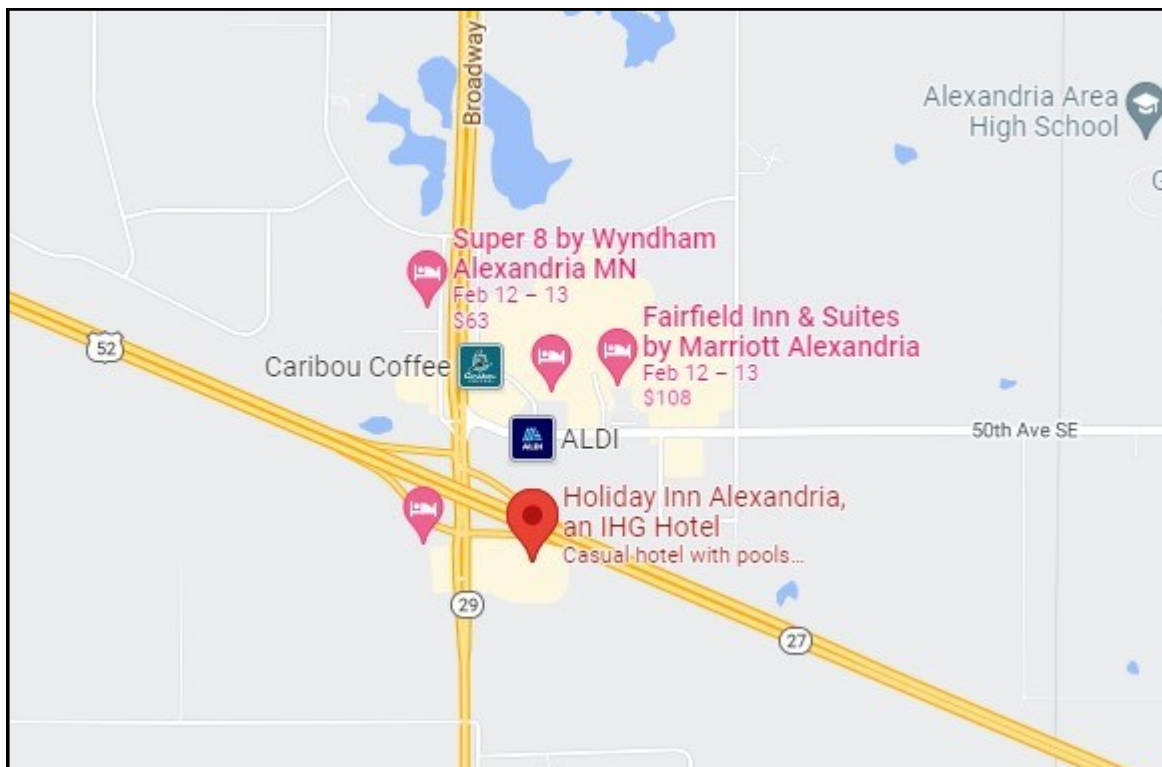
Room Rates: King Leisure Non-Smoking, \$129.99 + tax
Two Queen Beds Non-Smoking, \$119.99 + tax

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.

AREA OFFICER & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

DELEGATE – STEVEN L

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen, May you all enjoy a happy and joyous New Year. First, I made a mistake. I have to retract a statement from my report at the December Area Committee meeting. I misunderstood a statement Mike L. (WCR Trustee) said at the WCR Delegates meeting November 28, 2022. I stated, “Mike L. reported that we moved \$1.1 million from the reserve fund (this came from the insurance money received on the cancelled International Convention which was to be held in Detroit) to the General Operating fund to cover deficits, \$250k of the insurance money stayed in the reserve fund.” I should have written that the insurance monies were not being held in the reserve fund. They were being held in a special account in the general fund while the Trustees and AAWS board determined where the money would be used.

At the December Delegates meeting, we discussed the budgets for AAWS and the Grapevine. The budgets will be ready for approval at the January Board Weekend. As it looks right now, AAWS has a \$20,000 surplus. This may be tweaked with a couple of items that came in after the budget was put together. The Grapevine budget is still a work in progress. Over the last several years Grapevine has been tasked with providing services from the General Service Conference (GSC), our YouTube channel, our Instagram pages and GV Podcast. These items are provided at no cost to the fellowship, but they are incurring expenses on the Grapevine side. Loving discussion is going on right now about unfunded services that we are providing from the GSC. This money should be coming from the general fund of the General Service Board. This discussion is ongoing and will probably carry over to the February meeting.

Grapevine is working on an app development (this will be capital expenditure, not a budgeted item for the year). When Mike was delegate in 2003-2004, we had over 95,000 GV subscriptions. We are currently at the 60,000 mark. We are trending down about 5,000 to 6,000 GV subscriptions every year. In the next four years, we will be losing \$800,000 a year staying with just a print format. The business model we built with the app in that same time period will be seeing revenue of \$1,000,000 a year. Once it hits that point, we will have to adjust the price of the app because we cannot accumulate excess funds. The starting price is \$3 a month, this will drop down to \$2 or \$1 a month. With digital material, the only costs are to maintain the platform and to produce the material. There will never be a time when we don’t need the Grapevine in print for corrections and PI/CPC work. Also, some members of our fellowship still want a printed copy to hold and read. The tentative schedule we have is to do a hard rollout of the app in September of 2023.

Bob W. (GSO general manager) has restructured the way we are tracking international licenses by establishing two separate departments outside of the publishing department. The first department contains Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property. The second department is Language Services. The reason they formed the two departments is because foreign offices are losing their license to print and sell our literature, this is causing disruption in carrying the AA message because they have no literature to sell. This has nothing to do with copyrights. Another issue being looked at is that Grapevine has a lot of material copyrighted that happens to be printed in AAWS materials, the Service Manual, the Big Book and pamphlets. For example, the pamphlet Problems Other Than Alcohol, was originally a Grapevine article. This is an example of Grapevine intellectual property that is now generating revenue for AAWS. We don’t have any guidelines in place defining how we handle inter-company licensing issues. This is a problem that will probably require some legal assistance for the new ad-hoc committee. The agenda item rollout is still planned for the middle of February with all three translations (English, French, Spanish). Mike L. stated that there doesn’t appear to be as many agenda items as last year. They started translating the agenda items earlier. These two things will help with the roll out of agenda items being on time.

