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This is YOUR Newsletter

Area 35

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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>

2022-23 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

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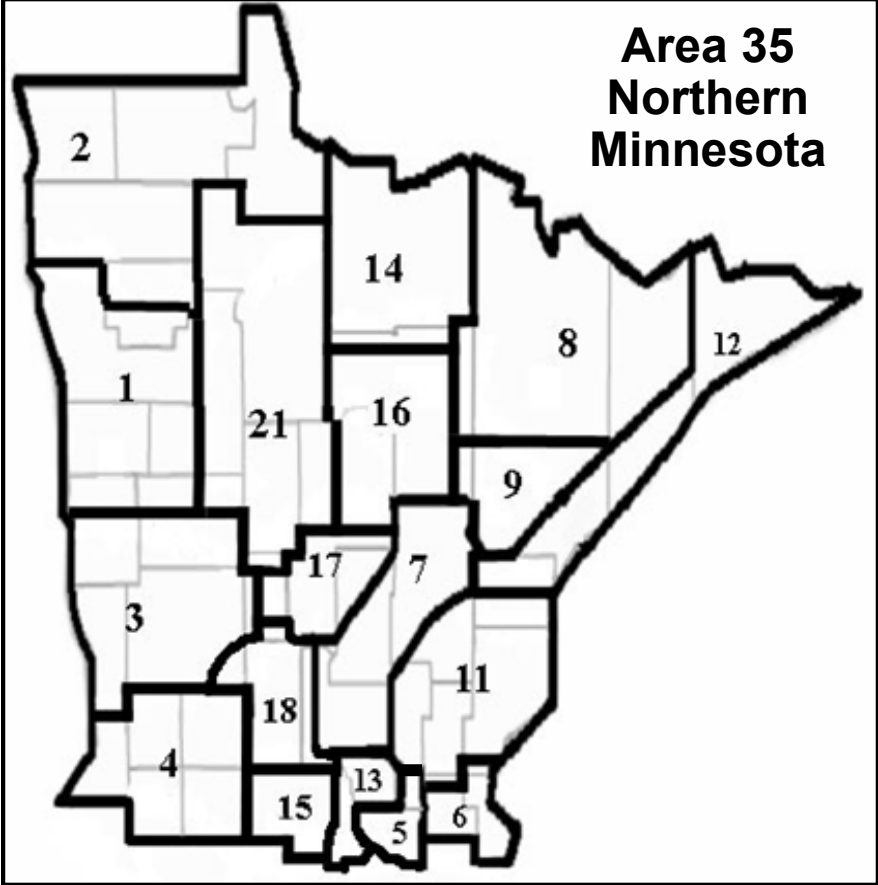
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Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- District 2** - Badger, Baudette, Halma, Middle River, Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - 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 Spring Assembly Minutes
Alexandria, MN
April 1-2, 2023

Call to Order: Area Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2023, and opened with the Serenity Prayer. There were 105 people in attendance.

Recognition of Past Delegates In Attendance: Area 35 – Tim C, Panel 52; Charlie C, Panel 54; Jim K, Panel 62; Jake J, Panel 64; Jim S, Panel 70; Area 36 – Scott A, Panels 57 and 59

Additions to Agenda: Why are Past Delegates Not Attending Assemblies and ACMs

Approval of October 2022 Fall Assembly Minutes: Correction to 2022 Fall Assembly minutes – the word “donation” should instead have been “contribution” when referring to the money given to the Area by District 6. **Kyle H. motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Cathy R. second-ed. Motion carried.**

Points of Order: Please limit sharing at the mic to two minutes, and please refrain from crosstalk.

Report on Trustees – Steve L:
Good Afternoon, Before we begin, I want to discuss the resignation of the GSB chair Linda C. How many of you have heard about Linda’s and Josh E.’s resignation? I have attended two full conference meetings (which is close to all 133 members in attendance) to discuss this issue. I know there is a lot of chatter about this on social media and a lot of that chatter I have not been privy to. I can only speak to what I have heard at the meetings I’ve attended. On Monday, January 30, 2023, a Zoom Meeting was called by Mike L., our WCR Trustee, to inform the WCR delegates that on the previous day, Sunday, January 29, 2023, Linda C. was asked to resign from the GSB Chair position. When pressed, Mike wouldn’t answer any questions regarding Linda’s resignation. We were only able to get Mike to make two comments. The first was that up to the Sunday sharing session everything was going smoothly. He didn’t see this brewing and was taken by surprise. The second statement Mike made was it was the hardest thing he has done in AA voting on Linda’s resignation. Mike sent the WCR delegates a copy of the Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict and Procedure and the 14 Guidelines on how a new GSB Chair is selected.

On February 3, 2023, a letter was sent from the GSB informing the fellowship about Linda’s resignation. I forwarded this to all DCMs, Area Officers, and past Delegates. Then on February 19, 2023, Josh E. Resigned: These are two excerpts from Josh’s resignation letter.

- He stated that “As a result of what I experienced at our January Board meeting, the lack of willingness to pause, reflect, and inventory before we continue to act...
- I am unable to resolve within my heart the lack of notification, process, or due diligence applied to deeply impactful decisions, and worse, the lack of willingness to apply a slower, more deliberative process to picking up the pieces of what we have done...”

At the February 27, 2023, WCR Delegates meeting again there was a lot of questions about Linda’s resignation with no definitive answers.

At the WCRAASC on March 2 and 3, 2023 there were loads of questions at the WCR Delegates’ meeting. Then, at the past Delegates’ meeting more questions were fired at Mike L. from past Delegates and past Trustees on what made Linda’s behavior so urgent and damaging to AA that the GSB had to have Linda immediately removed from her position as GSB Chair. On Friday at the WCRAASC the Delegates were sent an email about a doodle poll giving two dates to have a Zoom conference meeting with all the Delegates and Trustees.

March 16, 2023, was picked for the Delegates/Trustees conference meeting. It was a 2-hour Q&A meeting with no time limit on questions or comments. Jimmy D., the interim GSB Chair, chaired the meeting. It was reiterated that most of the Trustees didn’t see this brewing and were taken by surprise at the sharing session when problems with Linda’s management style was brought up. Francis G., the Northeast Regional Trustee, answered questions about the actual voting on the removal of Linda by the GSB. Francis G. chaired the Trustees' vote that asked for Linda’s resignation. Francis also stated that the board first asked for Linda’s resignation, then it was brought up that Linda said she would resign if asked, so it was then discussed to accept Linda’s resignation. We were informed that this was so long a meeting that the board even broke for a dinner break during the meeting. Francis stated it was a unanimous voice vote with no nay or abstention votes. It was asked if anyone held up a letter of resignation and gave the ultimatum either Linda resigns or I will. Kevin P., a Class A Trustee and chair of the Finance and Audit Committees, stated he came to the January Board meeting with a resignation letter and a return plane ticket not knowing if he would be asked to resign. Kevin stated he didn’t demand either she goes or I will. Kevin stated there was no conflict with financial oversight between him and Linda. Carolyn W., the Western Canada Regional Trustee, stated she thought of resigning but changed her mind believing she could be of help in changing the process. The Trustees repeatedly circled back to the Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict policies. No GSB member thought this was a punitive action, they felt it was necessary to continue the Board's duties.

There is much concern from every Area in the US and Canada. Delegates mentioned that this is a painful diversion taking time and serenity away from the business at hand, and keeping this panel 73 Conference from being an enjoyable experience. I felt there was a lot of dancing around questions.

A second two-hour Q&A conference Zoom meeting was held on March 30, 2023. Jimmy D., the interim GSB Chair, chaired the meeting. The Trustees repeatedly circled back to the Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict policies. They stated that there is no current way to address if Trustees have problems with the GSB Chair. It was reiterated that most of the Trustees were taken by surprise at the sharing session when problems with Linda was brought up. It was brought up again about the actual voting by the Trustees on accepting Linda’s resignation. Francis G., Northeast Regional Trustee, chaired the Trustees’ vote to ask for Linda’s resignation. Francis repeated what he said at the first meeting stating that the board first asked for Linda’s resignation, then it was brought up that Linda said she would resign if asked so it was then discussed to accept Linda’s resignation. Francis stated that when he brought Linda the letter of resignation Linda crossed out “accepting Linda’s resignation” and wrote, “At the board’s request I resign”. Francis stated it was a unanimous voice vote with Josh voting yes at Sunday's meeting again stating no nay or abstention votes.

It was asked if a Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict is a needed legal instrument in NY. The subcommittee looking at questions about the policy stated they will look into it.

Again, Delegates mentioned this is a painful diversion taking time and serenity away from the business at hand and keeping this from being an enjoyable experience. I felt there was still a lot of dancing around questions at this meeting too. A third Q&A conference Zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023.

After giving this information to the Assembly we had a 30-minute or so comments and Q&A period and I don’t have any specific notes during this time. Some of the comments and questions were asked if this was punitive and quoted Concept 5. *Concept 5 - Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.* There were questions raised from information gained/or read from letters penned by the people involved or posted on different social media platforms. There were questions on whether the sharing session was the right forum to have this discussion at the Board meeting.

There were many more questions that I tried to answer from my limited knowledge of the resignations.

**On a footnote since this report, I’ve attended the third meeting with the Zoom conference and attended a Zoom meeting with the Delegates and Linda. Hopefully, with God’s grace, this bump in the Road Of Happy Destiny will be behind us after the GSC in April.*

Agenda Item Sharing Sessions were facilitated by Delegate Steve Lere. Agenda Item discussion ended at 4:35 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS
Old Business began at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

FINANCIAL REPORT – VICKI R/AREA TREASURER
Hello! Group finances through 3/31/23:

YTD	
Group Contributions	\$ 14,654
Birthday/Other	\$ 3,319
Service Wkshop	\$ 1,930
Net Lit/Grapevine	<u>\$ -941</u>
Total	\$18,962
Total Expenses	<u>\$13,583</u>
Net Income	\$ 5,379
PD 2 (2/23/23-3/31/23)	
Income	\$6,611
Expense	<u>\$4,685</u>
Net Income	\$1,926

There have been several larger donations from groups which is encouraging. Jan group contributions was \$3,453, larger than contributions since 2019 except one year (2020)
Feb group contributions was \$7,283, larger than contributions since 2019. (previous high \$2,676)
Mar group contributions was \$3,917, larger than contributions since 2019. (pervious high \$1,723)

120 groups have contributed through Mar 31, 7 ==>\$400 or 6%: 10 ==>\$300 or 8%

The budgeted income is \$42,000; minus \$18,962 leaving \$23,038 to take in the rest of the year.

Cash projections:
Register balance at 3/30/23: \$ 13,019
Expected receipts Apr & May: \$ 4,969
Expected expenses: (\$15,175)
Net cash at May 31: \$ 2,813

Keep in mind that this positive picture doesn’t resolve the projected budget of \$88,457 being \$46,457 greater than the expected income of \$42,000. And keep in mind projections are my best guess based on information at hand, they may or may not be accurate.

I inadvertently deposited a check for \$300 from an Alano Society. I will re-turn it and communicate that we only accept contributions from groups. Thank you to the member who brought it to my attention!

Tabled motion: “Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCMs, Area Officers, and Committee Members.”

- Kyle presented the following information:
- The monthly cost for licenses and emails would be \$99.55 per month for officers, chairs, and DCMs.
 - This equates to \$1,194.60 per year.
 - Current costs for officers and committee chairs are \$160 per month, so this would save us over \$60 per month.
 - We would get 34 terabytes of storage.
 - This would make transitions easier between rotations.

- Discussion
- This includes emails for DCMs. DCMs are part of the Area Committee. (district committee members). This would not be a case of districts accepting outside contributions from the Area.
 - Question: Is Teams going to be the platform we would use for virtual meetings and workshops? What would it mean for the average Joe to use Teams?
 - The ease of use for Teams, which would replace Zoom, is that there is no download for Teams. Teams is on par with Zoom for usability.
 - We are trying to improve communications. Many emails go to personal addresses and can end up in junk folders. Office 365 can solve whether mail goes to people’s spam, etc. It makes communication seamless.
 - Will emails transfer to the next rotation? YES
 - We need something that works smoothly.
 - How secure is the email? Personal email gets hacked all the time.
 - Many Areas have this sort of system. It facilitates communication between DCMs and the Committee chairs they work with and make it easier to access documents such as Bridging the Gap forms, etc.
 - DCMs could be dropped off from this package. DCM licenses cost \$3 per month each. If DCMs were dropped, it would hinder communications, document sharing, etc.
 - If DCMs are part of the Area, they need Area email address.
 - Would we still have to email reports?
 - Reports could be put into folders for access by the Secretary. They would be saved to the next rotations.

VOTE: “Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCMs, Area Officers, and Committee Members.”
MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN OPPOSITION.
Minority opinion – *Why do we not include Past Delegates in the list of emails provided?* Past Delegates have never had an Area email address. Information is given to them in other ways, including sending them minutes and the Northern Light.

- Tabled motion: “Area 35 will host ACMs virtually going forward and offer hybrid assemblies and workshops.”**
This item came from the February ACM. ACMs currently cost from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- This is the time for the DCMs to voice their opinions
 - One opposed to having virtual ACMs, says it takes away from our camaraderie.
 - In the DCM sharing session, most DCMs were opposed to virtual ACMs because of loss of Fellowship and friendships, and it is less attractive. In-person is for learning.
 - Can’t Fellowship over Zoom – can find other ways to save on expenses
 - If we say no to virtual ACMs, we are saying no to hybrid assemblies.
 - Can we split the motion into two parts?
 - ACMs cost \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year. If we have virtual ACMs, we can use money for Zonal Forums.
 - To make two new motions, would need to rescind original motion and submit new motions.

- Nels P. made a friendly amendment to the motion – “For 2023 only, Area 35 will hold ACMs virtually, and offer hybrid Assemblies and workshops.” Denise R. seconded. Kyle H. accepted the friendly amendment.**
Discussion –
- Need to slow down. Can’t log in sometimes, don’t want to use Zoom. Not as tech savvy as some other people.
 - Problems are often solved in parking lots, can’t do that over Zoom. On Zoom it is hard to hear, and you can’t have individual discussions with others.
 - We already budgeted for this; it should be tabled until next year.
 - GSR – I brought ideas from the ACM to use in my group and district.
 - Some people can’t travel and would attend on Zoom. Is the Area being a good steward of its money?
 - Just because it is budgeted doesn't mean we have to spend it.

- People get distracted too easily when attending virtually, and they may miss important points. Also, if we roll back services, that would decrease support and attendance.
- How much would it cost to buy the equipment for Zoom?
- It varies. It could cost between \$3,200 to \$5,500 to buy Zoom equipment. For Assemblies, we would need three cameras.
- How is this saving money?
- \$8,000 per year for ACMs means for the 100 or so people attending today, it would cost \$80 per person.
- We only need virtual ACM if weather requires.
- What did I drive through to get a drink? How much time did I spend drunk and passed out?
- The message was lost on Zoom during the pandemic and we lost people.

Pat M. called the question.

VOTE: “For 2023 only, Area 35 will hold ACMs virtually, and offer hybrid Assemblies and workshops.” MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegate Nomination Process
Area Chair – Does our current method of nominating one person for Delegate per district give us enough qualified candidates?

- Discussion
- Do we do things by tradition? It is a good idea to have more than one candidate per district.
 - Area Chair – The current method is that a District nominates a person, then it is up to that person to complete a resumé and get it to the Chair by the June ACM. It will then be published in the July/August Northern Light.
 - Area Delegate – If a District nominates more than one person, there will have to be an election at the District to decide who to put forward.
 - Area Chair – A district can nominate a person from another district.
 - The new delegate will be elected at the Fall Assembly by using the resúmes from the Northern Light.

Other Area Officer Elections Process Discussion
Background: This item on the agenda came about because of what happened at the Fall 2022 Assembly in Crookston when we were electing a new treasurer. During the election, people wanted to know who the nominees were and why they might be qualified. It was suggested that the person making the nomination give a one-minute explanation of why the nominee was qualified. This process would be for the secretary, chair, and treasurer positions.

- Discussion
- Question: What if the Delegate nominee from a district was the DCM? Answer: That would be something to think about, but that is not part of this current discussion.
 - Question: What if the person nominated for treasurer is unqualified and is the only person standing for treasurer? Answer: Why would that person even stand in the first place?
 - An introduction of the nominee is important to let people know who the nominee is and why they are qualified.
 - Can we have officer nominees put their resúmes in the Northern Light?
 - Officer nominations come off the floor at the Assembly. Only the delegate nominees are put in the Northern Light.
 - Question: What is Area 36’s procedure? Answer by Scott A, Past Delegate from A36: Elections are all done in one day, and people are asked to stand that day at the Assembly. A person can say no. The nominee then gives a two-minute talk.

Steve L. motioned “To have a one-minute presentation by the nominating member of why the person standing for secretary, treasurer, and chair should stand.”
Discussion – This motion was made at the Fall Assembly and it failed.

VOTE: MOTION PASSED WITH 6 IN OPPOSITION.
Minority Opinion – What if the nominating member is a good talker and builds up the nominee?

Saturday evening session ended at 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION
Area Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and thanked District 4 for hosting the Assembly. Ask-It-Basket and Evaluation baskets are available at the front of the room. We will have a break at 10:30, checkout is at 12:00, and we must vacate the room by 2:00 p.m.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)
Aaron requested a Point of Order and yielded the floor to Mike U.

Mike U. made a motion “To reconsider for discussion of the Financial Oversight Committee Report.”*
Jeff O. seconded the motion.

(*Note - This item had not been added to the agenda for the Assembly and was brought up off the floor.)

