

Northern Light
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Deadline for the next
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Jan 1, 2026

This is YOUR Newsletter

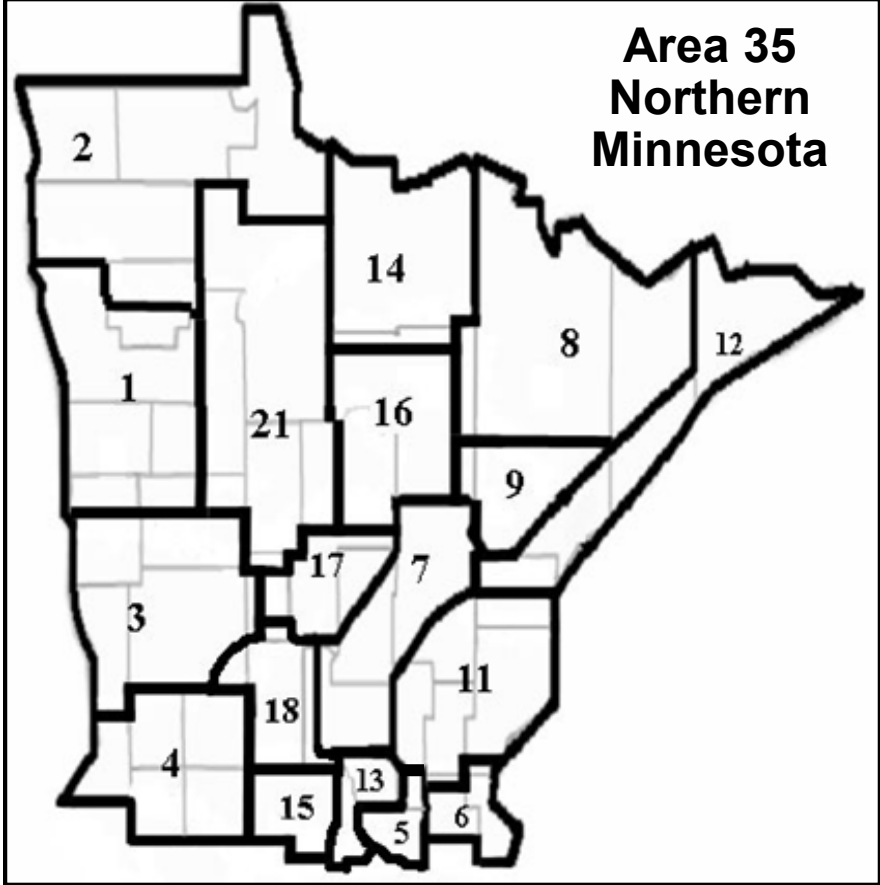
Area 35

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

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

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

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



Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- District 2** - Badger, Halma, Middle River, Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - Big Fork, Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Goodland, Hill City, Lawrence Lake*, Longville, Remer
- District 21** - Akeley, Bagley, Baudette, 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 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, Hibbing, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake*, Nashwauk*, Zim
- District 12** - Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Barnum, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors
- District 14** - International Falls, Littlefork, Rainy River (Ontario,Canada)

District Meeting Location Information

District 1
2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.
Fertile Community Center
101 S Mill Street
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, 12:00 p.m.
Perham Alano Club
43452 County Hwy 34
Perham, MN 56573

District 4
Last Sunday of month, 5:00 p.m.
Lakes Area Alano Club
1604 Jefferson St
Alexandria, MN 56308

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.
Day and location rotate.
Contact DCM for info.

District 9
Last Sunday of month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746

District 11
1st Thursday 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

District 17
Not currently active or unknown

District 18
1st Tuesday of month, 5:30 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

Area 35 Fall Assembly Minutes
Ely, MN
October 4th-5th, 2025

Call to Order: Area Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4th 2025, and opened with the Serenity Prayer. There were 135 members registered.