Here is the reason there are fewer agenda items this year. The Trustees bundled two big agenda items this year. One is the production of the Plain and Simple Language of the BB which had about 28 agenda items submitted by the fellowship which was bundled into one agenda item. The 28 submitted agenda items were split between dropping the project and having the whole conference read and decide if the production of the Plain and Simple Language of the BB should continue. The second big bundle of agenda items is the change in the language of the 12 X 12. This had about 24 submissions from the fellowship, most requesting to reinstate the old writings with one submission wanting to keep the changes. I will be addressing what bundling means when we discuss agenda items at the Spring Assembly. Two items that our Area is interested in were deemed not to be discussed at the conference by the Trustees, they are: the use of the Google Ads grant and the changing of the words in the preamble from “men and women” to “people”. The change to the preamble had about 14 submissions from the fellowship, most requesting to reinstate “men and women”. The Trustees’ reasoning was there was not enough interest from the fellowship to address the change. Mike L. stated that the Plain and Simple Language of the BB should have five to eight chapters in rough draft form available to view at the conference this year. The Literature committee is getting first crack at viewing the draft.

Did you enjoy the workshop?? I did! What a bunch of great presentations. The guest speakers Brooke and Dennis did wonderful jobs and there was enough ice cream for everyone. One takeaway I got was a comment Dennis made during the ask-it basket session. As he was answering a question, Dennis asked, “Is your Group an active part of AA or an Associate meeting?” An associate being a meeting that only wants the benefits of AA but doesn’t participate in the decisions of AA, having no GSR, not attending Area As-

semblies or District meetings. Whereas, an active Group participates in AA, has a GSR, attends Area Assemblies and is involved with the communications between the Group and GSO. What is your Group??

I want to discuss Tradition Seven and the Area 35’s budget. Remember, Area 35 has no revenue stream. Moneys for Area 35 are solely provided by the generous contributions from the Groups. Tradition 7 states, “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Let’s break this down. Declining outside contributions is just that, its simplest meaning is we don’t solicit or take money from outside of AA. Fully self-supporting gets a little more complicated. One might say that just keeping the Group afloat by paying rent, buying coffee and maybe literature is enough. But, they are forgetting their responsibility to their District and our Area and GSO.

Remember, when the Groups approve a budget for their District or Area, they are implying that they will send contributions to fulfill their commitment of the approved budget for the services they requested. In Area 35 some services provided to the Groups are: the Northern Light newspaper, our Website, Archive storage space, holding two Assemblies a year, holding a workshop once a year, holding four Action Committee Meetings in Aitkin a year, sending your Delegate to the yearly General Service Conference (GSC) in NY, having the Delegate give reports back to the Districts on the GSC, sending your Area Officers and Action Chairs to the West Central Reginal AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) once a year and to a Reginal Forum once a rotation. These are the services you have asked for through the years and all make 12 step work possible and available to you.

I want to end with an amend. At the workshop during our officers meeting, I was guilty of butting in and interrupting other people’s comments. I apologize for speaking out of turn, not listening and being rude.

In Service, Steve L

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W

Greetings Area 35. Since the December ACM I have mostly been working on the January Workshop. I contacted the presenting districts and had the privilege of helping prepare them in some cases. Thanks to all of you for doing such a great job with the presentations. I worked with Scott and Terry from District 12 to finalize their responsibilities for registration and coffee, and they did a presentation as well. Thanks to District 12 for hosting the workshop and for a job well-done. I finalized the details with the hotel regarding the specifics for set up and signed and approved multiple revisions to the banquet event order. The hotel was a pleasure to work with for the most part. I finalized the Evaluation Forms, and the Voice Book and got the Evaluations and some other things printed. Thanks to Christine for printing the Agendas at the last minute.

To start with, there were a few errors that I’m aware of. The agenda was missing any reference to the GSR and DCM sharing session reports so those will be in the next issue of the Northern Light. I added this into the templates for the Agenda and the Voicebook for next year which should keep it from happening again. Also, I neglected to put together a list of restaurants in the area and have added notes to the Voicebook template about this, so it is not overlooked in the future.

There were also a few issues that I consider to be much more significant. The audio was inadequate for the zoom attendees. It was suggested we might need wearable microphones if it’s going to be successful. Our equipment did include integrated mics that weren’t able to be used, and I wonder how this might have helped. We need to get a handle on this if we are planning on hybrid area events in the future, and I am available to help with it if I can. Worst of all, there were 2 past Delegates attending via Zoom for the entirety of the event and I did not recognize them as past Delegates nor include them in the Ask-it-basket; Susie Ardolf – Panel 48 and Tom Ardolf – Panel 50 (also past West Central Regional Trustee). There was a note passed to me after the event asking if they should have been involved in the Ask-it-basket, to which I respond “Yes...Absolutely”. I have spent a considerable amount of energy wishing that note had been passed to me a little sooner so I could have addressed the error during the workshop. One of the evaluations I received asked “why weren’t the past Delegates on Zoom used for Ask-it-basket?” The short answer is because I did not know that they were attending via Zoom when we started the Ask-it-basket. I neglected to ask and didn’t have any indication that they were present. I did receive text messages at 11:33 and 11:39 letting me know, but I did not see either of them until after we closed the event. It was an oversight; an egregious error by my own estimation, for which I am culpable and responsible.

I am sincerely sorry and remorseful for this, and I humbly ask your forgiveness. My dictionary and our program say that making amends is about compensating for the injury; paying for it; trying to make it right. I’ve had a few days to think about this and have spoken to multiple people about it, each of them more than once. I will address the personal injuries directly at the earliest possible opportunity. But there has been an injury to the groups in area 35. We all stand to benefit a great deal from the experience and advice of our past Delegates and because of this error, we suffered the loss of this privilege and opportunity. I can’t think of a way to repay this debt directly; that is return what was lost. But I will do all that is within my ability to make sure it doesn’t happen again. Since I will have the opportunity to help the incoming alternate delegate set up the next workshop, I assure you it will not occur at the next workshop; or any future event I attend, even if it means making a point-of-order from the mic and interrupting the event. Also, I have

edited the Voicebook template such that Zoom participants cannot be overlooked by the chair in the future. While I cannot single-handedly solve the technical issues we had with Zoom, I will certainly suggest that we should create something of a “procedure” for hosting area events over zoom. We need to bring the Zoom participants into the room a little better, so we can see that they’re with us on the projector screens, and do what we can to make their experience the best it can be.