The stated issue with the Financial Oversight Committee report was that it was on the agenda, but it hadn’t been dealt with and tabled until the June

(Continued from page 5)

ACM. Much discussion followed. There was misunderstanding of why the item was on the agenda. It was explained that the item was there to remind us that the next FOC report would take place at the June ACM, and to make sure the report wasn't skipped when the ACM agenda was made. There was also misunderstanding about when the item was placed on the agenda. It was thought that it had been there since June 2022 and the report hadn't been given since then. One person thought there may have been something wrong during the time when we didn't have a treasurer and the Area had been having financial difficulties. It was explained that FOC reports only take place at ACMs and not at Assemblies, and no FOC report would be given at the Assembly. One person stated that he had done research to see if the June 2022 FOC report was in the Northern Light, and it wasn't. The Secretary looked in her notes and saw that it had been given at the ACM but evidently hadn't made it into the minutes and stated that the minutes would have to be amended. That would take place at the next ACM.

Heather L. called the question. Cathy R. seconded the motion to call the question.

VOTE on Calling the Question – MOTION PASSED, with two in opposition.

VOTE on Motion “To reconsider for discussion of the Financial Oversight Committee Report.” Motion FAILED.

Minority opinion – This should be discussed now and not delayed or let go to bounce around. We need to take it seriously. If there is something amiss, we have the right to know. Concept One says the membership has the right to put things on the agenda.

Northern Light Content Discussion

What do people want to see in the Northern Light if there is limited space?

- Financials are very important, especially group contributions.
- The Northern Light is the official record, so minutes and reports are always in. There is a second report submitted by the Area officers and committee chairs before the Northern Light goes to the printer. These reports share what each person has been doing since the Assembly or ACM.
- There is a committee that reviews articles, and some are not included in the newsletter.
- The committee consists of the Northern Light editor, the Webmaster, the Group Records secretary, the meeting audio person, and the DCMs that are assigned to each chair/secretary. There are currently two DCMs assigned to the committee, Districts 3 and 16.
- The committee will approve articles about a person's experience, strength, and hope. One article was not put in because it was argumentative.
- We need to talk about things and avoid controversy. The GSB is hiding things from us, and they are creating controversy. We should avoid hiding things. If someone feels passionately about something, it should be printed.
- If we don't put everything in the NL, people out there who don't attend things won't know what is going on. Things should be put in the NL, good and bad. People need honesty.
- We need to remember that our trusted servants are doing things to the best of their ability. The NL has only 28 pages, and sometimes we can't include everything.

Northern Light Digital Discussion

- Northern Light chair Heidi B. asked the printer for costs of printing 250, 500, 750, and 1000 copies. The printer stated that they will only print 1000 at a minimum. There were 750 printed of the January/February issue, and these went to the mailing list, so there were not many left over. That printing cost \$380. Printing costs have gone up. Now it will cost \$415 for a 24-page issue, and a 28-page issue will cost \$484. Postage costs \$370 for mailing 737 copies. We can discuss using email, and our Webmaster says he may have a solution if we use Office 365 to do that.
- Delegate Steve L. stated that we have to remember that we use Cold Spring's bulk mailing permit. If we go to another printer, that option may not be available and we'd have to get our own bulk mailing permit, which could increase our costs.
- What is the real question here? Are we trying to save money? Shorten the issue length? We should not make a rash decision, and review this later in the year when we see how the financial situation shakes out.

Ad Hoc Technology Committee

Everything was covered during yesterday's report. The budget includes purchasing equipment for hybrid meetings. Are we going to purchase equipment if not going hybrid? We tested the system at the January workshop and then sent it back. We are going to only purchase software for Office 365, no equipment. The Area voted down going hybrid.

Statewide Corrections Committee Report

SWCC VISION

Our primary purpose is to foster communication, cooperation, and collaboration between Area 35 and Area 36 to best carry the message to alcoholic offenders in Minnesota State Correctional Facilities. To foster a unified and consistent message of what Alcoholics Anonymous can and cannot do to help alcoholic offenders in Minnesota State Correctional Facilities. Commit-

tee Members consist of Corrections Committee Chairs from both Areas, and additional members-at-large from Area 35 and Area 36.

SUMMARY REPORT

It is with a heavy heart and extreme reluctance, due to my current health issues, I feel it's in the best interest of the Statewide Corrections Committee that I resign as the Chair. I feel I am not able to perform the duties at the level needed and would like to thank everyone for entrusting me to serve for the time I was able to!

Yours in service, Arden A

Being the Alternate Chair for SWCC, I took over for Arden in late February when he stepped away. I'm honored by this appointment, and very humbled to be the new Statewide Corrections Committee Chair in Arden's place. There are 7 members from Area 35 and 5 from Area 36 at this time.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. We have been discussing the several MCF Transition Fairs for 2023 we will be attending. I attended the Transition Fair at Stillwater Prison on March 2, 2023. I will also be attending the St Cloud Prison Transition Fair on May 3, 2023 – looking forward to it!

I have created a Guidelines Subcommittee to help write guidelines that our committee can follow so we can do the best we can to serve and carry the message to those less fortunate in custody today, and years to come!

We will be discussing at our next meeting holding another joint Area 35/36 Corrections Workshop – more to come!

I have been working with Tim V. (District 7) to get contacts of who is bringing A.A. meetings into Moose Lake, -Willow River, Rush City, and MCF-Togo. Working on these contacts in preparation for the Transition Fairs next fall so if any of them is interested, we will be prepared with volunteers!

I would like to give special thanks for these wonderful volunteers from Area 35 whom I'm very grateful to have on our committee: Aaron A (District 6), Tim V (District 7), Kelly D (Past Delegate), Diane R & Ricco R (District 9), Lucy K (District 15), and Mike U (District 6/Grapevine Chair)

Yours in Service, Mark R

State Fair Booth

- There are 58 kinds of “food on a stick” at the State Fair!
- The State Fair is a joint operation with Area 36. Area 35 will staff the booth on August 26th and 27th.
- The Area voted to participate in the Fair, and this is a great opportunity to help the still-suffering alcoholic.
- There is a sign-up sheet for two people for each two-hour slot. Two day-captains are needed, one for each day. PI Chair will captain the first day, and one volunteer with experience with the booth is needed to captain the second day. Please sign up! Contact Nels at pi@area35.org.
- The booth is in operation from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Archives Committee Policy Discussion

No discussion took place.

Area Finances

Treasurer stated that the June ACM budget is \$1,206. WCRAAF could be discussed at the June ACM. Chair put this on the agenda so the body would be aware of what the situation is and decide if they want the whole body to vote on it today. If it is not decided today, it will be put on the June ACM agenda. It was on the February ACM agenda so the DCMs could bring it back to the groups to vote on at this Assembly. Just because things are budgeted, doesn't mean the money will be there. Need to budget for contributions also. How much will it cost to send the Delegate and Alternate Delegate? A motion would be required to send only the Del. and Alt. Del. The \$1,206 budgeted does not include the printing and mailing of the Northern Light. That would cost \$800 to \$900 more. We could decide to send all the people, or no one. We can get creative about this. We could wait until June to decide and see how the contributions are. The West Central Regional Forum is put on by GSO and is basically a meet and greet meeting. Delegates put on presentations and there are breakout sessions.

Heather L. made a motion to “Send and pay for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate only. If in June the finances look better, we can re-evaluate sending others.” Cathy R. seconded the motion.

We mostly agree that Fellowship is important, but what is the best for our Area? Should we sacrifice some things so that more people can go to things like the Forum?

Do we have a monetary target in mind to determine if we can send others? Shouldn't the destination be included in the motion?

Heather L. made a friendly amendment to the motion: “Send and pay for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate only to the West Central Regional Forum. If in June the finances look better, we can re-evaluate sending others.”

Maybe it would be better to send people who have not been to a Forum before. Action Book says, “Send people if funding is available.” One person is going to attend the WCRF even if he is not reimbursed. Others

may use campers. There are only 180 groups participating in support of the Area. Need to get out to the groups.

Jess S. called the question. Jack P. seconded. Vote to end discussion PASSED.

Motion: “Send and pay for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate only to the West Central Regional Forum. If in June the finances look better, we can re-evaluate sending others.”

Vote: One opposed. Motion PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

New Corrections Chair Approval

Due to the resignation of Arden A. as our Corrections Chair, it is necessary to approve his replacement. Chair has selected Mark R. as his replacement. **Tim V. motioned to approve Mark R. as Corrections Chair. Bob N. seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval of Mark R. as Corrections Chair.**

Why are Past Delegates not attending Assemblies and ACMs

- A few Past Delegates have not attended the past two ACMs and the Fall Assembly. They are relied on for their experience.
- Some are not here for health reasons, some because costs are rising and they can’t necessarily afford to come, and sometimes life gets in the way. They enjoy coming to Area events and being useful, “When asked.”
- Some are not attending because they need clarification on where Past Delegates can stand. What about rotation and giving other people experience?
- One Past Delegate present held positions for 11.5 years and was happy to fade into the background and just be a member of his home group.
- It is great to have Past Delegates attend so we can rely on their experience. If people need clarification, they should address that, and other people should not address it.
- The people who are not coming should be asked why they are not coming. There have been a couple of issues that came up, and we have worked past them.
- Over the past year, absence of Past Delegates has been noticed. We owe them an amend. Some do not feel welcomed here.
- One person called the Past Delegates who have normally attended why they are not attending. They said they will not attend until they get an apology from the Area. The person who called them was told that he needed to bring the question of why they were not attending to the Area.
- Another person said there were a lot of newer people at the election Assembly who were not familiar with how the elections take place, so they trusted our trusted servants to manage the election. He has been learning that what happened was not the usual way.
- One person said she was not at that election Assembly and doesn’t know why those people have hurt feelings, and that she is very appreciative of the Past Delegates who sit at the tables with people such as herself and help to explain things.
- Another person said acceptance is the answer. If you have a resentment, you need to work the 12 Steps. If I want an apology from someone, I need to take a look at the Steps.
- If we want Past Delegates to attend, we can reach out to them and ask them to come.

Calendar of Events was read.

OFFICER REPORTS
DELEGATE – STEVEN L

Good morning, Ladies and gentlemen,
As your Delegate, things have been pretty quiet and routine. Right! Thank you for sending me to the WCRAASC there were 444 people in attendance including 81 on zoom. The hybrid equipment from my standpoint made for an extremely seamless partnership between the live audience and the online participation. The sound and video were all well done. The only improvement is to add cameras to the floor microphones. I was very proud of the attendance made by Area 35 at the WC both in person and on zoom. By my count and I’m lousy at counting we had at least 25 to 30 people in person and I saw at least 6 people on zoom.

At the Delegate's meeting Thursday night most of the discussion was on fine-tuning the WCR guidelines for hosting a WCRAASC. Mostly wordsmithing. Plus, lots of questions for Mike L. our WC Trustee on the resignations of two GSB Trustees. Friday at the Past & Present Delegates Only Meetings there were lots of questions posed to Mike about the resignations of the two GSB Trustees from past Delegates and Trustees across the WC Region. Then we informed the 4 new Delegates what to expect at the General Service conference in NY. From tips on Cab rides to bringing comfortable clothing, and extra luggage to what they are likely to experience at the GSC.

We tried something different in presenting the agenda items this year by drawing the committees' assignments randomly to give all committees a chance to present when the audience was alert, the presentation of the agenda items went smoothly with the only distraction being the first couple of questions at the mic asking to discuss the resignations of two GSB Trustees. My Presentation on Literature went a little over an hour early in the day with great questions and discussion. My second committee to present on was Treatment at the end of the day and there was no discussion. People were tired. Friday, I received an email that a full GSC zoom meeting was planned to discuss the resignation of Linda C. the GSB chair. Again, I came away

better informed about the agenda items and it goes without saying some interesting conversations with people in the hallways.

After the WCRAASC I was able to present four pre-assemble agenda item meetings. Two live, one hybrid, and one on zoom. Attendance was great and able to take time to get into the weeds on important topics.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W

After the February ACM, I did reach out the DCM’s from Zone 4 to make the Area Officers available for a Zonal Forum. We are available if invited, the Area has a budget for it as well.

I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference last month and wanted to thank the GSR’s in Area 35 for making this possible. There was much discussion around the resignation of the General Service Board Chair, Linda C as well as the subsequent resignation of an additional trustee Josh E. While the conference members, sitting Delegates as well as others in attendance vehemently requested transparency regarding this our trustee did remain tight lipped about the circumstances. As well there was a General Service Trustee present from Canada and she was not forthcoming. This was a distraction from the Agenda, at least for me, and continues to distract the conference from the business at hand. We did cover all of the Agenda Items over the course of the weekend and was instrumental to my becoming informed.

I was asked to review the General Service Conference Agenda Items with District 13 and that was a great opportunity. Rather than try to cover only a few items I thought were important at depth, I opted to explain what each of the items was about in hopes of stimulating interest and further investigation. I did create a PowerPoint with a slide for each of the items and was able to present that on March 13th. I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

CHAIR – CHRISTINE G

Greetings Area 35, We had the February ACM via Zoom and there were about 40 in attendance. I contacted the Alano Club in Aitkin and there were about 50 in attendance at the December ACM. So, we were down a little in numbers. I sent out an evaluation after the February ACM to get a feel for what people thought. Overall, people were in favor of the Zoom option, there were a few that completely opposed to having the ACM on Zoom. I attended the WCRAASC via Zoom and enjoyed listening to the presentations and the sharing on agenda items. I did miss seeing everyone, the fellowship, and the community but I do understand that there are some sacrifices that need to be made for the area finances to recover.

I attended District 9’s district meeting on 2/26/23 and they had great questions and discussion on Area Archives and what some of the responsibilities are for Archivist and Archives Chair. It was a great opportunity for the district members to ask questions and get clarity.

I have done some adjusting with the agenda for this weekend. We are moving the business to happen right after we are done going over the GSC agenda items. This was a request made during/after the fall assembly. This is nothing permanent, we are doing a trial run.

Area inventory recommendations have been printed in the Northern Light in the March/April issue. These recommendations should be discussed with your districts and groups and be prepared to discuss them at the Fall Assembly in October. I can make them available via email as well. I am trying to save money on printing, if you would like a hard copy, please let me know and I will make sure to have it printed for you. Thank you to all the committee members for their participation in this important process.

I presented at District 6 workshop on what all the trusted servant responsibilities are and how to get item for discussion on the area agenda. I also had the opportunity to tell my experience, strength and hope and shared my service journey. It was a great workshop, and everyone did a great job sharing. Thank you to the district for reimbursing my mileage, that was very helpful considering the area finances.

I will be meeting with Area 36 Chair, on April 11th to discuss the Joint Workshop we have planned for July 22nd via Zoom. More information will be shared when we get the details finalized. I encourage all committee chairs to get in touch with your Area 36 counterpart if you have not done so. I know there are a couple of you who have regular contact with them.

I have been reaching out to facilities for the upcoming two years of assemblies. Facility and hotel room rates are increasing along with food. I want to thank all the DCMs that have provided recommendations that are available in their districts. Like I have mentioned before, I am leaning towards using facilities that we have used in the past and work well for us. There are so many variables to consider when choosing a facility so when something works and it is affordable, it makes sense to utilize their services again. This is why it is so important to fill out the evaluation forms for the weekend. The feedback helps decide future facilities.

We will be taking nominations for WCR Trustee at the Fall Assembly along with voting for the panel 74 trusted servants which includes Delegate, Alt Delegate, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Please make sure to have your Delegate resumes to me by the June ACM. If you have a person in mind for one of these positions, please start having conversations with them. I want to thank all groups and members who are continuing to support the area financially and with your time. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Christine G.

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SECRETARY – SALLY L
Since the February ACM, I got the minutes out and did some proofreading, which I am glad to be able to do. At a cost of \$1.95, I mailed the minutes to DCM Dave Nord in District 2 because he does not have email. I attended the WCRAASC virtually, which I got a lot out of. I was not able to attend the Tri-District Workshop (Districts 8, 9 and 16) or the Gilbert Open Meeting due to illness. I did attend the Tri-District Agenda Item presentation, where Delegate Steve L. gave a great presentation. I attended the Officer and Committee Chair meeting this weekend. Reports are due to me by April 10th. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Sally L

TREASURER – VICKI R
Hello! Group finances through 3/31/23:

YTD	
Group Contributions	\$ 14,654
Birthday/Other	\$ 3,319
Service Wkshop	\$ 1,930
Net Lit/Grapevine	<u>\$ -941</u>
Total	\$18,962
Total Expenses	<u>\$13,583</u>
Net Income	\$ 5,379

PD 2 (2/23/23-3/31/23)	
Income	\$6,611
Expense	<u>\$4,685</u>
Net Income	\$1,926

There have been several larger donations from groups which is encouraging. Jan group contributions was \$3,453, larger than contributions since 2019 except one year (2020)
Feb group contributions was \$7,283, larger than contributions since 2019. (previous high \$2,676)
Mar group contributions was \$3,917, larger than contributions since 2019. (pervious high \$1,723)

120 groups have contributed through Mar 31, 7 =>\$400 or 6%: 10 =>\$300 or 8%

The budgeted income is \$42,000; minus \$18,962 leaving \$23,038 to take in the rest of the year.

Cash projections:	
Register balance at 3/30/23:	\$ 13,019
Expected receipts Apr & May:	\$ 4,969
Expected expenses:	<u>(\$15,175)</u>
Net cash at May 31:	\$ 2,813

Keep in mind that this positive picture doesn't resolve the projected budget of \$88,457 being \$46,457 greater than the expected income of \$42,000. And keep in mind projections are my best guess based on information at hand, they may or may not be accurate.

I inadvertently deposited a check for \$300 from an Alano Society. I will return it and communicate that we only accept contributions from groups. Thank you to the member who brought it to my attention!

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

WEBMASTER – KYLE H
Greetings Area 35, I have spent the majority of my time since the Feb ACM focused on finalizing pricing for Office 365 to solve some of our email issues while also working with Group Records on some data clean-up for the AAMinnesota website (meeting locator). We will also be adding the ability to filter meetings by Northern Minnesota or Southern Minnesota Districts - this should make it easier to find a specific meeting as right now, searching for a district returns meeting within both areas. Since the Spring Assembly, I have started on the plan to implement Office 365 and will keep everyone informed of how we progress. In service, Kyle H

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B
We had 6 in our committee meeting yesterday and discussed Microsoft 365 costs for the Area along with Northern Light guidelines, printing, and emailing.