Why We Need a Conference: Read by GSR
Recognition of Past Delegates In Attendance: Scott J. Panel 38; Bob J. Panel 40; Tim C., Panel 52; Charlie C., Panel 54; Jerry S., Panel 56; Scott A., Panel 57/59 Area 36; Jim K, Panel 62; Jake J, Panel 64; Kelly D, Panel 66; Steve L, Panel 72;
Recognition of GSR's in Attendance: 41 GSR's in Attendance at Orientation
Additions to Agenda: None
Approval of Spring Assembly 2024 Minutes: Madeline motioned to approve the minutes, Leroy seconded. Motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS
Delegate – Diane R

Hi,
I will start with two corrections.
District 15 attended the report back in St. Cloud on June 9, 2025.
Thank you, District 15, for your participation.

I would like to correct an error in my previous report in the Northern Light. The correct statement should read: There will be 5.1 months left in the reserve fund after Grapevine withdraws \$350,000.00, and a withdrawal of \$1.2 million has been authorized for the retrofit.

All delegates received the May and August 2025 Board Minutes. While we have been asked not to share them, I can summarize the key points. Our General Service Board Chair mentioned that this is a trial period during which the Board will assess its impact on communication efficiency and workload. The Board received 18 items of correspondence. Eight letters addressed the topic of the International Convention Souvenir Book. Other letters expressed concerns about withholding contributions due to a lack of transparency regarding literature changes, the Plain Language Big Book, AA Grapevine and La Viña finances, the 2025 International Convention virtual track, and site selection with respect to members with DUIs. Additionally, there were inquiries from an area intergroup regarding an AA World Service Inc. (AAWS) asset and a request for a trustees’ committee composition list. There were multiple discussions pertaining to the advisory action passed by the 75th General Service Conference (GSC) to classify all AAWS and AA-Grapevine literature written prior to 1971.

The Board approved a recommendation for the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee for a Reserve Fund drawdown of up to \$2,100,000.00 for the GSO retrofit project.

The Board approved a recommendation for the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee for a Reserve Fund drawdown of \$350,000.00 for AA Grapevine operations.

The AAWS Publishing Committee recommends discontinuing the third-party printing and distribution of the Sharing from Behind the Walls newsletter. The Corrections desk will continue to produce physical versions in return letters to incarcerated members while making digital versions available to service committees through aa.org. This change will result in cost savings from \$9,705 to \$2,500.

A Conference Inventory Implementation Committee has been formed. The committee was randomly selected with a nontrustee director, two trustees, an AAWS staff member, AAGV staff member, eight area delegates (one from each region).

I attended the West Central Regional Forum, where there were many wonderful presentations. It was an opportunity to gain insight into how our structure works.

The forum began with the four Panel 74 delegates, including myself, giving talks. Despite any coordination, we all discussed leadership and the essence of being a trusted servant, emphasizing our three legacies of service. Leadership isn't about popularity or saying what people want to hear; it's about being willing to face discomfort and serve with integrity. We expect our trusted servants to voice our group's conscience and have the courage to speak up when necessary.

I attended the Three Legacy Sponsorship workshop, where we discussed how to incorporate the three legacies into our sponsorship. We explored the use of steps, traditions, and concepts in our sponsorship approach.

The second workshop was titled "Your AA Grapevine/LaViña and Attraction." There was a great discussion on how Grapevine Representatives inform their areas about the available books and services from Grapevine. On Saturday night, our Class A Trustee, Dawn Klug, gave a talk on her story about why she is a Class A Trustee. Even though her business and town were severely hit by a hurricane, she serves as a Class A Trustee for us. We are truly blessed to have her.

Jon W. and David S. explained the various services offered by the A.A. Grapevine and LaViña. They encouraged everyone to download the application and subscribe. Bob W., the GSO General Manager, discussed the office's challenges in keeping up with the workload and praised the dedication of the staff.

I invited Scott H., Chair of the General Service Board and five members from Area 35, to lunch. It was a great opportunity to ask him questions. I wish I could have invited all Area 35 members, but I was asked to limit the number to ensure we finished lunch on time. Scott H. is very busy, talking to Bob W., GSO General Manager, every week and attending 150 meetings a year.