We received a total of 39 evaluation forms for the event, about 13 from GSR’s and 26 from repeat offenders. This is an estimation because it’s based on how many workshops each person has attended. There’s a rating system built into the form based on the checkboxes for how satisfied each person was, and the event scored 3.5 out of a possible 4. So, this is pretty good... I guess it was a 3 and a half Star Workshop! I received quite a bit of feedback including several suggestions for improving the workshop. Several folks thought the hotel was too expensive. This was definitely a consideration when selecting the venue. There were a couple of other hotels I looked at that were cheaper but literally could not accommodate us. Last year’s hotel was priced just right but failed in multiple ways to accommodate us. It’s tough to find a good balance between the cost of the venue and the actual value we expect. The costs associated with lodging and events have gone through the roof here recently.

There were a few suggestions like having a list of restaurants and I have added notes for this to the Voicebook template; possibly having another AA meeting during the sharing sessions and committee meeting time slot so folks that aren’t involved in those would have something to do. This has also been added as an option to both the Voicebook and Agenda templates. One person said we should have had a box for the evaluation forms which I have added to the Voice Book template for next year. It was suggested that we might consider providing some guidance on how to conduct the sharing sessions. We’ve heard this before and I’d like to see the area committee develop a format document for the sharing sessions if it is in line with the conscience of our group here.

But the words used most often in the comment section of the evaluations we got back were “thanks”, “awesome”, “loved”, “excellent”, “special thanks”, “very informative” and “great job”. A few even said it was the best workshop they had been to, or one of the best they had been to. And I did verify that they had been to more than just this one!

Saturday morning, before the event started, the saleslady took me into the kitchen to show me where the freezer was so we could keep our ice cream in there. She mentioned that they’d be offsite for a wedding as we passed the coffee machines, and I tried to tell her how important coffee was to our group. I mentioned we were really good at making coffee and would be willing to make a pot if need be. She said that there “should be” a server available if we needed any additional coffee. So, in the afternoon when Scott and I were faced with the unthinkable dilemma of running out of coffee in a room with a hundred sober alcoholics, and no server in sight, I remembered seeing the coffee machines in the kitchen earlier while simultaneously and conveniently forgetting select and pertinent parts of my earlier conversation with the saleslady about not making our own coffee. Scott and I went into the kitchen, and to make matters worse, there was a cook in there who was pretty easy going and turned out to be no match for 2 desperate drunks. Scott made the pot of coffee....not me! Later on, Scott told me that the sales lady came back from the wedding and was none too happy about his shenanigans! I did make amends to the saleslady over the phone and assured her that were not trying to steal the pot of coffee, but that our common welfare had to come first and that running out of coffee was a real threat to the unity of our group! Later that evening when Christine arrived with the ice cream....the freezer was one of those walk-in freezers like they have in the movies; with a door that closes by itself and locks from the outside, like they have in the movies. I put the ice cream in there and the door closed behind me, just like they do in the movies. By the grace of God, I hadn’t quite gone in there all the way and the door hit me in the britches instead of closing and latching!

Thank you all for letting me be a part of this!

CHAIR – CHRISTINE G

Greetings Area 35, since the December ACM, I have been working with the committees that are reviewing the Area inventory to ensure that they have upcoming meeting times available. Thank you to all of you working on the committee, we are excited to see your recommendations for distribution at the Spring Assembly.

I have been working with our Area Treasurer and communicating to the area committee about the area finances to ensure the information is getting communicated to the groups. It has been requested that a plan of action be established that does not only include the cutting of spending. This is the contents of the email that was distributed:

Good Afternoon,
There has been a request to see a plan of action from the area that addresses "the contribution crisis, not just cut our spending."
Thank you for this request.
We will continue communicating, that in order to perform the activities that were approved at the Fall Assembly with the approval of the 2023 budget, group contributions do need to be increased to meet those expenses. We have asked that this information be shared with the GSRs at the district meetings.
To help with this, our Area 35 Treasurer is putting together a letter for each DCM that will provide information to be shared with the groups. It will also provide contributions from the

groups in that district during 2022 so DCMs can have a better look at who is contributing and where there may need some out-reach.

With this letter, there will be another informational sheet that will explain the services that are provided with the contributions. This will be good information to get to the groups to help them understand where their contributions are going and hopefully spark an interest in taking another step to send a GSR to these events. DCMs can look for these letters coming in the mail by February 1st.

We have also reached out to districts local to us to let them know that our services are available and if you would like presentations, workshops or us to come to have a chat, we are available to do so. There is also Zoom capabilities that can be used if that seems like a better fit for visiting the districts.

We will start with the letters, continue being prudent and communicating. As the groups see and are informed more about our services and the need, we will have the means to perform the activities that they see fit. Thank you for your help in making sure our groups are informed.

To help with saving costs, I will be printing fall assembly fliers in black and white instead of color and I will make these fliers available at the spring assembly for you to take back to the groups.

I have made arrangements with the Kelly Inn Best Western and Courtyard by Marriott for the fall assembly in St. Cloud. These blocks of rooms will be available until September 6th to get the reduced rate. Overnight stays are getting more and more expensive. Both these hotels are near or connected to the convention center.

I will start working on the next rotations assemblies and get those contracts in order. I would like to hear from the DCMs from Zone I (Districts 1, 2, 16, 21) and Zone II (Districts 3, 4, 15) of any ideas for facilities in those areas that could handle 125 people. I am planning on reaching out to facilities that we have already used as well. They seem to provide good pricing and they know our needs but I am open to other options that may be a fit. Thank you in advance for your help.

I attended the January Service Workshop and enjoyed all the presentations as well as our guests sharing their knowledge, experience, strength and hope. The format of the workshop was fantastic, and our Alternate Delegate did a great job organizing and chairing the workshop. We had another experience with having a hybrid event and we are continuously learning how to improve and what to be aware of. We appreciate everyone’s understanding and patience as we navigate through these experiences.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming February ACM whether we have it in person or on Zoom. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your area chair. In Unity and Service, Christine G.

SECRETARY – SALLY L

Greetings, Area 35. Since the December ACM, I got the ACM minutes out and sent to the Northern Light editor. I have participated in all of the meetings of the ad hoc committee meeting for the review of the Area Inventory. We are finalizing our work of coming up with possible recommendations for the Spring Assembly. I look forward to completing this review.