Since the February Area Committee Meeting, I attended WCRAASC virtually. As usual, it was helpful hearing all of the comments from the Delegates and the West Central region. I finished the March/April issue of the Northern Light and sent it to the printer. I zoomed in on District 9's District Meeting last weekend and discussed their Northern Light wants and needs. Thank you for inviting me. I also attended the Agenda Items meeting for Districts 8, 9 and 16 last weekend.

We are limited to 28 pages, so I asked our printer to provide costs for a 24 page and 28 page Northern Light for printing 250, 500, 750 and 1000. The printer informed me that his print shop will not print anything under 1000. So, if we want to explore smaller print runs, we will need to find a new printer. I have a feeling it would be tough to find someone willing to print under 1000. Our new printing costs are \$415 for a 24 page newsletter and \$484 for a 28 page newsletter. Postage tends to be about \$370. This means that each newsletter costs \$.51 to print and another \$.50 to mail in bulk. We printed only 750 of the Jan/Feb issue, and our cost was \$380 for printing and \$370 for postage.

I also looked into email services for sending out a digital version of the Northern Light and discovered that they don't allow attachments. Emails with enclosures tend to trigger Spam, so they suggest uploading the attachments online and providing a link to download them. Kyle stated that we could come up with a solution using Microsoft 365.

The deadline to submit fliers or articles for the May/June issue of the Northern Light is April 30th. Please see the Northern Light for flier guidelines, or I can send them to you via email. If you would like to receive the Northern Light, please let me or Denise, our Group Records Chair, know and you will be added to the list. You can also download an anonymity protected copy on area35.org. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Heidi

DISTRICT 3 – MELVIN S
Hello Area 35, I attended the West Central Regional Conference via zoom. I would have liked to be there in person but this worked for now. I really missed the in person connections and would have liked attending some of the breakout sessions.

District 3 has six to eight groups represented at district meetings which also keeps us funded too. This is about one fourth of the meetings in our district. There are four clubs in our district and all but one is struggling in participation and attendance. It is getting old to still blame covid for this! Church and community center meetings are doing well in attendance. District 3 has had some success with Round Robin speaker meetings before winter set in and hopes to continue. These were very well attended and seemed to get groups excited about sobriety a bit more.

We have Lakes Counseling in Becker county where two of our groups have been making a monthly speaker/chairperson commitment. Our corrections chair Bill. D. has been contacted by Mark R. from Area 36 Corrections Temporary Contact Program regarding an inmate from Stillwater State Prison getting out and signing up for the program. This inmate is planning to be in Moorhead ,MN.

The Corrections requirements state that if the AA contact is bringing in any meetings to any Dept. Of Corrections , he cannot be the contact. Bill asked if these requirements were written by the DOC or by AA as they seem to be confusing. After much communication with Mark and other correction people, it was agreed that this would have to be addressed and possibly rewritten. In the meantime , It seems to be temporarily understood that this applies to prisons and not county jails. So if the AA member is bringing meetings into county jails and not State or Federal prisons , he COULD be the contact.

Bill spoke to the contact at the Becker county jail and he stated that the Covid requirements are over and that meetings can resume after staffing issues are under control. In Service, Melvin

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R
Greetings Area 35, I have been handling Group Changes and New Group Forms as they come in and am keeping up to date On those. I attended the West Central Regional Service Conference virtually and enjoyed hearing all the Discussions. I found a few PAI's particularly interesting concerning the Meeting Guide App and Registering vs. listings Groups and have spoken with Mary, Delegate from Wyoming concerning this. As Area Group Records I have learned a great deal including the difference between a Group and a meeting and how more than ever the importance of a home group. I attended the District 6 workshop "woohoo"! I thoroughly enjoyed the day and want to thank District 6 for their presentations, wonderful information and sharing their passion for Alcoholics Anonymous! While there I learned some of the group's meetings in District 6 are not showing up on the Meeting Guide App as they should which brought me to a deeper understanding of how the App works. I gathered all District 6 group records and meeting listings for their review and corrections if any. There are definitely some issues with Districts that border Area 35 as some of their Group's meetings are listed with local intergroups instead of Area 35 and this is causing confusion. I asked Kyle for help and he came up with a plan that we will be working on to resolve this and I hope before the end of our rotation to have this taken care of. There has been some confusion due to other websites listing Area 35 Meetings. As Group Records I am not able to change any meeting listings that may be with Intergroups, Alano Clubs, District's or any other website. We are only able to change information on AAMinnesota.org which then feeds into the Meeting Guide App. If you see your meeting isn't listed correctly, please check the website to make sure it is our Website and not someone else's. If you have any questions on this, please don't hesitate to ask as it does get confusing. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Denise R

CPC – GREG C
No report.

DISTRICT 18 – SCOTT S
No report.

DISTRICT 15 – LISA M
Greetings from District 15: We held our Stearns County Roundup on March 25th in Avon. We planned for 175 people, which was 25 less than previous years. We had around 100 in attendance, which resulted in a lot of leftover food that we had to pay for. The District lost around \$1500 from the roundup. The District has funds to cover this loss. Fred H from St Cloud was our AI-anon speaker and Guy L from Windom was our AA speaker. The message of Alcoholics Anonymous was shared and fellowship was had. Discussions continue with Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre to create a program similar to Bridge the Gap. Greg C, the CPC Chair for Area 35, has been helping facilitate this.

Three groups from Area 36, District 4 have moved to Area 35, District 15. District 4 in Area 36 does not have an active district. In Service, Lisa M.

LITERATURE – PAT M

No report.

DISTRICT 12 – TERRY A

No report.

DISTRICT 5 – JARRIN V

Hello and good day Jarrin district 5 DCM. I'm happy to say that district 5 has been doing well. We meet on the third Monday of each month at the Trinity Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. in Princeton Minnesota. As of right now all of our chair positions are filled and we have approximately six on average gsr's attending the district meeting. I wish we had more active gsr's in our district but it seems like we have about eight active groups that currently have a GSR. Back in February we had a workshop called meat the district and we had a good attendance that turned out for that event. I'm thankful to all of the chairs that came and participated and shared what they do in their roles at the district. Presently right now our treatment chair has us going into I believe two different treatment centers. Our CPC/PI chair has us working with Sherburne County probation office and our corrections chair has us in Mille Lacs County and Sherburne County jail facilities. So it's nice to see that all the chairs are out doing what we can do to try to help carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffering. I'm thankful for all of the gsr's and the chairs that were able to attend the spring assembly and also like to say thank you to district 6 for inviting us over to Isanti to hear what Steve could share with us about the upcoming agenda items. It's always a treat to go over and see our friends in district 6. Most of our gsr's and chairs are getting very familiar with that Isanti club it makes it very easy for everyone to come and attend when you feel comfortable at where you're going. Probably more things to share that I missed but for now yours in service, Jarrin V

DISTRICT 16 – DAVE C

Hi, I'm Dave C. and I'm an alcoholic and the district 16 DCM. The district's doing fine. We helped with the 8, 9, and 16 tri-district workshop where two of our younger in the program did a talk on how a sponsor helped them through the steps and helped them to get the program of AA. Evan and Abby did a great job. I'm sure you will hear these names in the future. District 16 also hosted a meeting where Steve L. helped us to be more informed on each agenda item. He did an excellent job. Thanks, Steve .

Also, you are invited to three upcoming events. First is the Iron Range Get Together May 5th and 6th don't forget Friday night is Tropical shirt night. Don't forget that there will be a cookie room and we would love it if you donated some. Then we are putting on Founders Day June 10th at the Cohasset Community Center there will be a history talk and Oldtimers panel and open AA and Alanon speakers/and potluck. And don't forget A weekend with Bill and Lois July 7-9th. Flyers by Registration. Or lookup on the web at district16online.org. Yours in service Dave C

TREATMENT – RICCO R

This is a report of our 3/11 Area 35 Treatment Committee Meeting. We had six members attending: Julie N, DCM District 6; Tom T. CPC/PI Chair District 9; Peggy M. Treatment Chair District 13; Jeff T., Alternate DCM District 16; Nate C, Treatment Chair District 6; Ricco R, Area 35 Treatment Chair. First agenda item was Nate C, District 6 Treatment Chair, gave the committee a report on going to 5 treatment centers in their district and presenting our Bridging the Gap Program. Nate said three of the treatment centers were really interested and the other two said they would pass this information on. We covered a lot of ground and made some important decisions. Peggy and Julie made a motion to delay temporarily our upcoming treatment committee workshop planning. Instead, we will put our efforts into finishing our spreadsheet plan. We all thank Kyle, our Area 35 Webmaster, for putting the spreadsheet, the two forms (volunteer and client) and the BTG Brochure on the Area 35 website.

Peggy and Julie also made a motion to when we get back to planning our workshop that we could invite Area 36 to join us. The reasons are to have Area 35 and Area 36 work together on our Bridging the Gap programs and possibly join and have a Statewide Bridging the Gap program like the Statewide Corrections Program that Area 35 and Area36 have going on now. Julie and Peggy also mentioned of having a table set up at the Area 35 Spring Assembly to hand out the BTG brochures and the two forms, client and volunteer, to the districts that come to the assembly.

We had eight people attend our zoom treatment committee on 3/26/2023: Peggy M. Treatment Chair District 13 and Dani L. GSR District 13, Pattie D. Treatment Chair District 3, Julie N. DCM District 6, Jeff T. Alt DCM District 16, Diane R. DCM District 9, Tom T. CPC-PI District 9, Ricco R. Area 35 Treatment Chair.

We had a brainstorming meeting to work on most of our questions and topics for our Bridging the Gap Program that needed work. It was a very productive and fast- moving meeting. It was fun too. We are pulling the loose ends together and are for the most part ready to rock.

I also received a monthly treatment report from Glenn M. the District 16 Treatment Chair. I read a summary of his report to the committee, and I have to report Glenn has been very busy and has covered all the bases and then some in his service position. Thank You Glenn.

4/1/23 Dani volunteered to write up a procedure that the committee has come up with so everyone who uses the Bridging the Gap (BTG) program will know it works and can use the directions. Julie made a sign and put up some

balloons to mark the booth to let the districts sign up at the assembly. Dani and Julie did a terrific job getting districts signed up and were given the BTG Brochure and forms to get going. Thanks to all the districts that signed up.

Peggy, Treatment Chair District 13, said: We have been busy taking speaker meetings into treatment centers over the last months. We have needed to increase the members who are willing to carry the message in and now have about eight more people on the list.

We have had success with the BTG program as we recently connected a female in treatment to AA, this is significant since she also needed rides to meetings. The treatment counselor was very impressed. In Unity and Service, Ricco R.,

DISTRICT 6 – JULIE N

In the past two months we've been meeting. We had Christine G come to our district for a workshop on service. She explained all the different entities. We also had Steve L come out and give delegate report back from West Central Regional Area Conference. We had a wonderful turnout at both events. Nate and I have been working really hard with treatment committee as you all seen the bright yellow sign for sign up for Bridging the Gap at Spring Assembly. Scott N has been working really hard for PI. We just purchased space for advertising on five signs for one year. We have a new QR code for business cards. Our plans for this Spring is to get out to all the different meetings and fire up the grill for a good time and fellowship. Aaron has set up time to work with our district on reading the service manual with a few people. Overall our district is amazing and living and breathing this wonderful program. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Julie N

DISTRICT 7 – ROBERT N

Greetings from District 7, We have filled some more committee positions, We now have a treatment chair. Also, we now have an alternate DCM, thank you Jessica and Vicki. We still need someone for CPC/PI. We have also been distributing fliers encouraging participation within the district.

We are having a picnic on July 23rd. We have reserved a pavilion at Lum Park in Brainerd for the Event.

Our Delegate Steve L discussed hot topic agenda items via zoom prior to the spring assembly. District 7 also received a request from Dist. 18 to collaborate in hosting a Big Book Study Presentation. We are working to form a committee so we can move forward with it. Thanks for allowing me to serve, Bill N

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Its quiet, in archives its too quiet!

I am making far fewer trips to the repository, going there mostly to gather items for exhibits. I am bringing a few items back to my house for prioritizing and digitizing into suitable form for virtual archives or scrap books. I am using my own equipment and supplies for getting things done.

Archive exhibits at events:

Big Ole Roundup.

District 6 presentation/explanation of service work.

Spring Assembly.

Requested research:

Two requests for information from paper records.

One request to listen to a recording.

I made a couple calls to past archivists and/or past delegates as “service sponsor” calls.

The new Area 36 Archivist contacted me, we had long discussion and will make plans to meet for exchange of ideas. In humble service, Archivist, Marc

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

DISTRICT 11 – KATHY M

Hello Area 35, First, I would like to thank Marvel for serving as the Alternate DCM since Vicki became Area Treasurer and until I became DCM in Feb. We have openings for Treatment, Archive, CPC, Literature, and Grapevine Chair.

We are considering business cards with QR codes printed and appreciated the suggestions of a QR code for contributions that I heard @ this Assembly.

I will be attending meetings in the district to discuss the importance of service work and increased contributions to support service work.

A number of us from our District attended District 6's review of the Agenda Items by Steve L, it was much appreciated. Thank you District 6 and Steve. Our District reviewed the Agenda Items on March 25th with a potluck of appetizers and desserts.

We are asking groups in our District to host our District Meeting at their meeting places and will provide food for that meeting. Willow River Saturday Morning Group Will be hosting our District Meeting on May 6th. Archives has expressed an interest in attending that meeting.

The district sent me to the West Central Regional Conference in Omaha NE and I got some great ideas on how to present the Seventh Tradition to groups to encourage increased contributions to meet the budget. Thank you for letting me serve, Kathy M

DISTRICT 14 -

CORRECTIONS – MARK R
SUMMARY REPORT-Arden A

Due to my current health issues, I feel it's in the best interest of the area that I resign as corrections chair. I feel I am not able to perform the duties at the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)
level needed. I would like to thank everyone for entrusting me to serve for the time I was able.

Yours in service, Arden A

SUMMARY REPORT-Mark

I want to humbly thank you all for the nomination and unanimous vote for me to take over as Area 35 Corrections Chair. I want you to know that it was very hard for Arden to step down. He wanted to complete his rotation here as well as the SWCC Chair and tried so very hard. Tim V (District 7), Kelly D (past Delegate) and myself assisted him so he could continue. It upset Arden that he could not do what he so loved on his own and at the level necessary for him to do his best.

For those who are not aware, not only was Corrections Arden’s passion, but one he was involved in for over 40 years. Both Arden and Tim V have gone to the same A.A. meetings and worked together in Corrections for those 40-plus years! I want you to know, Arden may have had small feet but his shoes I’m stepping in to are enormous! I’m very humbled, and I do not take this position lightly!

The first duty I assisted on for Arden, was to handle the Corrections Temporary Contacts we received from the Minneapolis Intergroup, GSO, or Minnesota Correctional Facility Transition Fairs. There are (5) Persons in Custody we have found Outside A.A. Temporary Contacts for! They are being released in Isanti, Cambridge, Pine River, Moorhead, and most recently in Virginia! (4) from MCF-Stillwater, and (1) from MCF Faribault.

I would like to thank Aaron A. (District 6 Corrections Chair) for taking the Isanti & Cambridge men (1 of which we only had 2-day notice of his release!). Tim V. (District 7 Corrections) for helping me line up the contacts in Pine River & Moorhead as well as those contacts themselves Kevin K in Moorhead (District 3) and Clayton (District 17).

A special thank you to Heather L. (DCM District 8) and her husband Mike whom I reached out to for help with finding a temporary Contact for someone being released from Faribault Prison. I contacted Mike, and he will be corresponding by letter with the Person in Custody at MCF-Faribault and upon release in May meeting and getting him to an A.A. meeting! I’m blessed to have all of these wonderful A.A. members doing this special service work!

ACTION CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS

In attendance were: Rich A (D18 Corrections Chair/GSR), Gary H (D11 Corrections Chair), Tim V (D7 Corrections Chair), Aaron A (D6 Alt DCM/ Corrections Chair), Diane R (D9 DCM), and me.

RICH: District 18 supports the Todd County Jail and Long Prairie facilities. There has been a history of issues between the district and Todd County in facilitating A.A. meetings at the jail. Rich has been committed in resolving them and is seeing progress.

DIANE: No jails in District 9. The TOGO Facility near Hibbing is open again to A.A. meetings. TOGO is a “bootcamp” for those least likely to re-offend (most are drug & alcohol offenders).

GARY: District 11 supports Pine County jail (Open with A.A. meetings) & Kanabec County jail (Closed). Additionally, they are bringing A.A. meetings into these Minnesota Correctional facilities: Rush City, Willow River, Moose Lake, Moose Lake Sexual Offenders Program, and Sandstone.

TIM: A.A. meetings at Aitkin County, and Crow Wing County jails. Also helping at Sandstone Federal Prison and the Federal Prison Camp at Duluth. Crow Wing County is hoping to do a Transition Fair this summer or fall. Looking for volunteers from the members who are currently bringing the A.A. meetings in there.

AARON: Bringing A.A. meetings into Isanti County and Chisago County jails. Aaron has been going to groups in their district assisting GSR’s and creating a list of volunteers to help with the CTCP as well as helping persons in custody be released from the county jails as well. Aaron is passionate about helping bridge the gap at the county jails as he has seen firsthand, someone not have that hand of A.A. or Treatment available when they were released. This person, relapsed, overdosed, and died.

MARK: Bringing A.A. meetings into Mille Lacs County and Sherburne County jails to men only at this time. Hope soon to bring A.A. meetings into the women at Sherburne County.

Yours in Service, Mark R

DISTRICT 9 – DIANE R

District 9 meets the last Sunday of the month at 6pm at Hibbing Alano Club. It is currently a hybrid meeting.