We got to meet our new Trustee at Large, Jennifer B. It was interesting to her talk about her first International General Service Conference she attended in Bulgaria. Sounded like they have anonymity breaks there too.

My favorite part was the sharing by past trustees. Although their time was limited, I hope they will be given more time to share in the future. Mike discussed unity and how we should treat one another. Tom A. emphasized the importance of practicing spiritual principles in all our affairs, using the steps, traditions, and concepts as our Code of Conduct. Ken B. talked about fulfilling the responsibilities we are elected to do and applying our principles. He also advised avoiding distractions and editorializing. Trusted Servants should be the best qualified, not just our best friends. So, are we choosing the best qualified or our best friends? Tradition 12 reminds us to put principles before personalities.

It was a very full weekend, and I saw many old friends and made a few new friends. Thank you for sending me to the West Central Regional Forum. It is a great opportunity for our trusted servants to learn about the A.A. Structure. Thank you to Area 41 for hosting this wonderful event.

In 2027, we will be hosting both the West Central Regional Forum and the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference. We need to ensure that all our Area Officers and Area Committee Chairs can attend both events. With less than two years to go, we already have two assemblies each year. These additional conferences will require careful planning.

The West Central Region received a request from a past delegate to send out a workshop flyer. Kathi asked the delegates what their response is. Motion presented, seconded, and voted unanimously to NOT have the West Central as a distribution point for emailing flyers for area workshops. The WCR Directories are sent annually to all Past Delegates and Area Trusted Servants. The Directories are confidential and should not be posted on any public facing websites.

The digital 2025 Final Conference Report was sent to all Area Officers, Area Committee Members, and District Committee Members. It is also available for download on aa.org. Printed copies should be available after October 15, 2025. I will distribute them to the groups.

In Service, Diane

Alternate Delegate – Pat M.

Hello area 35 I am Pat am your panel 74 alternate delegate and I am an alcoholic,

Attended the West Central regional forum. I really enjoyed the forum. Some of my highlights: Diana asked me if I would like to go eat lunch with one of the AWS or GSO Representatives or grapevine.

I had the privilege of taking the trustee at Large out to eat lunch, her name is Jennifer B. I took Uncle Mike, Lisa, and Janet too. That was a good representation. A committee chair and Alternate DCM and the GSR . What an amazing lady. the adventure she has already had, the adventure she's going to have, her dedication to carry the message around the world , one of the things that you really admires is the gratitude that she sees around the world - it's just amazing .

I hope to hear from Jennifer down the road. I also got to moderate a workshop. The workshop title was our principles; have we lost our way? Are they still guiding us ? We had 26 in attendance, they come up with three topics: Are our groups following traditions, are we practicing the principles of anonymity, and are we following our primary purpose? It was an exciting time to take part in the original form and it was a great little workshop putting the final touches on the winter workshop. I will be able to hand this over to the new alternate delegate. We have a special guest and his name is Jimmy D. I don't think anyone wants to miss him speak.

I thank you for allowing me to serve as your alternate delegate, Pat M

Chair - Vicki R.

Since August ACM I’ve been working on securing venues for 2026 and 2027 assemblies. There is a flyer on the back table for Spring Assembly at the Arrowood Resort in Alexandria, MN.

I’ve also attended WCRAAF Oct 19-21st in Omaha NE. My biggest takeaway was how hard the staff, the board and your service volunteers work on

AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

our behalf. While there are concerns that surfaced, the largest being the viability of continuing the Grapevine in the next few years, I was encouraged by the commitment of everyone in attendance.

Diane did a great job presenting the Spirit of Warranty 3 and Pat facilitated a breakout group to discuss our principles in action.

The Class A Trustee gave a very moving and heartfelt talk about what brought her to wanting to serve AA.

Organizing for the Assembly has been rewarding, this is the last one I’ll chair.

Secretary – Denise R.
Greetings Area 35,
Since the August Area Committee Meeting I completed and distributed the minutes from that meeting, as well as compiled and distributed minutes from the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop.