I attended the January Service Workshop in Duluth on the 14th and 15th. I shared a room for one night and brought my own food to help reduce expenses. The workshop was interesting and informative. I especially liked hearing from Brooke and Denny, past delegates from Wyoming and southern MN.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Sally L.

TREASURER – VICKI R

Hello! I have been depositing contributions from the groups and keeping the financial records up to date, so we have the most current information available as we monitor cash balances and make decisions about expenditures.

I’ve stayed in close contact with the Chair to keep her informed as well. I have reconciled Dec 2022 bank statement and all the Area finances are entered into QuickBooks. I’ve mailed approximately 80 letters to groups who have contributed since I started as treasurer.

The Service Workshop in Jan bought in receipts of \$3,829.42; expenses for coffee, space, and speakers was \$3,046.02 leaving \$783.40 towards travel expenses of \$3,994.43 from Area Officers and Committee Chairs. Total cost of the workshop was \$7,040.45.

If you have any questions about Area finances, please reach out. In Service, Vicki R

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

WEBMASTER – KYLE H

Greetings Area35. Aside from the typical website updates, I have been working on document sharing for the Bridging the Gap program, configuring and testing some additional zoom capabilities to better support hybrid meetings/conferences/assemblies, and lining up some potential pricing and planning around revamping our email. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service!

(Continued from page 19)

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B

Greetings Area 35. I attended the Area 35 Service Workshop last weekend in Duluth. The presentations by the districts were very informative and the skit by District 8 was entertaining and very on point! Thanks to all who participated. I really enjoyed the town hall meeting and personal stories shared by past-delegates Denny B, from Minnesota Area 36, and Brooke C, from Wyoming. A huge thank you to both of them. To be prudent and save the Area expenses, I shared a room (as usual), spent Saturday night only at the hotel and didn't expense any of my food.

I have been getting updated Northern Light printing and mailing costs from our printer. At this time, it costs approx. \$425 to print 1,000 copies and approx. \$370 to mail to our entire mailing list of nearly 740 AA members. The mailing list changes frequently so postage will vary. I do hand out 10 copies of the NL to each DCM for their districts (140 copies), which leaves approximately 100 extra for assemblies and workshops.

This issue had enough space to add all of the 2022 financials from our Treasurer, Vicki. There are numerous events happening around Area 35 in the next several months and fliers can be found in the events section or on area35.org. I had to shrink and crop some fliers to fit everything into this issue. I'm still asking groups to discuss what they would like to see in the Northern Light as we are limited to printing 28 pages. The ACM and Assembly Minutes must be included as this is the official newsletter of Area 35. What do you feel is most important for the groups to see? Financials? Area events? Reports from the assembly? Send me an email at northern-light@area35.org with any suggestions.

Please note that reports and fliers for the next issue are due March 1. We have a very tight deadline to get the NL printed before the Spring Assembly. That issue will not include a second report for Area Comm Chairs and Officers- only the reports from the ACM. Unfortunately, we will not have time to include WCRAASC reports.

I've been meeting with the ad hoc committee going through comments from the recent area inventory. We plan to make recommendations at the spring assembly. I plan to attend the February ACM and will be attending the WCRAASC via Zoom in March. I celebrated a sober anniversary recently and will be sending birthday contributions to each of the entities. Without AA, I am nothing - I owe them at least that. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Heidi B.

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R

Greetings Area 35. Since the December Area Committee Meeting, I attended the Area Registrar Quarterly Sharing Session held by Margaret M, Member Services Manager. I met the new Group Services Coordinator Karina C who is also our West Central Regional Correspondent. I have mailed completed Group Records to DCM's of Districts 7, 3, 21 and 18 in the last 2 months and will continue getting them to all DCM's. As always please verify the information and let me know of any changes to Groups' status or meeting changes. I attended and enjoyed the January Workshop. I received several requests for changes in GSR's and Groups' meeting information as well as requests for records of group numbers. Those have been completed.

Since our Area monies are low and we have had discussions on being prudent I will share that my expenses for the workshop were \$262.67. As always I share the room expenses, drive with others to reduce the cost of gas, and eat lightly. Also part of that amount is postage for mailing Group Records and of course returned Northern Lights.

Speaking of that, I have another cost of \$14.00 on Northern Light Newsletters that are undeliverable. In case you are wondering, the mailing list is 737 names as of this writing. If I get one that has been returned to me, I now simply delete that person and address from the list.

Through the aaminnesota.org website I have received several requests to "add meetings to the website and the Meeting Guide App". Maybe just as a reminder we do not list meetings, we list AA Group meetings. If the meeting in question is not an AA Group listed with the Area and the General Service Office, it does not get listed on either aaminnesota.org or Meeting Guide App. Another tidbit that I didn't know when I began this rotation as Area 35 Group Records, that aaminnesota.org feeds into the Meeting Guide App at GSO. When the Area Registrar enters your Groups' meeting information in our Minnesota website, aaminnesota.org, it gets uploaded right to the Meeting Guide App and the APP uploads every 12 hours.

I also continue to be part of the Area Inventory Ad Hoc Committee and look forward to being able to put forward some recommendations for the Spring Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Group Register, it has been a wonderful learning time and I look forward to another year! In Service, Denise

LITERATURE – PAT M

Hello Area 35, I am an alcoholic, and my name is Pat M, and I am your Area 35 Literature Chair. At our January 4th area committee meeting we had seven in attendance from district 6, district 5 and district 3. We shared on the importance of literature for the suffering alcoholic. We talked about how most people don't know of all the literature that we have in AA now, so we decided to come up with a set of books that a district our group can purchase. A group can purchase a set of these books and share it with the group's members. In this kit we have 11 books for \$95.00 including *Came*

to Believe, Living Sober, Our Great Responsibility, Experience, Strength and Hope, Dr Bob, AA Comes of Age, A Visual History of AA and the AA service manual.

I always have to remember where I came from when I was broken and desperate. When it comes to literature, not everyone can use a web page or has access to computer. Some of us leave treatment and we have no home, we have no phone, we have no job and we have no car. We are just broken. This is where pamphlets in this great literature come in handy. I also attended the January workshop, it was amazing. There were speakers: Brooke from Wyoming and Denny in Minneapolis. I'm sure glad that I was able to attend the workshop as it was an amazing workshop with amazing speakers.