At our February 26 District 9 meeting we invited Marc N., Archivist; Renell P., Archives Chair; Christine G., Area Chair; and Steve L, Delegate. We wrote out questions that we asked Marc and Renell to answer. The answers were quite informative. At our last District meeting, we passed a proposal to include the ‘question and answer session’ in my report to the area in next Northern Light. Please read, it is an interesting discussion. Christine answered questions on Area Finances. Seve L talked about the upcoming agenda items and the Area Treasury. Thank you, Marc, Renell, Steve, and Chris-

tine. The information they shared was greatly appreciated. Nels will be at our April District 9 meeting to help spread the message about the State Fair and PI.

At our March 26 District 9 meeting we invited Heidi B, Northern Light Editor; and Kyle H., Webmaster. We asked Heidi about the agenda items regarding the Northern Light. Kyle explained the Office 365 proposal to us. Because our meeting is hybrid, they attended on Zoom. Thank you, Heidi and Kyle. Again, the information they shared was greatly appreciated.

We had our Spring Tri-District Workshop on March 18. It was a success. Charlie C. gave an excellent presentation on Sponsorship. 10 Newcomers, including one from District 6, talked for about 5 minutes each on Sponsorship. Abby and Evan shared their stories including sponsorship. The room was filled. How wonderful is that.

Steve L came to the Tri-District Conference Agenda Item Discussion . Steve did an excellent presentation and we had a very informative discussion. We were well prepared for discussion on the Conference Agenda Items. Thank you, Steve.

Our CPC/PI Chair, Tom, is trying to find reasonable priced QR Code stickers to put on pamphlet that directs our community to our website. He has asked for members to bring AA literature into our community. Our treatment chair should soon be back in the town for the Summer/Fall Season. Our Literature Chair has literature for sale. Our alternate DCM Chuck is gathering information for District Inventory and has been attending local open speaker meetings. I also attended open speaker meetings in Lawrence Lake and Gilbert. In Gilbert we listened to Julie tell her story. I always learn more about the person and their alcoholism that way. Thank you Julie for your service.

I attended the WCRAASC. There were many excellent presentations. My favorite is Carrying the A.A. Message with A.A. literature. The other presentation that I liked was “Our Common Perils and Our Common Solution” which they said was to keep unified and keep open. Our common problem is Disunity and common solution is the Traditions. We have Singleness of Purpose versus Outside Issues. The solution is working with others in Alcoholics Anonymous. The problem is Disunity and the solution is the Traditions.
In Service, Diane

These are the Questions and Answers from the Archivist and Archives Chair

First of all, we would like to thank you (Marc and Renell) for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Questions for Archivist and Archives Chair

Why do we need two positions for the Archives?

The archives chair and committee serve the AAs, groups, and districts in matters of collecting items for archiving, encouraging the documenting items relevant to AA history, and determining suitability for archiving.

The archivist acts to catalog, preserve, aid research, and exhibit archive items.

Why does the Archivist need a digital scanner as well as a digital scanning service?

A digital scanner will be used to scan paper documents to digital format, provided that the documents do not exceed the dimensional capacity of the scanner.

Digital scanning service would be used for large documents, in event a camera is not suitable. A cell phone camera works good for magazines and large print pictures.

Digitizing software is necessary for converting audio or audio/video media to digital format: Tapes, VCR tapes, reel to reel tapis, vinyl records, 35mm files. Some items do not fit within the cost of purchasing because there is not enough quantity.

In the past the archivist donated the use of personal equipment for these purposes. The current archivist can do the same.

A future archivist might not have the resources to do these things.

There are some items that do not fit within the cost/benefit of purchasing equipment, thus purchasing a service is better.

Why does the Archivist put rent in with miscellaneous and not a separate line item?

This can be changed; it was a budget template issue.

Today most information can be found on a computer, why can’t we digitize most of this information?

Even if/when digitized, the original items should be preserved. Quite often the digital form is more likely to be lost or corrupted than the original. The original is good to fall back on.

How can we justify more money being spent on Archives than spent on our delegate?

This might be better answered by the delegate.

How far do we want to go with the Archives? How big do we want the Archives to get?

In my humble opinion (IMHO) the archives in NMAA will not likely grow to an open exhibit, but it will grow as long as NMAA continues to exist and grow. What happened yesterday is history today, and it just might be suitable for archiving. Everyone has a story to tell and memorabilia.

In that respect it could still grow but will most likely shrink,
How many books do we have that we don't need?
Its not for the current archivist, archives chair, or archive committee to decide. Much of what is archived was donated by someone for whom the item had significance.
If anything is removed or discarded it would be prudent to search for and consult the donor. It is very tin ice to throw anything away that is in the archives.
Where are we going with the Archives and what are your plans for the Archives?
It was suggested to create a virtual archive. We are (slowly) working to find items that can be placed in a virtual archive on the Area35 website. This requires direction and assistance from the Area Webmaster. You can see information and develop interest.
It was suggested to setup a traveling archive exhibit, such as a trailer; this is beyond our financial means. The archivist, archive chair, or an archive committee member may use archive items to present an exhibit, this requires suitable means of transport and attendance with the display.
If Area Committee Meetings go virtual in the future, it will remove the ability for A.A.s to see the archives.
Costs continue to rise every year. If we continue, we will not be able to afford the Archives. Would it be feasible for us to go back to having just the Archivist and a committee?
See question one.
Can we also work towards having a smaller, less costly, space?
No. We have a five-year lease, approved by vote at 2022 Spring Assembly.
There was an extensive search conducted by previous Archive Chair and continued by current Archivist. Finding a small space with climate control is not an easy task.
Comparable were backroom space at the edge of area for more cost, office space more space and more cost, heated (no AC) without lighting more space, less cost.
How often are you asked for specific archival material?
Several people have requested specific items, and some have requested exhibit.
Response has sometimes been in person with archive items and sometimes by sending digital copy of archive item.
This is slowly gaining momentum as we recover from the pandemic.
Who makes the decision on what to keep and what not to keep?
First of all, by practices of the past, soon by policy, it is archivist decision.
For items outside of past practices, the archive committee will decide, and if necessary past archivist or archive chair will be consulted. GSO could be consulted.
Do you expect the Archives to get bigger in the future?
History is made every day, so Yes.
Are there suggestions that you have for better management of the Archives?
More help, both at the archive repository and with exhibits.
What has currently been added to the Archives in the last year?
Nothing physical, but digital minutes and recordings of area meetings and digital copies of about 1/3 of district's meeting minutes.
What are the drawbacks from digitizing the old records and minutes?
Possible data loss, without hardcopy, this is not recoverable.
Loss mitigation is via keeping a standalone portable hard drive.
What would be done with the material we have if we eliminated the Archives?
Search for and return to original donor.
Donate to another AA archive.
Help would need to know what to do.
Is it worthwhile to save Grapevines as it is not conference approved literature?
I was not aware that Grapevine is not conference approved.
Grapevine has its own archives; it can be found via the AA.ORG .website
What are the drawbacks from saving our Archives with today's technology when it gets outdated with tomorrow's technology?
Future archivist and technologist will need to tech savvy so that the digital media remains useable.
Paper is the only constant.
How does the Archivist and Archives Chair differ in responsibilities?
Refer to question 1.
How does the Archives carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic?
Via exhibits at roundups, etc.
Soon a virtual archive on Area35 website.
Via referrals of AA members who desire to know where to find information about AA's history and relating that to those who seek sobriety.
If the Archives Chair would be eliminated, what responsibilities would be added for the Archivist to do?
Refer to question 1.
Area 35 and other areas have occasionally had only one of these roles, mostly due to lack of volunteer effort.

In event that either Archivist or Archive Chair positions are vacant the other will assume duties of both.
What are the main points you would like us to know about the proposed Archives Policy?
It provides better definition of what the archives keeps and how items are preserved, exhibited, etc.
There will be edits based on feedback from review at February ACM and/or Spring Assembly.
It is a better explanation of Archives than what is the Action Book under Archives and less than what is explained Archives Workbook.
How would the new proposed Archives Policy help the Archives?
See question 23.
Why do you think we need an Archives Chair and an Archivist?
It might not always be necessary, but at the moment it is a great need.
Having had the archive items in storage and then inactive through a health crisis, both roles are needed to return to archives to proper function.
See question 1.
How have you found the new Archives space helpful to Archives?
We have been able to sort and search the archived items.
The location near to the meeting place of ACMs has helped to renew interest.
We have had visitors before the ACM meeting and after the ACM meeting.
Is there an inventory of the Archives?
An inventory from 1992 is available. We will be using that inventory to verify the archived items exist and we will be adding the items added to archives since then.
The inventory will also indicate which items have been digitized.
I don't know if this inventory will be searchable on the Area35 website.
There are some notes in the cabinet.

DISTRICT 8 – HEATHER L

My name is Heather L, I am DCM of district 8. We meet once a month routing from Monday to Friday, hosted by a meeting in the district. Our next district meeting is April 4th which will be hosted by Cook Sunday Night Big Book.

I was able to attend the WCRAASC held in Omaha. It what a great time with lots of good information.

Our Tri- District Workshop (8, 9, 16) was a great success. We had a very good turnout. Right after that Gilbert Tuesday Night had an open speaker meeting where we had more fellowship, laughs, and good food.

April 12th our district will be having a special meeting to perform a district inventory, Charlie is kind enough to proctor that for us. I can't wait to see where we need improvement and what we are doing well.

John M Alt Archives chair is continuing his old timers interviews.

Sally T Treatment chair is doing a great job keeping a speaker going into Range Treatment Center to carry the message.

Corrections chair is still vacant, but Thistledew has opened up and is allowing meetings.

Doug PI/CPC is looking into PI luncheons and other ways to get our information into hands of professionals.

Kathy GV/Lit has been MIA in the sunshine for the winter, but before she left she restocked our inventory. And should be returning next month.

We in District 8 have asked Heidi B to stand for Delegate.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Arden! Thank you for letting me serve.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings Area 35, We had 9 in attendance at our committee meeting.
District 5 has a new PI/CPC chair and they are gearing up to do their county fair as well as working with law enforcement and probation.
District 6 is using meeting cards as well as QR codes and revamping their newspaper ads with QR codes and they are working with hotels, colleges, probation, and treatment. They also are working on using billboards.
District 18 is trying to fill positions.
District 9 is trying to get more volunteers and they are utilizing their webpage as well as QR codes and doing TRI District events.
District 11 has a new PI/CPC chair that has started doing presentations for the medical community.
District 4 has participated in a recovery fair and is using their committee to reach probation, law enforcement etc.

As for me I'm pleased at how the area is getting behind our commitment at the state fair booth and I'm looking forward to working with Area 36 at the fair.

Did I mention the fair has 58 different types of food on a stick? Please reach

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out to me if you have an interest in signing up to be in the booth at the fair. In service, Nels P.

DISTRICT 2 – DAVE N

DISTRICT 4 – JAMES W

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

Greetings I’m Mike U, Area 35 Grapevine Chair and an Alcoholic. Since my last report I have been in contact with Grapevine a number times for books I ordered in November. I finally got them in February because Grapevine changed their production and the way they ship it has put a glitch in the system. But the good news is that they are working on this very hard to resolve it, so if you ordered a magazine and have not received it yet contact them again or me and I will do my best to help. I have been attending our area or should I say District round ups that involve groups in our District and been bringing Grapevine there. Attended a workshop in Melrose it was on the 12 steps, very good workshop. I also attended a meat and greet the District 5 good presentation. Also attended the WCRAASC conference with District 6. We shared rides and rooms to make it possible for anyone who wanted to go. The ride out and back was what made the trip worth it. Great group of people. We even had District 11 follow with us, we even brought our tailgate there. Steve L ,Jake and a few others were there and had a great time.

Attended the Big O Round Up if you have not been, go, good time. I attended the Area 35 spring assembly April 1-2 there was a very good attendance. Our Literature/Grapevine sharing session started out with the serenity prayer, 4 in attendance and ended with 6. We talked about how to get podcast from Grapevine you need to go to aagrapevine.org/podcast (or wherever you get your podcast) and how we can link both AA and Grapevine, so we don’t have to get out of one to get to the other. I’m going to be visiting District 21 on April 10th and then District 12 April 20th can’t wait to get there. I will be contacting your District to come and see you , if your group wants me to come and put on a presentation contact me and we can set something up. I would like to thank Steve L for coming to District 6, 5, 11 for the presentation of the agenda items. Great job very informational. Also a big thank you to Christine for coming to District 6 workshop and presenting what the difference is between district and area is to those who did not know. In closing, I would like to leave you with this question: Why are Grapevine jokes so hilarious? Answer - because we have a" dry “ sense of humor. Ha ha. Thank you for letting me serve, Mike U.

DISTRICT 1 -

DISTRICT 13 – JIM R

I asked Tom A. our past delegate/trustee to do a presentation on how to bring agenda items back to our groups, along with a Q&A session afterwards on March 6th, it was fantastic and very informative.

I asked Justin W, our current Alt Delegate, to do a presentation on this year’s agenda items. It was a power point on March 13th 7:30 PM at the St Cloud Alano Club and went very well.

District 13 has changed our hotline phone from charter to EVoice, which will work as well and save us money.

The treatment committee continues to bring meetings into centers.

The district 13 website continues to have several thousand hits each month
Thank you for allowing me to Serve, Jim R

DISTRICT 21 – JENNIFER T

Greetings. My name is Jennifer T, District 21 DCM. We had 4 GSR’s in attendance at the assembly and purchased 4 boxes of literature here to support the area.

Our district meeting is at the Bemidji Alano club at 7pm in Gratitude Hall on the second Monday of the month. Attendance averages 15. We have a monthly potluck speaker’s meeting on the last Saturday of the month.

March 16th our area delegate Steve L presented the general service agenda and we had a good turn out and interactive discussion.

We have our area Literature and Grapevine chairs presenting at our next business meeting. Our webmaster is coming to help direct us on starting a website for district 21.

We have Open Corrections and PI positions.

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT

Dani L chaired the meeting in the absence of the elected chair. Jess S. from District 7 & Michele B. from District 13 took notes.
We reviewed what the GSR Sharing Session is for new members.
There were 10 new GSRs in the room with 2 who were not able to attend the GSR Orientation on Saturday at 10 am.

We spent the first part of the sharing session as a large group generating topics of interest including:

- New groups are not getting new group packets/GSR packets timely from GSO.
- How can new groups/new GSRs get help?
- The importance of a service sponsor.
- How can we get unregistered groups involved/registered?
- What is the main responsibilities of a GSR (11 participants)?
- How can I understand agenda items and bring them to my group?

- How do we report back to our group what happened at the assembly?
- How can I get more people from my home group interested in service?
- How do I get more people to attend home group business meetings?
- Are we informing other groups of the need for more GSRs and how can we do so?
- What is the GSR responsibility to my district/area?
- How can a GSR learn more about committees and their role?
- How can I help groups see the value in contributing?

The GSRs got into small groups to discuss ideas/suggestions for four topics and reported back to the large groups:

How can we recruit more GSRs?

- More involvement from districts to get out to meetings and explain the need for GSRs. If they’re not registered, get them registered
- Take the district meeting to different locations
- District tailgating at meetings that don’t have current service involvement
- Have projects and tasks available for GSRs
- Get people to the conferences to see/understand what’s going on
- Promote service sponsorship
- Create more opportunities for people to better understand service through service workshops
- Encourage people to attend district meetings – bring 1 or 2 new people from your group to the district meeting; offer rides to get there.
- DCM visit groups
- Encourage members to read the Northern Lights

How can I get more support from my group (Financial, GSRs/Alternate GSRs, business meeting attendance)?

- Encourage a shift in mentality re: finances – suggest \$2 for self, \$2 for one who can’t afford, & \$2 for the still suffering alcoholic.
- Provide opportunities for groups to better understand the importance of service work
- Identify an alternate GSR to get involved while the current GSR is still in service to provide mentorship
- Pass a second basket to collect funds to support the GSR to attend assemblies, workshops, etc.

What are the responsibilities of the GSR?

- Information highway between groups and the area
- Keep their groups informed of what is happening at the district
- Ensure their group is registered with GSO
- Be willing to ask for help
- Be a voice for the group and guardian of the traditions
- Share district meeting minutes
- Explain to group that voting is a way to have a voice on matters affecting AA
- Announce intentions of upcoming business meetings and write reports to share with group members

How can I bring the agenda items to my group?

- Identify topics of most interest (hot topics)
- Invite the delegate, past delegate, alternate delegate, past trustee, or other trusted servant with past experience to present to your district and invite your home group
- Share access to the agenda items and background information with the group members
- Create an email group of home group members to share information (suggest BCC)
- Use the traditions to determine if the agenda items are not violating the traditions

Submitted by Dani L, on behalf of the GSRs in attendance

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT

We opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. There were 15 present at our DCM Sharing Session. Districts represented were 21, 15, 8, 16, 5, 3, 6, 4, 7, 12, 11, and 9. There were 3 alternate DCMs and 12 DCMs. We came up with two questions although we only talked about one of them.

Question: With the area in the financial situation that it is in, what can we do or change to save money in the area?