Working with Pat, Alt Delegate to create the flyer for the January Workshop as well as working with Vickie to create the flyer for Spring Assembly 2026, which is right around the corner.

Our Adhoc Committee finished it’s work for now updating the Guidelines and Action Book. We will have a discussion with possible vote this weekend on when/how to use 2/3rd substantial unanimity or simple majority in our voting procedures. Thank you to the committee Scott A., Marc our Archivist and Diane our delegate.

I traveled with Vicki, Area Chair, to the West Central Regional Forum which for a 6 hour drive, the time seemed to fly by. Thank you Vickie!

I am very grateful I was able to attend the Forum to meet the Trustees of the GSB and staff of the GSO. I want to thank Diane our Delegate for giving me the opportunity to have lunch with Scott H. our General Service Board Chair. It gave us the opportunity to learn more about him as a person which then reminds me that we are all just alcoholics that love Alcoholics Anonymous, we are just one alcoholic talking to another.

There were many highlights, a couple things that stood out to me was the approved draw down of \$2.45million on the Prudent Reserve to cover costs of AA Grapevine and the retrofit of the General Service Office. If the full amount is needed it would bring our reserve down to 5.1 months which is well below the required 9-12 months reserve. I did not hear any plans on putting money back into the reserve.

Also learning it would cost approximately \$8 more per subscription to make the GV self supporting, whether it is print, App or complete Subscription, \$8 per subscription to make the GV Self Supporting Seems like a no brainer. I really enjoyed hearing from our new Trustee at Large, Jennifer B. the enthusiasm in her voice brought joy and light heartedness to the room! I learned many things and certainly have an appreciation for all the work that our staff members, Trustees, Directors and all those that do the work to spread the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those around the world. Instead of coming home exhausted from the long weekend and drive, I came home enthused and excited to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
Denise

Treasurer – Heidi B.
A quick look at September income vs expenses is below. Printed Income, Expense and Contribution Statements and previous year comparison checking account reports are attached and will be emailed to the DCM’s and Area Committee Chairs,

Officers and Past Delegates next week. Please share these reports with your groups. And remember to check my totals against contributions that your group has sent to me. We have \$25,313.73 in the checking account with \$6,061.85 in our prudent reserve. We are below our budget.

Income:	
September	YTD Contributions
\$4,756.25	\$38,170.79
Birthday, Special	
\$630	\$778
Literature	
\$0	\$11,519.49
Grapevine	
\$0	\$599.50
Other	
\$0	\$3,479.75
Total Income:	
\$5,386.25	\$54,827.73

Expenses:	
Events	
\$50	\$9,067.67
Literature	
\$537.52	\$12,345.07
Grapevine	
\$0	\$923.44
Other Expense	
\$0	\$27,450.42
Total Expense:	
\$587.52	\$49,786.60
Net Profit:	
\$4,798.73	\$5,041.13

***Friendly reminder, please include your group name and number when sending in your contributions so that I can credit the proper group.
A group name alone may not be enough. Many groups have the same name and personal checks arrive with a home addresses and no known group in the city listed on a personal check, and no phone number for following up. If I can’t find your group number, your contribution will be credited to your district. If you don’t know what your group number is, please contact Phyllis at grouprecords@area35.org. Checks should be made out to NMAA.