Yours and service, Pat M

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings Area 35. It was great to see everyone at the area workshop and to see some great speakers and presentations. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Area committee meeting in February and I will be discussing the State Fair - I will be looking for volunteers for the PI booth at the fair! Did I mention they have cheese curds at the fair?

I will be attending the WCRAASC via Zoom in March. Looking forward to going through the agenda items.

Please let me know if you would like me to come to your district and put on a presentation about PI. I am also available for workshop presentations.

Yours in service, Nels P

TREATMENT – RICCO R

The 12/4/22 Treatment committee meeting didn't make the last Northern Light so I will put it in this report.

We had Nine committee members present at our 12/4/22 Area 35 Treatment Committee in Aitkin. Peggy M. District 13 Treatment Chair, Julie N. District 6 DCM, Jeff T. District 16 Alt. DCM, Jeff J. District 9 Treatment Chair, Scott S. District 18 DCM, Bob N. District 7 DCM, Patti D. District 3 Treatment Chair, Nate C. District 6 Treatment Chair, Ricco R. Area 35 Treatment Chair.

Again, we had a lively and productive meeting. We went over the Bridging the Gap/ Temporary Contact Forms for the Volunteer and the Treatment Client. We made some changes. We also went over the process of acquiring a contact for a client leaving a treatment center a few times to see if it flowed well.

After the meeting we presented the brochure the committee put together for the program to the area body. We brought up a motion to have the brochure paid for by the Area 35 voting body. The vote was yes and now we will bring it to the printer and have it printed and folded. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Bridging the Gap/Temporary Program will need a lot of help from the districts to make it work. I will e-mail out the forms to the DCMs. They consist of the Treatment Center Client Form, The AA member volunteer form, and the Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contact Brochure. The brochure will give all the information the DCMs will need to do that part of the program. If you would like to talk about the program, please let me know. If you want me to come to your district and explain it to whoever wants to know about it, I would be happy to do so. Due to a short fall in our treasury, we could have a zoom meeting for your district, and I could explain it that way. Let me know.

The Bridging the Gap brochures came in and I brought some of them to the workshop and gave out a 25-item packet to the treatment chairs and same to DCM's if the treatment chairs were not present. I also was part of a presentation put on by District 9 on Unity. There were other very good presentations on our three Legacy's. There was a Past Delegate from Wyoming Brooke C., Area 76, and a Past Delegate from Area 36 Southern Minnesota Dennis B. who both gave presentations about a wide area of topics and their experience in many areas of service work. We were all very grateful for having them there and they did a wonderful job. It was a very well put together workshop and lots of good fellowship.

In Unity and Service, Ricco

CPC – GREG C

Greetings Area 35! 2022 is in the rear-view and now it's on to more fun and excitement in 2023! The January Workshop just wrapped up and it was wonderful as always. The presentations were informative, but for me, the fellowship, the spontaneous conversations, the sharing...it is all that AA is to me. One alcoholic talking to another. I always come away with new energy and commitment to be an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Since last report, I have addressed a gathering of Probation Officers in a 5 county area of West Central Mn. I was originally scheduled for 20 minutes, but the meeting went 90 minutes!! They were very receptive to new information regarding Alcoholism as well as new and better ways to locate and interact with their local AA groups. They were all keenly aware of the importance of Sponsorship and were interested in developing a ver-

sion of the Bridge the Gap program to facilitate connecting some of their clients with local groups. They were excited to explore the available websites and even took a couple of AA refrigerator magnets with information.

Another project involves the Eagles Healing Nest residential treatment facility near Sauk Centre. It provides board and lodging accompanied with special services to our veterans. Visit them at www.eagleshealingnest.org They have history with AA going back a number of years with speaker meetings, meetings put on by the AA community, meetings organized by residents and more. Our goal is to assist them in organizing a strong meeting structure as well as providing outside individuals to function as sponsors. Their staff is receptive to making AA an available and vital part of their wellness recovery plan.

While working with these professional groups as well as Area 35 Districts, I often go to the GSO website for resources. It is becoming very apparent that the GSO website has a lot of outdated information regarding contacting AA in specific areas around our Region as well as lots of information (like website addresses) that isn't even listed!! I started some communication with the office and have now involved Kyle to take a look at the technical side of how best to update all of that. As I pointed out at the Workshop, it is vital that we keep up with the information highway to better reach out to the still suffering alcoholic and those that serve them. Hope to see you all along the service road of life! Greg C

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Earworm time: Remember Billy Joel's 1980 "Still Rock and Roll"? "Oh, it doesn't matter what they say in the papers 'Cause it's always been the same old scene"

Remember the big band sound, maybe not. How about old country, new country is a bit different. The north country dance hall sound was not like disco or club music. Soft rock, acid rock, heavy metal, and now rap. What will be next?

AA has a history, its not static, it varies from place to place and from time to time. Our archive has a lot of early AA history, but not a lot of recent items noted. Money's tight, always has been. What can we do for free? We could individually write about our recovery, "why did I come to AA? Why do I keep coming back?". If preferred I can email a form used for longtimer stories. These short bits could be assembled into a storybook of NMAA culture in the past few years. Ask me how. "Everybody's talkin' 'bout the new lit. Funny, but it's still AA to me."

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

Greetings fellow alcoholics in Area 35. By the time you read this, Spring should be getting close.

I had another inspiring weekend, last weekend. I was blessed to attend our Area's workshop in Duluth. I was so glad to see many of you there. It always amazes me that the districts in our area have so many talented members that give me a new perspective on our 3 Legacies. Recovery, Unity and Service. Thanks again to Brooke and Dennis for the great messages. Marc, our Archivist, set up a great display for all the attendees to observe and ask questions about. We are looking forward to the next area event to set up our archives. Spring Assembly. Hope to see you there.

Yours in service, Renell P

From December, ACM:

Today we had 4 in attendance for our meeting. Steve from Dist. 12, John from Dist. 8, Marc, our Archivist and myself. John reported that he is still interviewing old-timers from his dist. and writing up their stories for preservation. Steve reports that he continues to add more items to the archives for Dist. 12. Their storage space is at the Duluth Alano Club. Next dist. Mtg. is open to all their groups, so the members can learn more about Dist. 12. Steve will have a local Archivist Display. Marc has been in contact with a man in Bismarck ND who has a collection of Grapevine from 1995 to present. These are the ones that we are missing. He will pursue this, if possible. Marc said that one of the evaluations from Fall Assembly suggested getting a trailer for a portable display. Instead, Marc has started creating a virtual archives display. He will be spending most of his time this winter scanning and posting items for the VAD.