- The area is required to have two assemblies each year. There is no way that we can get all the business done in one day. The cost of motels is going up. We could have ACM meetings on Zoom.
- As we bring new GSRs to this assembly, it would be hard to take away this wonderful experience from them. They would not get to experience the fellowship. A one-day event would be beneficial. There would be no need for expensive motels. Reports can be done at the ACM meeting and not at the assemblies.
- Meetings on Zoom would save the Area a lot of money. With the money we save, we could buy hybrid equipment. The workshop held in Duluth was so expensive. I do like face-to-face meetings. I do not like the drive and the expense of driving. Our district is barely making it. There is a lot to do when we meet in person.
- No Zoom and so not have meetings on Zoom. 10-15 minutes between meetings gives us time to have the fellowship meeting. The meeting

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- outside in between meetings is meeting to create fellowship that we would not get elsewhere. Solid numbers on the cost of these meetings would be helpful too. There are cheaper places to have these events. There are cheaper places to spend the night. Churches, schools, community centers are examples. Some even have kitchens that we could use. There are other options, and we need to keep humility in mind. Fall of 2025 will be in Zone 3. Help us to brainstorm.
- ♦ In person is good. Conversations and people are both positive. \$360.00 for two nights is too expensive. It would be nice to have a different venue.
 - ♦ The biggest problem is that things were cheaper. When the basket is passed, it is still the same amount being put into the basket. The donations are not keeping up with the cost of things. Costs keep going up and the entities get short changed.
 - ♦ In 2025 we are looking for a place for 140 people, April 5 and 6. We need 60 rooms. A contract is done for this. What about a one-day event? Can we skip reports and do them at the ACM meeting. It is doable. Unity keeps us going. We must figure out a way to do assemblies so that we can keep AAs interested in the Area.
 - ♦ When we were talking about the budget, we talk about one area position's budget at a time and it does not seem like much. Little things do not sound like a lot but when you lump them altogether, it is a lot. Area 36 has a lot more workshops and committee meetings. At these hotels, we do have pay the expenses. It is important that we keep paying the expenses and especially for the delegate.
 - ♦ There are creative ways to save money. We could have a hospitality room for lunch. I do not like the zoom thing. We can have one day events. We can stay at cheaper hotels.
 - ♦ Could we consider having meetings at casinos? This could be a temporary solution.
 - ♦ The Fairground cost is \$1,500.00 with a kitchen. We could have our own food. We could host people in our homes. The district would be responsible for hosting. We could cater a meal with sandwiches from someplace like Subway.
 - ♦ I work so I cannot participate on Zoom. No sharing of reports as we can read them in the Northern Light. Is there a better way to get the message out that the Area needs money?
 - ♦ ACM meetings on Zoom are not a good dea. I am too easily distracted by things at home. Why is there not more ride sharing? I agree that Area reports could be at the ACM and not the Assemblies. I get to fellowship with lots of AAs when the meetings are in person.
 - ♦ How do we get there and how do start if we like to try one day assemblies. I would not like to see the ACM on Zoom. In person is where the fellowship takes place.
 - ♦ What about in-kind contributions. Writing down the expense but not take the expense. The groups do not like that the area is pointing out groups that are not donating.
 - ♦ Groups like to see the amounts they are contributed so they can verify that Area received their contribution. They also like the thank you contribution's letter.
 - ♦ We have had good luck with Venmo and PayPal and a QR code. Some do not carry cash.
 - ♦ Post the address for all A.A. entities.

We held hands and closed with the Responsibility Statement. In Service Diane R.

Ask-it-basket questions were answered by Past Delegates.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sally L., Area 35 Secretary

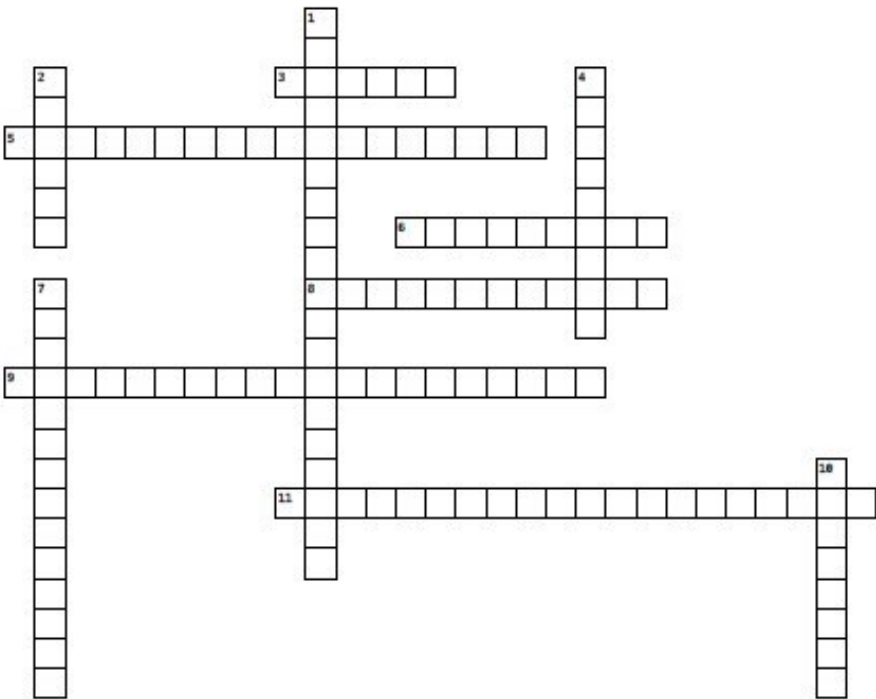


Your experience, strength and hope...

Last Friday my wife and I were traveling to a local business here in Bemidji, when I noticed a man with a baby carriage on the side of the road wanting to cross over. Traffic was light and I decided to turn on my emergency flashers and came to a stop 10 feet or so short of him. Once the lane cleared, he started crossing over and I don't recall what I was doing, but all of a sudden my wife started laughing hysterically and said to me "but that's a great use for a stroller!" Looking up I see this guy, with a smile a mile wide and a case of beer in his stroller. He looked happy as a clam, waved to thank me and was probably thinking it doesn't get any better than this. And that was my exact thought at the moment as well. Thank you Alcoholics Anonymous, my sponsor, my bride, the 12 Steps, the 12 Concepts, the 12 Traditions and all the cement that binds us together and more, so much more. But for the grace of God go I.

Hal S, Bemidji

The First 164 Pages



- Across
- 3. A program of _____ for alcoholics
 - 5. Steps 6 and 7 aim to remove these
 - 6. The first step in the program
 - 8. An attitude of serving others
 - 9. Acknowledging one's mistakes
 - 11. Lack of control over alcohol consumption

- Down
- 1. A program of recovery
 - 2. Process of making up for past wrongs
 - 4. Quality of being self centered
 - 7. An inventory of personal flaws
 - 10. A state of being free from alcohol

Submitted by Sarah C, GSR Wed Night Primary Purpose Group, Waite Park.

Share your experience, strength & 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.

	Feb 23 - Mar 31, 23	Jan - Mar 23		Feb 23 - Mar 31, 23	Jan - Mar 23
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · Group Contributions			4000-08 · District 08 Contributions		
4000-01 · District 01 Contributions			107486 · 96157 Biwabik Sun Night Group	100.00	100.00
107697-100508 Crookston AA Group	150.00	150.00	107553 · 94034-Aurora Big Book	150.00	150.00
Total 4000-01 · District 01 Contributions	150.00	150.00	107876 · 45232 Orr Tues. Nite AA	50.00	50.00
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions			107970 · 106181 Virginia Fri Nite Open	200.00	200.00
640338 · 7363-Thurs Night BB Thief River	0.00	435.00	120255 · 46826 Palo Kitchen Table #1	173.17	173.17
716253 · 10884-TRF Twin Rivers Recovery	0.00	100.00	121792 · 49288 Pike Sandy Group	100.00	100.00
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions - Other	0.00	100.00	126501 · 92589 Alango Friday Night AA	0.00	43.00
Total 4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	0.00	635.00	126625 · 235599 Gilbert Tues. AA	140.00	140.00
4000-03 · District 03 Contributions			142087 · 84297-Cook Sun. Night Big Book	0.00	150.00
375632 Whiskey Road 12x12 Study	0.00	40.00	171078 · 25414 Ely Monday Womens	313.99	313.99
697326-31307 New Beginnings Gro	100.00	100.00	635763 · 19836 Virginia Monday Night BB	100.00	100.00
107702 · 104860-The Formers Group	75.00	75.00	Total 4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	1,327.16	1,520.16
147692 · 106426-Friday Noon Group-DL	200.00	200.00	4000-09 · District 09 Contributions		
727916 · 224029-DL Monday Eye Opener	200.00	200.00	107518 · Wed. Night Hibbing	0.00	50.00
Total 4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	575.00	615.00	107762 · Thursday Morning Down-town	100.00	100.00
4000-04 · District 04 Contributions			107763 · 110173 Thurs Morn Down-town Hibb	50.00	50.00
District 4 Service Fund	500.00	500.00	107764 · 110172-Hibbing Downtown Group	0.00	30.00
107752 · 13822-Glenwood Tuesday Night	70.00	70.00	107765 · 13824 Tues 8PM Hibbing Alano	0.00	20.00
171076 · 92690-Thurs As Bill Sees It	0.00	119.16	121039 · 42543 Zim Group	50.00	50.00
289926 · Lakes Area Primary Purpose	0.00	300.00	128162 · 83295 Sunday 12x12 Step Group	30.00	60.00
327387 · Tuesday Lamplight	0.00	50.00	634677 · Happy Hour 6 pm Hibbing	0.00	20.00
637112 · 26999-Wed 7pm Non Smokers	0.00	50.00	646421 · 83126 Sun Morn Daily Reflection	0.00	50.00
661987 · 37888-Noon Step & Tradition Grp	0.00	100.00	677065 · 64685-Keep It Simple Hibbing	20.00	20.00
672301 · 99006-Friday 1 P.M. A.A. Group	0.00	50.00	694149 · 12541 Tues Afternoon Hibbing	150.00	150.00
690185 · 62983-Sat 10am BB Study Grp	0.00	200.00	719309 · 8471-Hibbing Thursday Noon Grp	0.00	20.00
Total 4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	570.00	1,439.16	Total 4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	400.00	620.00
4000-05 · District 05 Contributions			4000-11 · District 11 Contributions		
117918 · 95029-Becker Group	25.00	50.00	685046-12729 Tues BB Group Mora	25.00	25.00
164018 · 52610-Princeton AM Groups	0.00	50.00	122533 · 41787 Thurs Ogilvie AA	0.00	50.00
704281 · 5616-The Way Out Group	0.00	100.00	141987 · 97036 Quamba Mon AA	0.00	200.00
709933 · 35289-Twelve And Twelve On Main	0.00	25.00	173665 · 24312 Saturday Sobriety Group	100.00	100.00
Total 4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	25.00	225.00	646266 · 109567 Happy Joyous & Free	0.00	20.00
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions			647203 · 33873-Willow River AA	10.00	10.00
369901 Isanti 530 Thursday BB	40.00	80.00	685409 · 78656 - Mora Wed Morning Women	0.00	20.00
389013 North Branch BB Study Gr	113.00	113.00	721276 · 65024 Sandstone Serenity Group	0.00	150.00
107681 · 97742-Cambridge Community Group	0.00	30.00	724683 · 19974 Moose Lake Vision of Hope	20.00	40.00
124462 · 77760-Squad 3 Isanti Thurs	0.00	22.13	Total 4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	155.00	615.00
132584 · 58560-Rock Creek Wed AA	100.00	100.00	4000-12 · District 12 Contributions		
137319 · 83177-Sun. Night Squad 4 Isanti	75.00	100.00	107512 · 27049 Wed Afternoon Group	0.00	70.00
140016 · 85613-Fri AM AA North Branch	0.00	20.00	107573 · 100551 Crossroads AA	0.00	22.24
167901 · 7282-Thursday Night 7 pm AA	0.00	100.00	107708 · 239226 Phoenix AA Group	50.00	50.00
171884 · 17191-Unity AA	30.00	30.00	120338 · 83744 9am Sun Basic Text	0.00	150.00
349376 · Saturday Night First 164	0.00	50.00	127270 · 94477 Back to Basics	75.00	75.00
672898 · 70426-Simple Not Easy BB Group	0.00	60.00	132613 · 67747 Serenity Club Inc.	50.00	150.00
699264 · 14361-Long Lake AA	0.00	40.00	133564 · 9922 Lester Park Thursday BB	0.00	130.00
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions - Other	0.00	100.00	164917 · Fri. Night Special Topic Group	0.00	30.00
Total 4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	358.00	845.13	169328 · Finland AA Group	50.00	50.00
4000-07 · District 07 Contributions			635620 · 47870 Pattison Park Group	50.00	50.00
398748 Bill & Teds Exc Book Adv	0.00	150.00	637117 · 42746 On Awakening Group	450.00	450.00
677064-97193 AA Brownbaggers	250.00	250.00	697096 · Lutsen Thurs Topic Meeting Grp	0.00	100.00
107749 · 106946-Mon Garrison Group	0.00	130.00	711810 · 94714 Barnum AA Group	0.00	50.00
123531 · 71823-Sleepy Hollow Group	0.00	150.00	Total 4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	725.00	1,377.24
129660 · 16875-Malmo Rhymer Reason AA	0.00	50.67	4000-13 · District 13 Contributions		
130396 · 27321-McGregor Wed & Sat Night	100.00	100.00	107498 · 26978 Wed Happy Hour group	200.00	200.00
179367 · 12589-New Hope Group	0.00	66.90	107601 · 6564 Thurs Candlelight Group	75.00	75.00
609161 · 39348-Wednesday Woman's Work	0.00	53.42	123219 · 105732 Fri Living Sober Grp	100.00	100.00
609418 · 67938-Serenity in the Pines	0.00	150.00	126445 · 13260 Tues Morning AA	50.00	125.00
641020 · 10680-Life Begins Here Group	0.00	200.00	139018 · 42404 Older Adult Group	0.00	25.00
648541 · 99843-Our Common Welfare	0.00	300.00	603252 · 6024 There is a Solution	75.00	75.00
699168 · 23087 Mille Lacs Prim Purpose	0.00	65.00	718334 · 5123 Keep It Simple	0.00	100.00
699424 · 6022 Thurs There Is A Solution	50.00	50.00	Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	500.00	700.00
700249 · 700249-96685 Breakfast Club	0.00	400.00			
726095 · 109491 Happy Hour Group	25.00	25.00			
727272 · 223629 Design For Living Group	0.00	100.00			
Total 4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	425.00	2,240.99			

	<u>Feb 23 - Mar 31, 23</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under</u>
4000-15 · District 15 Contributions				
142402-6711 Thursday Night AA	0.00	100.00		
323345-Womens Broad Highway	0.00	90.00		
722310-99595 Cold Spring Grapev	0.00	100.00		
St Stephen Alano Society	300.00	300.00		
107693 · Cold Spring Friday Nite AA Grp	0.00	100.00		
107767 · 110646 Holdingford Group	0.00	400.00		
107951 · 65281 Tues Night AA Sauk Centre	0.00	75.00		
679438 · 7529 Thurs Night Fellowship	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>		
Total 4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	300.00	1,265.00		
4000-16 · District 16 Contributions				
107766 · 110454 Hill City AA Group	80.00	80.00		
117890 · 25115 Mon Night BB Grand Rapids	100.00	100.00		
118696 · 14449 Fri Night Longville	70.00	70.00		
657490 · 13699 Tues Night Fireside Group	0.00	50.00		
719115 · Candlelight Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>		
Total 4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	250.00	350.00		
4000-17 · District 17 Contributions				
224034 Monday Night Mens	300.00	300.00		
270179 Crosslake Thursday Night	25.00	25.00		
123762 · 100545 Crosslake Tuesday Night	250.00	250.00		
142736 · 8730 Thursdays Group	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>		
Total 4000-17 · District 17 Contributions	575.00	1,075.00		
4000-18 · District 18 Contributions				
107787 · 14377 Long Prairie Alano	0.00	50.00		
132913 · 47111 Parkers Prairie AA	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>		
Total 4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	0.00	100.00		
4000-21 · District 21 Contributions				
139141 · 76830 Spiritual Awareness Group	0.00	171.02		
145909 · 38031 Nooners AA Group	0.00	150.00		
172512 · Pine Tree, II Group	400.00	400.00		
662565 · 13687 Living Sober Group	60.00	60.00		
663310 · 77955 Squaw Lake Tues	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>		
Total 4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	<u>460.00</u>	<u>881.02</u>		
Total 4000 · Group Contributions	6,795.16	14,653.70		
4100 · Birthday Contributions				
4100-15 · District 15 BDay Contributions	0.00	175.00		
4100 · Birthday Contributions - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>77.00</u>		
Total 4100 · Birthday Contributions	0.00	252.00		
4200 · Special Contributions				
4207 · Red River Roundup	0.00	150.00		
4213 · Winter Rap-Up	<u>1,052.00</u>	<u>1,052.00</u>		
Total 4200 · Special Contributions	1,052.00	1,202.00		
4250 · Other-anonymous				
JM	600.00	1,125.00		
4253 · B-Day Contribution	<u>40.00</u>	<u>613.00</u>		
Total 4250 · Other-anonymous	640.00	1,738.00		
4500 · Service Workshop Registration	0.00	1,515.00		
4550 · Service Workshop Coffee	0.00	415.00		
4700 · Grapevine Sales	0.00	261.00		
4710 · AAWS Literature Sales	784.50	3,603.52		
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	150.00	150.00		
4800 · Interest on Deposits	0.83	1.67		
4801 · Bank Service Charge Reversal	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-24.00</u>		
Total Income	9,422.49	23,767.89	42,000.00	-18,232.11