We will be looking forward to attending area Roundups with our physical displays. We will be attending the Area Workshop in Duluth. We, the committee, have a new Archives Committee Policy. We would like the Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCMs, GSRs and the AA groups to look it over. We will present a motion at the Spring Assembly for a vote of approval. You can look for a copy of the proposed policy plus a copy of the Area guidelines in our Area 35 Actions Book, so that you can see that we have included all these guidelines in our policy. These will be emailed to all DCMs, Committee Chairs and Officers later this week.

Marc and I will be providing you with a list of missing Big Books, in case you have any lying around, that you would like to donate to our collection.

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings everyone, I'm Mike and I'm an alcoholic and your area 35 Grapevine Chair. At the ACM meeting there were about 8 in attendance. We talked about the new distributor for Grapevine and the trouble having to order books and send them out. Everyone is doing their best to resolve the issue. I would also like to remind everyone about the new price in-

creases that took effect as of the new year. It is self-support. I attended the Duluth workshop and had a great time. The speakers were awesome with very good history and the groups did a very good Job in their presentations. District 8 nailed it, and the ice cream social was a hit. Thank you, Justin, for your hard work. As you all know, I am with District 6. We have put a plan together so that 11 from the district can attend the WCRAASC in Lincoln, NE. We are locked in and are ready to rock. That's all for now.

Thank you for letting me serve, Mike U.

CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A

Greetings Area 35. Since my last report, I have attended the Statewide Corrections Committee meetings, and in our January meeting I was nominated and elected the new Statewide Corrections Committee Chair. In January, I attended our Area 35 Service Workshop in Duluth. The workshop was an excellent one. Our main guests, Brooke and Denny both gave wonderful presentations during the day. On Saturday evening, they both shared their Experience, Strength, and Hope which again, was very enlightening! The District presentations regarding our 3 Legacies were outstanding!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February. Yours in Service, Arden

**DCM Sharing Session - Area Service Workshop
January 14, 2023**

We opened with the Serenity Prayer. We had DCMs from Districts 13,7, 18, 3, 5, 4, 16, and 9. We had Alternate DCMs from Districts 8, 6, and 16. We had a Treasurer from District 5.

We discussed the following questions.

- How can a district increase contributions to support district functions such as workshops?
- What can a district do to get a meeting held in an club to participate and support the district?

The following responses are the group.

- Tailgating was talked about, and it is not a district function. No district money goes into tailgating. It is voluntary with the purpose of attracting people to the meeting, getting A.A.s involved, and for fellowship.
- The district is reading and studying the 7th Tradition as it relates to what they are doing. Is it fundraising and or is it 7th Tradition? They are still discussing this.
- Groups need to support themselves with their own contributions. They are autonomous.
- Potluck, Speakers, and Presentations are done in the spirit of the 7th Tradition.
- We need to have healthy groups and districts to get them into the fold. We keep the traditions going. There are no quick fixes.
- Each group uses the 7th Tradition. Groups are responsible to support their GSRs. We give to A.A. to share our gratitude.
- Groups in the district have different thinking. They believe that they do not need to be involved in the District, Area, or GSO. We do Round Robins, we pay expenses, and the rest goes to the District.
- I continue to visit groups within the district. Some groups are very small. We talk about money We encourage each group to get a GSR. We tell them who are and what we do as a district. We encourage sponsorship. We moved the district meeting into the Alano Club.
- The district is healthy.
- Give them reasons to make contributions to the district.
- We have thank you cards printed up and send them out. We read the 7th Tradition card. We do put the word out that we need to cover expenses through the 7th Tradition.
- We try to keep our expenses of a workshop low. We invite presenters who are local. Groups that meet at the Alano Club pay rent. Groups now have their own treasury.
- If they want District services, they must pay for them. Sponsorship is important. If the groups do not know what we are doing, they will not contribute to the district.
- If we are contributing money to the Area, how does that help the still suffering alcoholic. Share and inform groups about the reimbursements that are made and why. It is the sponsor's role to model the 7th tradition.
- We can make Birthday Contributions to the Area.
- The district website tells where to send contributions.

In Service, Diane R

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

Tri-District Semi-Annual Workshop

Districts 16, 9, & 8

(Area 35) In Unity

Focus on "Sponsorship"

Saturday March 18, 2023 @ the Hibbing Alano Club

3725 1st Ave. Hibbing MN

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1:00 PM - AA Sponsorship: Opportunities and Responsibilities: Charlie C.

2:00 PM - Newcomers sharing about "Working the Steps with a Sponsor"

3:00 PM - Guest Speakers - Abbey F. and Evan H.

4:00 PM Ice Cream Social

For more information call Diane 218-929-7846, Dave 218-360-9952, or Craig 218-235-7490

Zoom: Meeting ID: 851 2526 7788 Passcode: 882338

LONG PRAIRIE
ALANO ROUNDUP

"EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE"

When: Saturday March 25th, 2023

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church

610 2nd Ave SE

Long Prairie, MN 56347

Social: 5:00

Pot-Luck: 5:30

Al-Anon Speaker: 6:30 (to be announced)

A.A. Speaker: 7:00 Jason S. from New London

Please Bring a Dish to Share

2023 Service Events

February 26: Area Committee Meeting - Zoom

March 3 - 5: WCRAASC, Omaha, NE

April 1 - 2: Spring Assembly
Alexandria, MN

6th Annual

"Drunks on Ice" Fishing Extravaganza and
Chili Cook off!

Saturday - February 18th, 2023



Fishing Contest on Lake Irene Just Outside of Miltna

Pot Luck Supper & Chili Cook Off With Speaker Meeting

to Follow at:

Prairie Event Center

201 W. Main Street

Parkers Prairie, MN

AA Speaker 7:00: Speaker TBA

Al-Anon Speaker Following: Speaker TBA

Social Hour Starts at 5:00

Supper at 6:00 – Serving Chili From the Cook Off

Whip up your favorite chili and bring to the event center for judging
or bring a dish to share!

50/50 Raffle

Rooms Available at Grand Stay Hotel attached to Event Center

Hosted by Clarissa Back to the Basics

GILBERT TUESDAY OPEN MEETING

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF RECOVERY

SATURDAY MARCH 18TH, 2023

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUMMIT STREET AND LOUISIANA AVE
GILBERT, MN

6:00 pm- Social Hour

Guest Speakers

7:00 pm- Al-Anon Jessie D. Hibbing Mn.

8:00 pm- A.A. Julie N. North Branch Mn.

Snacks and fellowship before and after the meeting.

There is also a rumor of smoked salmon...

Spring
Celebration
of Recovery
May 13, 2023

Excellent AA & Alanon Speakers
Fellowship!

City Hope Church

413 Franklin Ave NE #0221
St Cloud, MN 56304

Information:

320-296-1693

stcloudroundup@gmail.com



17TH BIG OLE ROUNDUP
ALEXANDRIA, MN
MARCH 17-19, 2023

Hosted At
Holiday Inn
5637 St Hwy 29 S., Alexandria, MN
320-763-6577 / www.hialexandria.com

Additional lodging options available at:
www.exploreallex.com
Flyers available at: www.area35.org
AA & Al-Anon Literature and
Big Ole merchandise available at Event.

2023 Theme:
Love and Tolerance

Friday 3/17
3:00 pm
Registration Opens
4:00 pm
AA Big Book Meeting
& Al-Anon Meeting
5:30 pm
AA Step Meeting
Al-Anon Meeting
6:45 pm
Welcome
7:00 pm
Kari H - Al-Anon
Saak Centre, MN
8:15 pm
AA & Al-Anon Count-up
8:30 pm
Andre P - AA
 Fargo, ND
10:00 pm
Ice Cream Social
Open Candlelight
Meeting

Saturday 3/18
6:00 am
AA meeting
8:00 am
Registration opens
9:00 am
AA/Al-Anon Meeting
10:15 am
Round-up Announcements
10:30 am
Erica J - AA
 Spicer, MN
1:30 pm
Jennifer D- AA
 St. Paul, MN
3:00 pm
Ask-it Basket
Guest Speaker Panel

Saturday cont.
3:45 pm
Preamble
6:00 pm
Shannon B - Al-Anon
 Jamestown, ND
7:15 pm
AA & Al-Anon
 Countdown
7:30 pm
Josh S - AA
 Lawndale, CA
9:00 pm
DJ Dance/Karaoke

Sunday 3/19
6:00 am
AA Meeting
8:00 am
Doors Open
8:15 am
Open Gratitude Meeting
10:15 am
Scott B - AA
 Jamestown, ND
11:30 am
Roundup Closing

Pre-Registration Thru 02/26
\$20
After 02/27 and at the door
\$25
Big Ole Mugs—\$15
Bring your own Mug
sticker—\$13
Door Prizes Start 6:45pm Fri-
day. Need be present to win.
To explore lodging
opportunities and attractions
please see
www.exploreallex.com

2023 BIG OLE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
Make checks payable to Big Ole Roundup and mail to:
Big Ole Roundup, P.O. Box 1212, Alexandria, MN 56308

People Coming _____ # of Big Ole Mugs _____ # of BYO Mug _____ Total Enclosed _____

Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Previous years you've attended? _____ Requesting scholarship _____

Cash Or Checks Only ATM onsite

51st Annual
Iron Range Get-Together
May 5th - 6th
Our Spiritual Journey

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

Friday, May 5th

Join In
"Tropical Short Night"

6:30 pm - Registration Opens

8:00 pm - Speaker: Paul G, Akron, OH

Saturday, May 6th

10:00 am - Outstate Panel

1:00 pm - AFG Speaker: Kathy T, Duluth, MN

3:00 pm - Call-up Meeting

7:00 pm - AFG Speaker: Bruce K, Hibbing, MN

8:00 pm - AA Speaker: Lisa G, Bloomington, MN

??? till 11:00 pm - 7th Tradition Ice Cream Social

For more information contact: Jack at 218-341-7367 or Jake at 218-263-1510

Registration at the Door:
A.A., A.F.G., and Others - \$20.00 Alateen - \$6.00
Or Pre-Register for \$18.00 with form on other side

Make checks payable to IRGT & Send to:
IRGT P.O. Box 855 • Hibbing, MN 55746
Iron Range Get-Together

"If the day comes that I do drink again, it will not be because I had no alternative.
It will be because I had an alternative, provided by a loving God, but was unwilling to use it."

*Syracuse, N.Y., October 1994,
"Lock Me Up, Please," AA Grapevine*

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

2023 A.A. West Central Regional Service Conference

March 3-5, 2023
Hosted by Area 41

A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution

Conference Registration

Event Registration - \$25
Price Increases to \$30 on 2/1/23

Register Online: [Bicly/WCR23Reg](#)
Mail-In Form Below with Check by 2/15/23

Unlimited coffee pass available for \$25 - Buy a pass in advance or pay per cup at the Conference
Check out [www.westcentralregion.org](#) for more information!

Hotel Information

DoubleTree Omaha Downtown
1616 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68102

Hotel Reservation - \$119/night
Online Link: [Bicly/WCR23Hotel](#)

Friday | March 3, 2023

Post & Present Delegates Only Meetings
10:00 - 3:00pm
Sharing Sessions; Lunch (On Your Own)

Events for All WCRAASC Attendees Begin

2:30pm
Registration Opens

3:30pm
Early Bird Meeting

5:30pm
First Timer Orientation

7:00pm
Welcome

7:15 - 8:00pm
Presented by Area 40: Our Common Perils and Common Solution

8:00 - 8:30pm
Meet the Delegates

8:45 - 10:00pm
General Service Conference Agenda Items

Saturday | March 4, 2023

7:00am
Early Bird Meeting

8:00am
Welcome

8:15 - 10:30am
General Service Conference Agenda Items

Presented by Area 52: Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message

10:45 - 11:30am

Saturday continued

11:30 - 1:00pm
Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 - 2:00pm
General Service Conference Agenda Items

Presented by Area 36: Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture

2:00 - 2:45pm
Breakout Sessions

3:00 - 3:45pm
General Service Conference Agenda Items

4:00 - 5:30pm
Dinner (On Your Own)