	Feb 23 - Mar 31,	Jan - Mar 23	Budget	(Over)Under
Expense				
5125 · AAWS Literature Inventory	2,811.83	4,805.51		(4,805.51)
Room Rent			400.00	400.00
5200 · Service Workshop				
5201 · Coffee	0.00	490.07		
5203 · Room Rental	0.00	1,725.75		
5204 · Speaker Expenses	0.00	865.20		
Total 5200 · Service Workshop	0.00	3,081.02	2,471.00	(610.02)
Spring Assembly			2,000.00	2,000.00
Zonal Forums			150.00	150.00
State Fair			700.00	700.00
Fall Assembly			3,000.00	3,000.00
FOC			336.36	336.36
Total Expense	2,811.83	7,886.53	9,057.36	1,170.83
Net Ordinary Income	6,610.66	15,881.36	32,942.64	17,061.28
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
6100 · Delegate				
6100-01 · Meals	106.00	131.00		
6100-02 · Travel	151.35	181.78		
6100-03 · Lodging	226.83	311.83		
6100-06 · Printing	136.32	142.82		
6100-08 · Other	1,800.00	1,800.00		
Total 6100 · Delegate	2,420.50	2,567.43	9,931.85	7,364.42
6200 · Alternate Delegate				
6200-01 · Meals	175.56	175.56		
6200-02 · Travel	114.88	114.88		
6200-03 · Lodging	451.83	815.55		
6200-08 · Other	0.00	15.00		
Total 6200 · Alternate Delegate	742.27	1,120.99	3,815.70	2,694.71
6300 · Chairperson				
6300-02 · Travel	0.00	22.11		
6300-03 · Lodging	0.00	90.93		
6300-06 · Printing	0.00	86.10		
6300-08 · Other	0.00	10.00		
6300-09 · Phone/Web Subscriptions	17.21	17.29		
Total 6300 · Chairperson	17.21	226.43	5,017.00	4,790.57
6400 · Secretary				
6400-02 · Travel	0.00	14.89		
6400-03 · Lodging	0.00	90.93		
Total 6400 · Secretary	0.00	105.82	3,050.00	2,944.18
6500 · Treasurer				
6500-02 · Travel	0.00	20.63		
6500-05 · Supplies	137.55	243.15		
6500-07 · Postage	0.00	126.00		
6500-08 · Other	0.00	3.00		
Total 6500 · Treasurer	137.55	392.78	4,951.65	4,558.87
7000 · Archives Chair				
7000-02 · Travel	0.00	12.76		
7000-03 · Lodging	0.00	45.00		
Total 7000 · Archives Chair	0.00	57.76	2,502.40	2,444.64
7100 · Archivist				
7100-01 · Meals	0.00	32.00		
7100-02 · Travel	0.00	180.60		
7100-03 · Lodging	0.00	181.86		
7100-08 · Other	500.00	1,500.00		
Total 7100 · Archivist	500.00	1,894.46	12,274.00	10,379.54
7200 · Corrections				
7200-01 · Meals	0.00	33.00		
7200-02 · Travel	27.99	58.89		
7200-03 · Lodging	0.00	90.83		
7200-08 · Other	0.00	15.00		
Total 7200 · Corrections	27.99	197.72	4,086.00	3,888.28

	<u>Feb 23 - Mar 31,</u>	<u>Jan - Mar 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>(Over)Under</u>
7300 · CPC				
7300-02 · Travel	0.00	75.00		
7300-03 · Lodging	<u>0.00</u>	<u>393.72</u>		
Total 7300 · CPC	0.00	468.72	3,327.25	2,858.53
7400 · Grapevine				
7400-02 · Travel	0.00	27.97		
7400-03 · Lodging	<u>0.00</u>	<u>181.86</u>		
Total 7400 · Grapevine	0.00	209.83	5,167.00	4,957.17
7500 · Group Records Secretary				
7500-01 · Meals	0.00	32.08		
7500-02 · Travel	0.00	15.95		
7500-03 · Lodging	0.00	197.00		
7500-07 · Postage	<u>0.00</u>	<u>17.64</u>		
Total 7500 · Group Records Secretary	0.00	262.67	2,232.00	1,969.33
7600 · Literature				
7600-01 · Meals	0.00	30.00		
7600-02 · Travel	0.00	96.00		
7600-03 · Lodging	<u>0.00</u>	<u>363.72</u>		
Total 7600 · Literature	0.00	489.72	3,192.00	2,702.28
7700 · Northern Light				
7700-02 · Travel	0.00	19.48		
7700-03 · Lodging	0.00	90.93		
7700-06 · Printing	470.00	470.00		
7700-07 · Postage	369.30	369.30		
7700-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49.49</u>		
Total 7700 · Northern Light	839.30	999.20	6,842.50	5,843.30
7800 · Public Information				
7800-02 · Travel	0.00	19.48		
7800-03 · Lodging	<u>0.00</u>	<u>90.93</u>		
Total 7800 · Public Information	0.00	110.41	3,892.50	3,782.09
7900 · Treatment				
7900-01 · Meals	0.00	15.00		
7900-02 · Travel	0.00	11.20		
7900-06 · Printing	0.00	167.51		
7900-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>155.00</u>		
Total 7900 · Treatment	0.00	348.71	3,640.00	3,291.29
7950 · Webmaster				
7950-01 · Meals	0.00	59.00		
7950-02 · Travel	0.00	66.99		
7950-03 · Lodging	0.00	363.72		
7950-08 · Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>		
Total 7950 · Webmaster	0.00	504.71	4,085.00	3,580.29
8000 · Web Technology				
8000-08 · Software Products	<u>0.00</u>	<u>119.40</u>		
Total 8000 · Web Technology	0.00	119.40		(119.40)
8050 · Audio Technician				
8050-02 · Travel	0.00	31.00		
8050-03 · Lodging	<u>0.00</u>	<u>393.72</u>		
Total 8050 · Audio Technician	<u>0.00</u>	<u>424.72</u>	<u>1,393.00</u>	<u>968.28</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>4,684.82</u>	<u>10,501.48</u>	<u>79,399.85</u>	<u>68,898.37</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-4,684.82</u>	<u>-10,501.48</u>	<u>-79,399.85</u>	<u>-68,898.37</u>
	<u>1,925.84</u>	<u>5,379.88</u>	<u>-46,457.21</u>	<u>-51,837.09</u>

The Trustees of the General Service Board have created a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** page to inform and support our conference delegates about the resignation of Linda C and events around the January Board Weekend.

1. What reason is needed to remove a board member in New York State? What was the basis for the removal of the Board Chair?

According to New York State law, a board may remove a trustee with or without cause. The bylaws of the General Service Board require a ¾ vote of Member Trustees for removal. There is no stated vote count required to accept or request a resignation.

Linda C offered to resign after several trustees brought their concerns about her conduct to the board. All 21 Member Trustees were present for the initial discussion of concerns. Linda was asked to leave for the discussion about her offered resignation. The GSB voted unanimously to accept her resignation.

2. What occurred at the Trustees' Planning and Sharing Session on January 29th?

The agenda for the meeting included “Reprise of Oversight,” which the Board Chair asked the Treasurer to lead. The Board Chair was advised by email on December 27th that this oversight discussion would focus on “trust and communication between the staff and the three boards and the three boards to each other.” A response to the email was received the same day. The discussion began with an introductory statement: “The objective is to begin a Board discussion of oversight, trust, and our structure. I ask that you listen with patience, and an open mind, share with an open heart, and remember AA’s first tradition –“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA Unity.”

Several trustees shared their experiences and concerns about the board chair’s leadership, compliance with policy, adherence to AA principles, and trust and communication. They shared their personal experiences, which resulted in more trustees sharing that they also had similar experiences and concerns. The Board Chair was present and responded to the concerns. Included in her response was her offer to resign if asked. After some discussion, she was asked to leave the room.

A break was taken for dinner, after which the discussion continued. No one spoke in opposition to accepting the chair’s resignation. When no other hands were raised to speak, a motion was made and passed, requiring a ¾ vote to accept the resignation. The subsequent vote to accept the resignation was unanimous, with 19 in favor and the session chair abstaining.

The session was difficult for everyone. Comments have been made about discomfort with the level of emotion in the room; this is understandable. Some of the sharing was through tears, and there were moments when voices were raised (as also occurred in at least one committee meeting that weekend). Others have expressed that there was much-reasoned discourse. No one made any threats toward anyone else, left their seat, or physically intimidated another trustee.

Some have stated that they feel an informed group conscience was not possible under the circumstances. While this view is respected, it was never expressed during the discussion, so there was no awareness of these concerns until after the weekend.

Not all trustees knew there would be a discussion regarding the board leadership. The trustees who brought their concerns forward desired to avoid gathering any pre-meeting sentiment one way or the other and to minimize any tone of confrontation. Not only was there an absence of a defined process for raising these matters to the board about the board chair, but it was also unnerving to do so. It is understood that the lack of advanced notice to all board members is a legitimate point of contention.

The Board Chair was notified of the decision to accept her resignation at approximately 10 pm. Discussion on filling the vacancy began and was paused to be carried over into the next day. The board spent the remainder of the evening on other existing agenda items for the session and adjourned at approximately 12:30 am.

3. What were the concerns expressed? Were these serious enough to result in a quest for the resignation of the board chair?

The concerns brought to and then discussed by the full board included:

- ♦ operating independently of the Board, Board policies, committees, and corporate Board structures,
- ♦ micromanagement of trustees and employees, and making unprofessional and inappropriate remarks about past and current trustees and employees.

The Board has a fiduciary duty and an obligation to those we serve to address any issues affecting its effective functioning, including when that involves its leadership. Board oversight and governance are weakened when trustees act outside the committee system and AA principles that have proven to ensure accountability and Concept IV participation.

The chair has a fundamental role in facilitating an environment that allows the board to develop its priorities and execute its work.

4. Is there a written document reflecting the concerns or deliberations of the board?

No, there is no written document. As is often the case in Trustees' Planning and Sharing Sessions, there was a wide-ranging discussion. Several trustees shared, and some used personal notes, which is a common practice to stay on topic. The board chair also shared during this discussion. No one kept a meeting transcript; no record or document reflects the discussion scope and depth of the discussion that ultimately formed the group conscience.

The group conscience is reflected in the statement published by the General Service Board and provided to all General Service Conference delegates. The full board generated a statement, with all trustee members contributing until it reached final form. Feel free to share that document and this one with your areas as you see fit.

5. What efforts were made to advise the board chair of concerns or offer help before this meeting?

Several trustees have shared about raising concerns about the governance process and the language the board chair used about board servants and employees directly with the board chair. These efforts did not resolve the concerning behaviors.

Some trustees reported that they offered to help, but the chair declined the offer, as were suggestions to seek help from the trustees emeriti.

6. Did other board members resign after January 29th? Is it unusual for resigned trustees to contact current and past general service conference members?

Josh E. submitted his resignation, “I am no longer able to serve as a member of this board. Please consider the attached resignation as my Concept 5, minority appeal to a higher authority”. The resignation attached stated, “As a result of what I experienced at our January Board meeting, the lack of willingness to pause, reflect, and inventory before we continue to act, and the decision to forward a new chair to the 73rd General Service Conference, I am no longer able to serve this board. I am unable to resolve within my heart the lack of notification, process, or due diligence applied to deeply impactful decisions, and worse, the lack of willingness to apply a slower, more deliberative process to picking up the pieces of what we have done.” Josh has since indicated that additional statements he made in the body of his email were intended to be part of his minority appeal to the General Service Board about the process for selecting the new chair.

We understand that those who have resigned, and other past delegates and past trustees have actively engaged current delegates. The General Service Board has not tried to and cannot direct the actions of anyone, including past trusted servants. These unusual communications will likely continue as long as there is an appetite for them. The one-way communication with some of the conference members has fostered further division. For example, these communications are not translated for the access of all conference members and have been distributed to some conference members but not others.

7. Will the Board members who brought forward the concerns about the Board Chair be removed from the Board?

The obligation of anyone raising concerns to the Board about any other member of the Board is that they are “acting in good faith,” meaning the person bringing forward concerns must believe that the information disclosed is substantially accurate and not for personal gain or reward. Doing so is a duty of leadership under Concept IX, and it is the responsibility of any trustee or director of any corporation. It is then the responsibility of the Board to consider the information provided and have discussion and deliberation regarding how to proceed.

Of note, the code of conduct and Concept V identify the GSB as the recipient of concerns, but neither offers a process. The GSB Code of Conduct states that “the GSB and its chair” receive reports of noncompliance with the Code and/or requests for guidance about the Code. It further states that “reports and requests should be brought without fear of reprisal; because of their potentially sensitive nature, all reports are held in the strictest of confidence.”

In the essay on Concept V, Bill W states: “The traditional “Right of Appeal” should also permit any person in our service structure, whether paid or unpaid, to petition for the redress of a personal grievance, carrying his complaint, if he so desires, directly to the General Service Board. He or she should be able to do this without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Though this will be a seldom exercised right in practice, its very existence will always tend to restrain those in authority from unjust uses of their power. Surely our workers should cheerfully accept the necessary direction and discipline with their jobs. Still, all of them should nevertheless feel that they need not silently endure unnecessary and unfair personal domination.”

Removal of Board members for voicing concerns about conduct that they believe, in good faith, is harmful to the organization and to the effectiveness of the Board would be retribution and is out of line with both the Code of Conduct and Concept V, which promise protection from such actions. Protection from retribution ensures that present and future trustees do not withhold concerns from the board for fear of retribution. The outcome of any discussion that results from raising such concerns is the board’s responsibility, not the responsibility of the individuals who voiced concerns to initiate the discussion.

Despite this being a General Service Board decision, the previous board chair publicly named two trustees who raised concerns, even though several other trustees shared their own experiences and concerns. This is precisely the type of retaliation and reprisal both the code of conduct and Concept V call for protection from.

8. Were there threats or demands made during these discussions to force the chair to resign?

No. The treasurer stated it had become impossible for him to fulfill his obligations as a trustee and treasurer due to interference by the Board Chair with the timeline and process for the 2023 budget. Trustees’ Finance and the Corporate Boards had agreed to the budget timeline/process during a December 2022 Special Meeting of Trustees’ Finance. The board chair continued to bypass the group conscience related to financial oversight at multiple levels. The treasurer decided he could no longer serve and planned to resign after raising his good faith concerns to the board. This was not intended as leverage to coerce a resignation from the Board Chair. Ultimately, the treasurer's resignation was unnecessary due to the turn of events.

One trustee stated that she had seriously considered whether it might be better for AA if she stepped down instead of reporting her concerns. However, she considered how many employees and trustees had also been affected. Seeing the continued erosion of AA principles and processes, it was clear to her that her resignation would not solve the problem, and advising the board of the concerns was needed.

Some trustees emphasized that directors could be replaced if the General Service Board perceived the corporations' work was derelict. In context, this statement was made to illustrate that bypassing the group conscience is not how our Concepts and bylaws direct the resolution of different points of view; rather, minority opinions are brought to the appropriate committee and corporate settings for careful consideration or in cases warranting extreme need, directors can be replaced.

9. What trust and communication challenges have occurred since the announcement of Linda’s resignation?

Trust and communication have a significant impact on AA’s effectiveness and unity. Tradition 2 and the 12 Concepts of AA outline how we rely on the service structure and trusted servants for accurate communication. The circumvention of the Conference members in this matter through “secret” social media platforms, group chats, and direct lobbying of delegates by individuals has been harmful.

It was also harmful that the GSB did not arrange for clear and direct communications with delegates and other conference members more quickly; had we done so, some of the misinformation and resultant disunity and anger could have been avoided.

10. What is the Policy Review Committee, and how is it important?

A policy review committee was formally formed at the January 2023 Board meeting after being initiated by the Board Chair in late 2022. The composition, scope, and procedure are being developed, but it is clear that we need a more robust complaint and review process for GSB code of conduct concerns. The Review Committee will be an opportunity to review the Code of Conduct for shortfalls that have become evident with our current guiding documents and ensure a clear process is available in the event of any future need for reporting concerns to the GSB.

11. Why is the Board expediting the search for a new Chair and not taking a slower, more deliberative approach? What is the process for chair selection and onboarding?

The important decision to task the Trustees Nominating Committee to begin its work sooner rather than later was arrived at following ample discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity. The Board felt that stability and unity would best be served by searching for a new chair rather than through a series of interim chair(s).

The process for chair selection is outlined in the Trustees Nominating Committee Procedure #14, which states that the Trustees Nominating Committee acts as the search committee, that Trustees Nominating Committee conducts interviews from which two or three candidates are selected to be interviewed by the full Board, the Board members discuss the candidates. A final selection is made by Third Legacy Procedure. Onboarding is usually done through communication between the Board Chair and Trustees Emeriti.

The GSB agreed that if a new chair was selected after the 73rd GSC, a report would be made to the conference about our progress, and an interim chair would be selected. Based on progress to date, it is expected that there will be a new chair included on the slate presented to the 73rd GSC.

12. How is the Board functioning now? What is needed from the Conference to help?

Overall, the Board is functioning well with the needed preparations for Conference continuing. There is disunity, as we are sure conference members are aware. Some of this is due to the division that was fostered prior to the resignation of the board chair, and some of this has emerged due to the challenges that have occurred since. Like any group conscience, the board benefits from a minority opinion and diversity of thought, provided everyone is willing to place our common welfare first. Unity doesn’t require unanimity, but it does require love, tolerance, and compromise.

All input from the Conference members regarding how to best move forward, improve communications, and best serve the Fellowship is welcome.

The concern is raised that specific members of the GSB have been named and also that they have been identified as bearing undue influence or responsibility for these events. Caution is requested in accepting or perpetuating such accusations. Concerns were brought to the General Service Board; no one knew what decision(s) would unfold. Targeting any member of the GSB in such a manner is harmful and disregards the fact that these events reflect board actions.

Report from Steve L - Area 35 Delegate

On Monday, April 10, 2023, the Delegates had a Zoom meeting with Linda C. to discuss her side of the story regarding her resignation as the GSB Chair. There were 71 Delegates present and the meeting was almost two hours long. Linda was asked a lot of tough questions and she was articulate and forthcoming with all her answers. Linda didn’t dance around the questions asked of her.

One of the issues discussed, was the licensing of the intellectual property of AA. Because of covid, the office wasn’t staffed for two years, so some literature licenses became dropped so other Service Structures were not able to print AA literature and gain the revenues needed to run their service structures. Linda was pushing for a faster way to get the license renewals completed. Linda thought the subcommittee looking into this matter was taking too long.

Delegates at the meeting asked Linda a few questions about finances. Linda stated she was questioning the GSB on finances. Linda specified concerns about only putting \$250k back into the prudent reserve. Another question Linda had was about the budgeting process. She also questioned why a draw-down of the prudent reserve was needed. Why was there a cash flow problem at the GSO? And why was cash needed to pay for the yearly conference? Linda stated that there was \$1M tucked away, but accounted for on the books. At this time the GSO was down to two weeks of cash flow to pay payroll and such, so GSO wanted to use the \$1M stash to shore up the cash flow problem. Linda was also told that the GSO needed money to start paying bills for the conference. Linda asked if the Conference was known to be held every year why wasn’t it budgeted better? Also, why short cash flow? Linda was informed that people and bills were being paid before the budget was approved. Linda stated she questioned this practice.