5:30 - 7:00pm
Open Speaker Meeting - Carolyn W., Surrey, British Columbia

7:00 - 8:30pm
General Service Conference Agenda Items

8:45-10:00pm

Sunday | March 5, 2023

7:00am
Early Bird Meeting

8:00am
Welcome

8:15 - 9:00am
Presented by Area 24: Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings

9:00 - 10:30am
Past Trustee Sharing & Ask It Basket

10:30am
Conference Closes

Conference Website

Conference Registration

Hotel Reservation

Attend In-Person or Via Zoom
(Zoom link provided after registration)

To register by mail, send this portion with your check made payable to West Central Region.
Mail by 2/15/23 to WCRAASC, PO Box 22145, Lincoln, NE 68542

Name: _____ Area: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Home Group: _____ Service Position: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you need ASL or Spanish translation? ☐ ASL ☐ Spanish Are you purchasing a coffee pass? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WCRAASC

CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

WEST CENTRAL REGION
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
SERVICE CONFERENCE

40

Montana

52

North Dakota

35

N. Minn.

76

Wyoming

63

South Dakota

36

S. Minn.

41

Nebraska

24

Iowa

West Central Region

The West Central Region
Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference
Is composed of those states designated in the
A.A. Service Manual as the West Central Region

Last updated and approved by the West
Central Region delegates - November

“We should question no one's transformation -- whether it be sudden or gradual. Nor should we demand anyone's special type for ourselves, because our own experience suggests that we are apt to receive whatever may be the most useful for our needs.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1962, “Spiritual Experiences,” 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 traditional and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.



NORTHERN LIGHT 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 750 pieces to mail**. What is not mailed is passed out at the Area meetings and assemblies.

5. The cost for having a flier inserted into the Northern Light is \$30. Make Checks payable to NMAA and mail to :

NMAA
37258 Lakeland Rd
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST CURRENT ADDRESS!!!
- | Number of Copies | Printing Costs | | Insertion Fee | Total Cost |
|------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| | 1 Sided | 2 Sided | | |
| 750 | \$ 68 | \$ 90 | \$ 30 | \$ 98/120 |
| 1000 | \$ 90 | \$ 120 | \$ 30 | \$ 120/150 |
- 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—750 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)

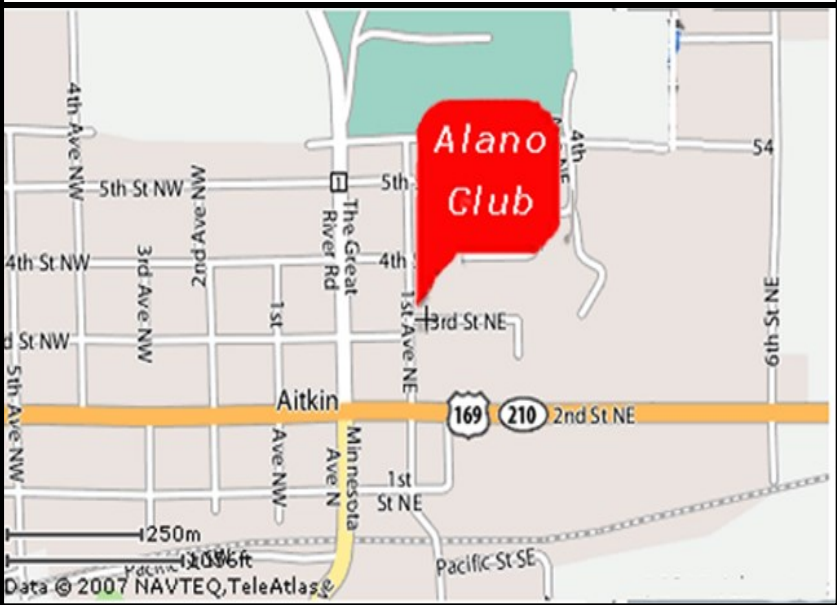
AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 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 7		NORTHERN LIGHT		Created 1982	
Jan/Feb 2023				Page 27	
Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly					
OUR PAST DELEGATES					
Panel 70 2020-2021		Panel 38 1988-1989		Panel 12 1962-1963	
Jim S		Scott J		Donna T (deceased)	
Panel 68 2018-2019		Panel 36 1986-1987		Panel 10 1960-1961	
Christine G		Louie H		Bob B (deceased)	
Panel 66 2016-2017		Panel 34 1984-1985		Panel 8 1958-1959	
Kelly D		Bob P (deceased)		Pearl N (deceased)	
Panel 64 2014-2015		Panel 32 1982-1983		Panel 6 1956-1957	
Michael “Jake” J		Tom L (deceased)		Waldo H (deceased)	
Panel 62 2012-2013		Panel 30 1980-1981		Panel 4 1954-1955	
Jim K		Don M (deceased)		Wendell H (deceased)	
Panel 60 2010-2011		Panel 28 1978-1979		Panel 2 1952-1953	
Jon C		Garfield (Duffy) S (deceased)		Arthur R (deceased)	
Panel 58 2008-2009		Panel 26 1976-1977			
JoAnne M N		Vern R (deceased)			
Panel 56 2006-2007		Panel 24 1974-1975			
Jerry S		Gordon B. H (deceased)			
Panel 54 2004-2005		Panel 22 1972-1973			
Charlie C		Frank P. J (deceased)			
Panel 52 2002-2003		Panel 20 1970-1971			
Tim C		Clarence B (deceased)			
Panel 50 2000-2001		Panel 18 1968-1969			
Tom A		Dave H (deceased)			
Panel 48 1998-1999		Panel 16 1966-1967			
Susie A		Arno A (deceased)			
Panel 46 1996-1997		Panel 14 1964-1965			
Bill P (deceased)		Donald F (deceased)			
Panel 44 1994-1995					
Bruce B					
Panel 42 1992-1993					
Greg G (deceased)					
Panel 40 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
Zoom
February 26th, 2023

<div><div>_____ 9:00 – 10:15 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings (9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ 10:15 BREAK</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 – David 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>_____ Delegate Nomination Process Discussion – Spring Assy 2023</div><div>_____ Northern Light Content Discussion – Spring Assy 2023</div><div>_____ Other Area Officer Elections Process Discussion – Spring Assy 2023</div><div>_____ Ad-Hoc Technology Committee - Web</div><div>_____ Statewide Corrections – Corrections</div><div>_____ State Fair Booth – PI</div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ Archives Committee Policy Discussion</div><div>_____ Area Finances</div><div>_____</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