Linda was asked what happened at the Trustees' Planning and Sharing Session on January 29th. Linda recollected that she asked Kevin P., a Class A Trustee and chair of the Finance and Audit Committees, to give an updated financial report about the reserve fund and draw down from the October GSB meeting. Kevin started his presentation by brandishing an envelope demanding either she (Linda) resign or he (Kevin) would. It seemed to her that most of the people sitting there were surprised by this action. Linda concluded that Kevin wasn’t alone in planning this attack on her. From the conversations around the table before she was asked to leave, Linda figured five Trustees knew this was going to happen and possibly helped plan the attack on her. During the discussion, Sister Judith asked if there was a way to mediate the situation. Linda thought there was but Kevin said absolutely not.

Linda was asked about the allegation of micromanaging. When the accusation of micromanagement was brought up, Linda asked for examples and no one would give one. She gave an example saying she and Bob W., the General Manager of GSO, had an ongoing conversation about the roles of GM and GSB Chair and what was expected of each other. Linda said the two had many hours of conversation on the phone, and by email and were each writing a report to reach an understanding of what was expected of their respective positions.

Linda detailed a few other examples from her perspective in this dispute. Linda said more than once she was not looking to return as the Board Chair. Linda also stated that if the Conference was going to discuss her resignation, she would come to the Conference on her own nickel. She was more concerned with the Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict policies in how these were not an instrument for an open and transparent leadership but a secretive leadership style. This is the opposite of the principles of AA and needs a review along with its whistleblower policy.

After the Delegates met with Linda, we had another full Zoom Conference Committee meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023. During that meeting, many questions were asked of the Trustees from the information Linda had given us at her meeting. Different Trustees gave specific details contradicting Linda’s explanation. Bob W., the GSO Office Manager, gave a couple of examples of double-headed management. Between the Trustees there were two different memories concerning Kevin giving an ultimatum or not. A couple Trustees said they remember Keven giving an ultimatum and a few stated that didn’t happen.

Comments from the Delegates ranged from putting this behind us to having no trust in the Boards leadership were expressed. I think we were all in agreement that we need to invite Our Higher Power to the Conference to give guidance, be willing to have an open mind, and have a frank open discussion on where to go from here.

DELEGATE – STEVEN L
Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen, I made it back from the 73rd GSC in New York, the traveling was interesting, to say the least. I am currently putting together my account of what transpired at the conference to report back to the Districts. By the time you read this, I will have already visited two Districts to give my tale of what happened at the GSC. So, DCM’s here is a reminder to see about scheduling me to come and give a report on what happened at the GSC for your District. I was thinking of doing a Zoom meeting after visiting all the Districts.

Here is something I want people to discuss with their Groups and Districts so we can debate it at the Fall Assembly. My idea is to make the June ACM (which is held on the first Sunday in June) a one-day Assembly so the Delegate can give their GSC report to the whole Area at one time. We could start at 1 pm and be done by around 3 or 4 pm. We wouldn’t need a hotel just a big room to rent. We could make it centrally located so everyone could travel to and from easily in one day. In Service, Steven L.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W
Nothing to report

CHAIR – CHRISTINE G
Greetings Area 35, since the Spring Assembly, I met with the new Area 35 Corrections Chair to go over the trusted servant guidelines in further detail and bring him up to speed. Thank you Mark for accepting the position and thank you to Arden for all your service.

After the Spring Assembly and seeing the confusion that was created with the agenda format, I made some minor adjustments. I have put all reporting under the report sections versus under old business. Being there is not any business action that is taking place, I figured it would be best to have the updates under reports.

I also wanted to touch base on the concern that the 2022 June Financial Oversight Committee report that was not in the Northern Light. After further review, the minutes from the June ACM DID reflect that the Financial Oversight Committee did approve the financials. The June 2022 ACM minutes can be seen in the July/August 2022 printing on page 7, and it is the first item listed under old business. So, the concern that it was not reported and that there are unresolved issues, was a mistake on my part for keeping the item under old business. My apologies for creating confusion. This leads me to the second change I will be making with the agenda. I will have two agendas, one for the assemblies and one for the ACMs. We can see how this goes and if we don’t like the format, we can always go back.

If ever you have concerns or questions on the agenda or its business, please come and ask me, there may be a quick explanation or clarification. We can always address your concern in front of the body and be better prepared to do so. By having conversation and understanding your concerns ahead of time, it will help create less confusion. I want your voice to be heard and your concerns to be addressed.

On 4/11 I met with Area 36 Chair regarding the Area 35/36 Joint Committee Meeting. I have created a flier and an agenda will be out a few weeks prior to the event. This will be taking place on July 22nd from 1-3pm on ZOOM only. The link will be on each of the area websites.

I completed the Spring Assembly evaluations and will address some of the concerns/requests at the ACM in June. I would like to talk about those under new business so that we may open it up for discussion. I am looking at facilities for the next rotation, so it is a good time to have discussions.

Please let me know how I can be of service to your districts or groups. We have the Fall Assembly coming up and we will be voting a new slate of trusted servants. Be sure to seek out individuals who you would like to serve in Area 35 and start having conversations with them. Delegate resumes are due to me by the June ACM. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Christine G

SECRETARY – SALLY L
Greetings, Area 35. Since the Spring Assembly, I have gotten the unapproved minutes completed and sent out.

After the Assembly where the issue of the June 2022 FOC report not being in the minutes in the Northern Light, I looked into the situation. The June 2022 FOC report was indeed in the minutes that were sent out and in the Northern Light. No correction is needed to the June 2022 ACM minutes. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Sally L.

TREASURER – VICKI R
Hello! As Treasurer I’ve been depositing funds. Due to personal commitments, I haven’t been able to enter them into QuickBooks for April – yet. I apologize. The bank balance – unreconciled to our books – is \$14,810.85. I have several checks to deposit that will increase that amount. As discussed at Spring Assembly, our next large expenditure is June ACM. Nothing has come up that would change the ability to have that meeting in person in Aitken. Steve has a budget of \$2,700 while in New York, not including the \$1,800 sent to GSO in advance. In service, Vicki R

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
WEBMASTER – KYLE H
No report

NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B
Since Spring Assembly, it has been quiet in the Northern Light world. I attended a district inventory for my home district, District 8. I reviewed the suggestions for the Northern Light from the Spring Assembly minutes.

Please continue to send fliers for inclusion in the Northern Light’s events page. When creating your flier, please review the guidelines for flier inclusion in the back of the Northern Light. Fliers must be for AA sponsored events only - this means sponsored by a group, district, Area or Round-up committee. Deadline for the July/Aug issue of the Northern Light is July 2nd.

GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R
Greetings Area 35, on April 20th I attended the Quarterly meeting with other Area Group Records Registrars and members of Group Records Member Services at GSO. Starting in May they will be sending monthly reports with Groups that will be moving to the unknown status unless there is a new Group Contact Person. If your Group does not have a GSR or at least a current (within 2 years) contact person please let me know so I can check the status of your group and update any information.

I continue to update records as they are given to me. Thank you DCM’s and District members for continuing to work on verifying your Groups to keep meeting information accurate! I have gotten several Northern Light Returns again as undeliverable. As a reminder please let us know if you move or are a snow bird. It does cost the Area .70 per return and the total for returns from the last mailing was over \$15.00. We continue discussing our budgets and being prudent yet we waste money with these returns. I look forward to seeing you at the Area Committee Meeting in June! Thank you for allowing me to serve! Denise R.

CPC - GREG C
Nothing to report

LITERATURE – PAT M
Hello area 35, I am Pat M area 35 literature chair. I attended the spring assembly. In our area committee meeting we had one from district 5, two from district 6, one from district 21 and two from district 1. District 21 invited literature and Grapevine to present, and we did. Thank you district 21 for the invite and the opportunity to serve. We also shared the importance (where possible and when possible) that the district literature can work with their local Alano club. This gives the district literature chair an opportunity to be of service. I also talked about the price increase of all literature. As of right now, we have literature in stock and what is in stock will be sold at the old price. We shall be getting new catalogs. I should have them by the June committee meeting, so if anyone needs some or wants one let me know and I'll make sure you get it. Literature and Grapevine would like to visit all the districts we have not yet visited. If there's anyone in district 1 or 17, we would like to come up to that neck of the woods and visit you somehow. If it's just a couple groups getting together, we can share on our literature. It would be a great opportunity for literature and Grapevine so if there's anyone interested, please contact us. It has been very quiet since the spring assembly, which I'm not going to complain too much about. I'm sure it will pick up in the near future. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your literature chair. Pat M

TREATMENT – RICCO R
Hello All, we had six people present on our launch of the BTG Program on 4/15/2023. Dave C. DCM District 16, Diane R. DCM District 9, Jeff T. Alt. DCM, Alt. Treatment Chair District 16, Patti D. Treatment Chair District 3, Dani N. GSR, District 13, Ricco R. Area 35 Treatment Chair.

Dani gave a presentation on the Bridging the Gap spreadsheet she made to insert the names of the A.A. volunteers for the BTG Program and how to manage the spreadsheet. She also gave a detailed explanation of the procedure of the whole BGT Program. Due to Dani’s past education and work on the same kinds of procedures she made a written procedure to show us how to navigate the whole process so the spreadsheet will remain consistent for as long as we keep up the Bridging the Gap Program. Dani gave an excellent presentation and all the items, the spreadsheet the presentation and the written procedures were done very professionally in my opinion.

So far with the help of Dani and Julie N. DCM District 6 in their efforts to collect names and sign up DCMs and District Treatment Chairs at the Area 35 Spring Assembly, we now already have 39 A.A. volunteers on the BTG spreadsheet. I personally know of more names that have not made it yet to the spreadsheet, but the volunteers have filled out the forms and are signed up. I am so grateful to have such a dedicated bunch of Area 35 Treatment committee members that are making these projects possible. I would like to thank you all for your service.

I would like to thank all the DCMs, Alt DCMs, Treatment Chairs, Alt. Treatment Chairs, Kyle, Area 35 Webmaster, all the AA Volunteers who signed up to be on the spreadsheet to do service on the Bridging the Gap Program, and all the other service workers in Area 35 that helped to put together the BTG Program to make it a success. It is truly a show of Unity in Alcoholics Anonymous, Thanks again for your service., Ricco

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Hi, I’m an alcoholic named Marc, and your archivist for the near future. As an echo of my report at the Spring Assembly, Archives are quiet, too quiet. Maybe it’s because AA members think it’s too costly, maybe it’s not understanding how archives can help the still suffering alcoholic. The Archive Committee and I are here to serve the AA members of Area 35. We need to hear from AAs and GSRs what they expect archives to be, how we can best serve the fellowship.

My objective, like anyone serving a group, district, area, region, or national service role is to make clear a path for members to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic.

I am humbled and need to say that I am probably guilty of promoting our archives rather than allowing attraction. We have not had memorable items or items of interest donated during my term as archivist, I don’t know of donations received by prior two archivists. The archives are a collection of memorabilia donated by members who found a bit of serenity in the item donated. The displays at recent assemblies and events have drawn some attention. Please don’t hesitate to invite the archivist with a display to your district meeting, a round robin, or roundup.

Budgets are due for review, due to be submitted by the June ACM. As the Area Archivist I want to remind members of the high cost of maintaining our archives. Please review the budget that was submitted and send any/all concerns or questions to archivist@area35.org. In humble service, Archivist, Marc N

ARCHIVES – RENELL P

Present yesterday : John (Archivist) District 8, Kathy (DCM) District 11, Marc (Area 35 Archivist) and myself, (Area 35 Archives Chair) Kathy is the new DCM for District 11. We are looking forward to her contributions to our committee.

John is still active in District 8, interviewing “Old Timers” and writing up their stories. Thank you, John, for contributing to the permanent history of Northern MN Alcoholics Anonymous.

Marc and I were invited to visit District 9 at their February Dist. Mtg., using Zoom. We were given a list of questions they had for us, concerning our responsibilities and the necessity of our positions at the Area level. Marc has been invited to help man the Archives Display at Gopher State Roundup on Memorial Weekend. We could use some volunteers to help cover the hours from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning. Let us know if you are interested.

We discussed the possibility of promoting an “Old Timers” panel at a future Area Workshop.

We will be having a vote during the General Assembly to approve our Archives Policy.

There was discussion concerning the 2023 budget. John asked this question. “Can you send money to the area and designate which committee it should go to? Such as sending \$100.00 to the area and have it go toward the Archives budget.”

Marc has many available dates to go and visit districts, either in person or virtually. Contact Marc or myself to set up a date and time. We will be visiting District 11 on May 13th. Yours in service, Renell P

CORRECTIONS - MARK R

I attended the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Alexandria, MN on April 1st and 2nd. It was wonderful to see everyone again since our ACM meeting via Zoom on February 26th! It was an honor and very humbling to have been nominated, and voted in unanimously as the Area 35 Corrections Chair filling in for Arden A. who had to step down due to his health. I can only pray hard to be able to fill the large shoes he walked in during his over 40 years of service to Corrections, Area 35, and his home District 7! I dearly love and will miss greatly, my friend and mentor.

Since the Assembly I have been working on the creation of a Area 35 Correctional Facilities List along with a list of Area 35 District Corrections Chairs/DCM contacts, Corrections volunteers currently bringing A.A. meetings into County Correctional Facilities, as well as Volunteers who want to participate in the Corrections Temporary Contact Program (CTCP).

Continue to solicit volunteers to Carry the Message in to Mille Lacs & Sherburne County jails for District 5. Working with Aaron A. from District 6 to develop a form similar to the CTCP form which we can use in Area 35 to help Bridge the Gap for those less fortunate in custody who will be released and are in need of Temporary Contacts to help them get to A.A. meetings, meet other A.A. members, and hopefully find temporary or permanent sponsors!

I would like to thank the following groups/Districts for providing A.A. Meeting cards and Directory to me to bring into the MCF Transition Fairs to hand out to those soon to be released back in to our communities. **DISTRICT 5, DISTRICT 6, DISTRICT 7, DISTRICT 8, DISTRICT 9, DISTRICT 13, and TWIN PORTS AREA INTERGROUP!**

Continue working with Tim V. (District 7) to get contacts of who is bringing A.A. meetings into Moose Lake, Willow River, Rush City, and MCF-Togo. Working on these contacts in preparation for the Transition Fairs next fall so

if any of them is interested, we will be prepared with volunteers! Through Tim V, received an email from Jessica S. also of District who wants to help Area 35 Carry the Message via A.A. meetings as well as Transition Fairs in our Northern Minnesota Correctional facilities.

For my District 5, created a Corrections Committee (composed of my Corrections volunteers) to meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss what is going well, concerns, as well as other things we can be doing to spready the word about this awesome and special service work and continue to Carry the Message to those less fortunate in custody.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Area Committee Meeting in-person at the Aitkin Alano Club! Truly Humbled to Serve you, Mark R

STATEWIDE CORRECTIONS COMM (SWCC) CHAIR REPORT

The SWCC meets on the 1st Wednesday of each Month. I attended our meeting last month on April 5th. At that meeting we discussed a little about the vision for the Guidelines Subcommittee and the upcoming Transition Fair at MCF-St Cloud. I will be attending the MCF-St Cloud fair with Laura S. of Area 36 this coming Wednesday, May 3rd. The May 2023 SWCC meeting has been moved up to Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00pm.

Attended our first SWCC Guidelines Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, March 29th via zoom. We have again, met on April 12th and 19th to finalize our committee guidelines to be followed now and long into the future. Again, I would like to give special thanks for these wonderful volunteers from Area 35 whom I’m very grateful to have on our subcommittee: Aaron A (District 6), Kelly D (Past Delegate), and Diane R, (District 9).

Joe S. from Area 36 has sent information regarding some Corrections Meeting Opportunities/Needs – District 15 (Washington County or nearby). All require an orientation and background check.

Location (Men & Women)	Facility Volunteer Orientation Contact
MCF- Lino Lakes	Sgt. Johann Becker 651-651-717-6100 X-763
MCF-Stillwater	Kristin Stickel 651-779-2715
Washington County Jail	Sgt. Dave Stumpner -651-430-7927
MCF –Oak Park Heights	Melissa Schwartz 651-779-1487

Joe S –District 15 Corrections –Call or email with questions
jjschmittmmm@hotmail.com 651-429-1440- LL 651-529-0345 -cell

The following information is regarding the upcoming MCF Transition Fairs. If there is any interest in volunteering, please get a hold of me as soon as possible!

FACILITY	TRANSITION FAIR DATE	FAC APP DEADLINE
MCF-St. Cloud	May 3, 2023 (Filled)	April 12, 2023
MCF-Faribault	June 7, 2023 (Filled)	May 17, 2023
MCF-Shakopee	August 8, 2023	July 18, 2023
MCF-Moose Lake	September 19, 2023	August 29, 2023
MCF-Willow River	October 3, 2023	September 12, 2023
MCF-Rush City	October 12, 2023	September 21, 2023
MCF-Lino Lakes	November 14, 2023	October 24, 2023

Applications that are not received by the deadline date for each facility fair will not be approved.

Again, I’m so grateful for our awesome volunteers on this committee from Area 35 who God has Blessed me with: Aaron A (District 6), Tim V (District 7), Kelly D (Past Delegate), Diane R & Ricco R (District 9), Lucy K (District 15), Vicki Z. (District 7), and Mike U (District 6/Grapevine Chair). Humbled & Honored to Serve, Mark R

PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P

Greetings Area 35. In Public Information, we are getting geared up for the great Minnesota get together... the state fair! I have some spots available as of yet, so if you’re interested in fun in the sun and 58 different foods on a stick plus live music and all the milk you can drink for \$2 dollars, please reach out to me. I had the privilege of attending the District 9 district meeting on zoom to discuss public information and it was great to see some friends there! See you soon at the June ACM. In loving service, Nels.

GRAPEVINE – MIKE U

No report

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.

2023 Spring Evaluations Summary

GSRs (38 total – 8 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--------------------------|
| 11 | GSR Orientation | 3 | Area Committee Reports |
| 6 | Breakout Sessions | 14 | Old/New Business |
| 18 | General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor | | |
| 1 | Other (AA Meeting) | 15 | GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions |

In what way did it (they) help?

- Very Informed
- Be a better GSR
- The reason I came
- Getting a better picture of agenda items
- Getting ideas for greater participation from groups
- Explained the GSR position
- Clarity issues, helped me do a better job
- Continues to broaden my understanding of the workings of the service structure
- Everyone had the opportunity to speak
- Informational
- Heard new ideas on how to be a better GSR
- It helps to get a sense of fellow AA opinions & feelings
- Helps us stay informed and to clarify anything
- Tried to help me understand more
- I need to be here in person – No Zoom
- Archives Chair provided a perspective I needed to hear
- I am a new PI/CPC so I got hooked up with Greg
- To better understand and relay groups wished
- Gave me new info to share with my group
- I understood discussions, motions and voting better
- To make an informed decision
- Great sharing session. We learned a lot from other people
- Variety of view, fresh perspective
- I’m snoopy and like to know what’s happening
- New GSR and I need all the information I can get
- Fun
- Basic knowledge of GSR responsibilities
- Learned how to be involved
- Learned from the back and forth between the floor and the persons at the podium

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Good
- Better than before. Most important business on Saturday
- Have officer reports before the agenda items.
- Keep Committee chair and DCM reports and the end.
- Agenda items went well
- Good. Yes
- Yes. Too much time spent on Linda C – Still no clarity or serenity.
- Don’t think we would really have enough time to cover them, so overall format was good. Very smooth this time.
- I liked it.
- No, some spent too much time talking about issues and weren’t stopped by the committee.
- There should be time for breakfast on Sunday
- It was nice to get through agenda items first and new/old business next.
- Yes, I am glad it was in the middle of Saturday with a meal break.
- Holiday Inn worked very well for this assembly
- Why such a late start on Saturday?
- No, lack if info on items. Council very vague, give half answers. Telling half of what is going on, exaggerating costs (high and low). Just lack of communication. Pushing certain items, not giving enough time.
- The agenda was fine. Chair did a great job. It was good to have past delegates available to share experience.
- Given the task at hand, the assembly was well ran. Thank you so much for your efforts. Appreciate doing business, agenda first and then reports.
- A lot of what was said in reports was repeated from previous topics/discussions. With reports first, the body is informed of what’s going on and what others are doing before we start making motions and decisions.
- Remind members not to get up to the mic and repeat what has been said
- I very much enjoyed the new agenda format
- Should not have read what we could see on the PowerPoint during the GSR Orientation. Great discussion about finances. Lots of good information
- Things were explained really well this year. Nice job
- Need more time to explain agenda items or simplify the items. Reports and business went well.
- I thought it was well planned and organized. Good job.
- Sunday’s business should take place on Saturday. I think the budget was discussed on Sunday last fall and people did not question it because they were tired and wanted to go home.
- It went smooth and it was great to get through the agenda on Saturday.
- The format made more participation since we weren’t in a hurry to leave.
- Good. Yes.
- Format was good, seems like things went smoothly.
- Good
- Yes
- The agenda went very smooth.
- Job well done. People moved the agenda along. The 2 ½ minute sharing is great!!
- Thanks
- Format went well in a timely fashion. Nice seeing everyone again.

- Yes, it was excellently run.
- I like how the reports are on Sunday
- Went well. Good Format. No suggestions
- I liked the loose format but would like different seating. Be able to face each other. Would like to have introductions at beginning.
- Yes, Delegate was knowledgeable and everyone had a chance to participate
- Went well and everyone did a good job either staying on topic or keeping each other on topic and on schedule.

DCMs (7 total – 0 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--------------------------|
| N/A | GSR Orientation | 1 | Area Committee Reports |
| 1 | Breakout Sessions | 3 | Old/New Business |
| 3 | General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor | | |
| 1 | Other | 5 | GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions |

In what way did it (they) help?

- Great ideas and discussion
- Provided solutions to district issues
- Informed me further of agenda items and how other groups felt
- Fellowship, solutions
- Always good to hear what agenda items are coming forward
- New ideas
- Seen other ways to look at things

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Agenda items were great. Would like to remove reports from the assembly as the information is a repeat of the ACM 2 months before
- Went very well. We were prepared to understand items through agenda presentations from Delegate and Alt. Delegate via Zoom
- Went well. Get through the hard stuff when we are fresh
- Could have used time more effectively. Started earlier, shorter lunch and dinner, got out earlier.
- Yes, agenda format went well. We don’t need reports from every district as they are in the NL and seems redundant.
- Well
- Good, Yes

Other Positions (15 total – 2 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | GSR Orientation | 2 | Area Committee Reports |
| 6 | Breakout Sessions | 7 | Old/New Business |
| 6 | General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor | | |
| 2 | Other (fellowship/AA meetings) | 1 | GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions |

In what way did it (they) help?

- More AA meeting times
- See different perspective
- Very good discussions
- To be informed
- The discussions and questions from participants
- Valuable information
- Chair did good job
- More information from multiple sources
- Consider round tables so everyone is facing each other. Difficult to hear with multiple groups in same room
- Discuss current budget for the Area in a whole group setting so everyone can hear. DCMs shouldn’t be the only ones to hear it. We are all apart of the area. We can all pass the information along to the groups
- Hearing ideas from others
- Good Fellowship
- Informative

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Time limit on GSR/DCM sharing session reports. Give highlights and print full report in NL.
- Start earlier on Saturday and shorter lunch times
- Everything went well. We stuck to agenda items without too much extra talk. Great job Chair and Delegate.
- It was great, more than enough time.
- I feel Delegate did a wonderful job and covered everything.
- I like it better the old way.
- Yes, I enjoyed the new approach – felt it went well.
- Format whet very well. Yes.
- Agenda items went well. Is there a way to find a different way to present districts reports? Not having the district reports at assemblies, just having them in the Northern Light.
- Wasn’t sure about the Linda C thing in the beginning. Once agenda items started, it went great.
- Ok
- Some items under old business are non-issue and should be under reports.
- Very organized. I learned a lot about the structuring of AA and meeting/assembly procedure. Bought books. Good variety of books. Reserve for meals.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

**St. Cloud Roundup's
Celebration
of Recovery**

Saturday, May 13, 2023

City Hope Church
413 Franklin Ave NE, #0221
St. Cloud, MN

7 p.m. Speaker
Charlotte H., Al-Anon
Hibbing, MN

8:30 p.m. Speaker
Anna L., A.A.
Granite Falls, MN

Ice Cream Social after speakers \$3.00

Pre-registration and Online (<http://www.stcloudroundup.org/form-761444.html>) tickets must be purchased by **May 2, 2023**.
Pre-registration and Online \$10.00
At the door \$12.00

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM copy as needed
Information: 218-296-0670 • stcloudroundup@gmail.com
Make checks payable to: SCR
Pre-registration must be purchased by May 2, 2023

Mail to: St Cloud Roundup
P.O. Box 125
St. Cloud, MN 56302

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____

Online
Pre-registration
now available with
PayPal.

Visit:
www.stcloudroundup.org/form-761444.html

2023 Service Events

June 4: **Area Committee Mtg
Aitkin, MN**

July 22: **Area 35/36 Joint Comm
Meeting - Virtual**

August 6: **Area Committee Mtg
Aitkin, MN**

August 25-27: **WCR Forum, Montana**

October 7-8: **Fall Assembly
St. Cloud, MN**

December 3: **Area Committee Mtg
Aitkin, MN**

**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

10th ANNUAL CROW WING RIVER 3 LEGACY CAMPOUT
JUNE 30th-JULY 2ND

Fellowship

FRIDAY
12:00 MOTLEY NOON MEETING
1:00 CHECK-IN
7:00 CALL-UP MEETING
10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING

SATURDAY
MORNING DEVOTIONAL/MEETING
BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN
11:00 CANOEING/TUBING/FREE TIME
5:00-FELLOWSHIP
5:30-POT LUCK
6:30:00 AL-ANON TBD
7:30 AA SPEAKER TBD
10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING
SUNDAY
10:00 OPEN MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE A POT LUCK SUPPER ON SATURDAY NIGHT. WE WILL SERVE COFFEE AND WATER. ALL OTHER MEALS ARE ON YOUR OWN. OPEN FIRE TO COOK OVER WILL BE AVAILABLE PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A GRILL. SINK STATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WASHING DISHES.

NO PETS ALLOWED

ADULTS AND YTHS 9 AND OLDER \$20
YTHS 8 AND UNDER ARE FREE.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE FOR CAMPING SPOTS
CONTACT: BR. 218-296-0670
281 MORRISON ST. E. MOTLEY MN

DISTRICT 7 AA PICNIC

Please join us for Fellowship & Food
Sunday July 23rd 2023
Please bring a food item to share

Lum Park Pavilion – Area 1
Noon to 3PM
1619 Washington St NE, Brainerd, MN 56401

**42nd Annual
Keep It Simple Weekend**
Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth, Minnesota)
Theme: Into Action
August 18th, 19th, & 20th, 2023
WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**** NOTE: due to CAMP POLICY, there is NO ADMITTANCE into the camp prior to 5:30 PM Friday****

FRIDAY	5:30 PM REGISTRATION 6:30 PM SUPPER 7:30 PM Al-Anon Speaker – Gina D. (Superior, WI) AA Speaker – Angel I. (Gilbert, MN) <i>Campfire Call-up Meeting to follow the speakers</i>
SATURDAY	8:00 AM BREAKFAST 10:00 AM AA Open Big Book Meeting Al-Anon Open Meeting NOON LUNCH 1:00 PM Recreation Time** 5:00 PM SUPPER 7:00 PM Al-Anon Speaker – Sherry G. (Bloomington, MN) AA Speaker – Evan H. (Grand Rapids, MN) <i>Ice Cream Social to follow the speakers</i>
SUNDAY	8:30 AM BREAKFAST 10:00 AM AA Speaker– Nick M. (Blaine, MN)

Planning meeting for 2024 after speaker REGISTRATION

Adults Tent/Camper Pkg: 2 nights – 5 meals \$65.00 Adult Bunkhouse Pkg: 2 nights – 5 meals \$85.00 (Pkg's include all meals, (pgs)(t)(p)(g) and lodging)	Children Tent/Camper Package 2 nights & 5 meals 10 & under \$20.00 11-17 \$40.00 (includes all meals, (pg, and lodging.)
General Admission (all events, not including meals. \$30.00 per weekend or \$10.00 per day.	Meals: \$8.00 each (payable before eating) Saturday Supper: \$10.00 per person.
Camping - \$10.00 per person per night (no hookups available) Bunkhouses - \$20.00 Per person per night. (Does not include general admission.)	All accommodation on a first come/first served basis. There is room for everyone! Pre-Registration is not necessary

Bring your own LAWN CHAIRS, BEDDING, FLASHLIGHTS, ETC.
**** Activities include volleyball, basketball, canoeing, bocce ball, kayaking, fishing, hiking, campfire and lots of fellowship**

For more info, call Dianna S. 559-433-7754 or Sam K. 218-780-8849

**SATURDAY
Bean Bag
Tournament
Prizes
Awarded!!!**

SORRY, NO PETS ALLOWED.

**Area 35 and Area 36
Joint Committee Meeting**

Saturday, July 22, 2023
1:00--3:00 pm ONLINE only

Designed for: General Service Reps, Alt General Service Reps, District Committee Members and all District Committee Chairs and District Officers; Area Committee Chairs, Alt Committee Chairs and Area Officers and Past Delegates.

Online Links will be posted on www.area35.org and www.area36.org websites closer to the date.

The 77th Annual Duluth Round Up
September 8-10, 2023
Radisson Hotel Duluth – Harborview
505 W Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

FRIDAY
AA Speaker – Dennis B. Farmington, MN

SATURDAY
Breakfast Banquet tickets required
AA Speaker – Hugh W. Duluth, MN
AL-ANON Speaker – Betty A. Montato, MN
AA Speaker – Judy L. Boulder, CO
Workshops, Meetings, Panels, etc.
Banquet Dinner tickets required

SUNDAY
AA Speaker – Hannah C. Minneapolis, MN

for more information or to register online, visit:
duluthroundup.org

Registration

Round Up Tickets – \$25 amount: _____
Dinner – \$50 amount: _____
Breakfast – \$25 amount: _____
Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Prime Rib (GF)
Pineapple Chicken (GF)
Eggplant Parmesan (limited to once available)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email Address _____
Phone _____

Submit registration by August 31, 2023.
Pick up tickets at the registration desk at the Radisson Hotel Duluth – Harborview
Registration begins September 8th 2:00 p.m.


Mail registration form with U.S. funds to:
PO Box 16791
Duluth, MN 55816-0791

Area 35 Fall Assembly
October 7th-8th, 2023
River's Edge Convention Center
10 4th Avenue South
St Cloud, MN 56301

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn 100 4 th Ave. S St Cloud, MN 56301	Courtyard by Marriott St Cloud 404 W. St Germain St St cloud, MN 56301
Room Rate: \$139 + tax per night Reservations: (320)253-0606	Room Rate: \$149 + tax per night Reservations: (320) 654-1661
Reserve under: NMAA Cutoff Date: September 6, 2023	Online link: Book your group rate for NMAA Conference Reserve under: NMAA Conference Cutoff Date: September 7, 2023

Saturday, October 7
9:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, October 8
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.

Area 35 Fall Assembly

October 7th-8th, 2023

River's Edge Convention Center
10 4th Avenue South
St Cloud, MN 56301

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn 100 4 th Ave. S St Cloud, MN 56301 Room Rate: \$139 + tax per night Reservations: (320)253-0606 Reserve under: NMAA Cutoff Date: September 6, 2023	Courtyard by Marriott St Cloud 404 W. St Germain St St Cloud, MN 56301 Room Rate: \$149 + tax per night Reservations: (320) 654-1661 Online link: Book your group rate for NMAA Conference Reserve under: NMAA Conference Cutoff Date: September 7, 2023
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Saturday, October 7
9:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, October 8
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.

West Central Regional Forum

With our U.S./Canada General Service Board
of Alcoholics Anonymous



Save the date!

August 25 – 27, 2023

Hilton Garden Inn

3720 N Reserve

Missoula MT

Room rate: \$139 (Group Code: WCR)

Registration is free!

Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer — ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

AA Co-founder Bill W, AA's Legacy of Service



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 electronically or by hard copy 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 on 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

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.

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

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!!!

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)

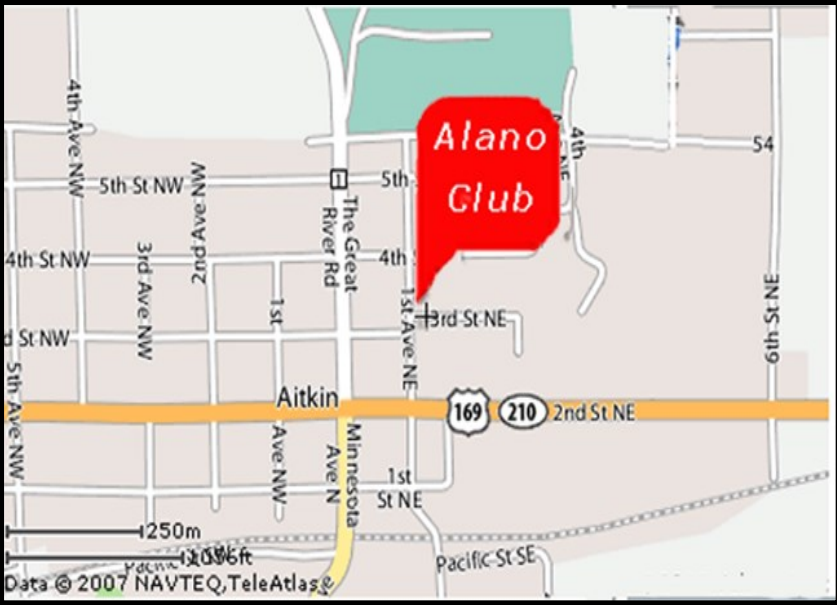
AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- 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



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Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly					
OUR PAST DELEGATES					
Panel 70 2020-2021 Jim S		Panel 38 1988-1989 Scott J		Panel 12 1962-1963 Donna T (deceased)	
Panel 68 2018-2019 Christine G		Panel 36 1986-1987 Louie H		Panel 10 1960-1961 Bob B (deceased)	
Panel 66 2016-2017 Kelly D		Panel 34 1984-1985 Bob P (deceased)		Panel 8 1958-1959 Pearl N (deceased)	
Panel 64 2014-2015 Michael “Jake” J		Panel 32 1982-1983 Tom L (deceased)		Panel 6 1956-1957 Waldo H (deceased)	
Panel 62 2012-2013 Jim K		Panel 30 1980-1981 Don M (deceased)		Panel 4 1954-1955 Wendell H (deceased)	
Panel 60 2010-2011 Jon C		Panel 28 1978-1979 Garfield (Duffy) S (deceased)		Panel 2 1952-1953 Arthur R (deceased)	
Panel 58 2008-2009 JoAnne M N		Panel 26 1976-1977 Vern R (deceased)			
Panel 56 2006-2007 Jerry S		Panel 24 1974-1975 Gordon B. H (deceased)			
Panel 54 2004-2005 Charlie C		Panel 22 1972-1973 Frank P. J (deceased)			
Panel 52 2002-2003 Tim C		Panel 20 1970-1971 Clarence B (deceased)			
Panel 50 2000-2001 Tom A		Panel 18 1968-1969 Dave H (deceased)			
Panel 48 1998-1999 Susie A		Panel 16 1966-1967 Arno A (deceased)			
Panel 46 1996-1997 Bill P (deceased)		Panel 14 1964-1965 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
Aitkin, MN
June 4th, 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>_____ Post Conference Report - Delegate</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>_____ Financial Oversight Committee</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>_____ State Fair Booth – PI</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 – Kathy M</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>	<div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Mark R</div><div>_____ Statewide Corrections – Corrections</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>_____ Review Area Finances for WCR Forum</div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ February ACM Discussion</div><div>_____ Spring Assembly Evaluations</div><div>_____ Booking Next Rotation Assemblies</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