OLD BUSINESS
Voting Procedures Using Substantial Unanimity-
Adhoc Guidelines Committee brought forward a procedure for using Substantial Unanimity. Before any business begins at an Assembly or Area Committee Meeting the Chair or any voting member that believes there is a controversial or complex topic may ask to use Substantial Unanimity instead of Simple Majority. The Chair would then get approval or disapproval from the body on whether to use Substantial Unanimity.
Discussion –
-Who decides when to use Substantial Unanimity- now the Area Chair makes the decision-
- any issues in the past voting with simple majority? time constraints could be an issue?
Some topics that keep surfacing like using Teams vs. Zoom, State Fair etc. may have been better to have a more thorough discussion if used Substantial Unanimity-
-I believe this is the current practice? not necessarily, as only the Area Chair has made the decision-
- do we vote on each item on the agenda? No, only items that would be considered for substantial unanimity-
- is there a reason why we don’t do substantial unanimity all the time now?- No, we have generally used Simple Majority.
-Any policy change should be Substantial Unanimity so we have more unity
-The guidance that was given to current Area Chair is using Substantial Unanimity to limit debate or end debate, everything else is really simple majority
-
- it doesn’t take that long to count, I agree with Substantial Unanimity
- Are we complicating it? don’t we have a program to help us walk through the resentment
- making a difficult situation out of a pretty simple thing- It's already been said to leave it at 2/3 majority and that’s the answer
- We don’t need to approve a procedure that we already use- Anybody at any time can make a motion to use 2/3 majority. We already have the autonomy and authority to do so.
No motion to proceed- discussion dies
State Fair- Is Area 35 Willing to Recommit?-
Last Fall Assembly we voted to not participate with Area 36 for the State Fair-
-We used the \$700 normally used for the State Fair and had a CPC/PI Workshop which was well attended and a great use of our Area Funds- We have 4 choices to choose from
Non participation-
Recommit with Area 36 including the \$700 booth fee
Individual participation can assist Area 36
Other ideas or considerations?
What does the Group Conscience of the Assembly want to do?
-Discussion -
-Pigeon states Southern MN is looking to share this commitment with AI Anon too-
We pay 1/3rd for the booth but only cover 1/6th of the time-
-Area 36 is considering asking AI Anon but no confirmation yet
-In the past another option of funding it but not participating
-D-7 Supports the State Fair and have sent people there-
- recommit to sending the \$700 is a good idea- We can find the money- participation on an individual basis
- let Area 36 do it- we keep discussing this, let it be
- We already stepped down from the commitment, we shouldn’t go back and forth- members were passionate about it but not willing to step up to actually do the work. We need to use the Area funds the best way possible- the CPC/PI workshop was a great use of the money
-State Fair is a family atmosphere and a great place to help in a friendly way- people from our district did participate last year- no one else is willing?

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-If I had to go to State Fair myself I would have to pay for parking, drive, possible stay the night at a hotel, admission fee- If we vote for this that means you would be stepping up to do it
-a good opportunity to freely give what we have freely received-
No Motion to Recommit – discussion dies

Add Archives to the Area Website
Digitizing Archives- Displaying on Website- We have talked about putting Archives on the Website for many years- Now is the time- I have digitized 800 cassette tapes- all information would be anonymity protected and copy-right protected. Area would need to approve adding the Archives information to the Website- Cost of inclusion on website per our webmaster is mainly his time.
Motion to include an Archives section on the Area 35 Website Cathy R.
Chuck R. Seconded
Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS
Purchase equipment \$2000 to have a hybrid option-
\$2000 is not enough, need a minimum of \$5000
What’s a Hybrid? A way to meet virtually as well as in person using zoom or teams
This comes from the Tec committee- this is a middle of the road solution that is a needed tool and option for us
This could make things more inclusive to others that can not be in person- it's an accessibility thing-
Motion made for the ARea to purchase the equipment up to \$2000. Nels Kathy R. seconded
Discussion-
Purchase would be cables, camera’s, possible new laptop- spending up to \$2000
Putting cart before the horse- we should decide if we are doing hybrid first before deciding to spend the money
We do already have a Hybrid meeting in August to discuss any PAI
Hybrid at Corrections Workshop works great- willing to contribute cameras to the Area
Equipment could be used for accessibility purposes-
Motion to Call the Question- Madeline, Marc N second - motion carries
Diane called for Substantial Unanimity vote- Chair agreed
Motion to purchase equipment up to \$2000 carries with Substantial Unanimity
Minority Opinion- Not a good plan in place to move forward, need a better plan to hold a good hybrid meeting-
Treasurer Report says we are below budget- last Fall Assembly we voted not to send the Committee Chairs to the West Central Regional Forum. Spending money we don’t have
Motion to Reconsider Lisa, Teresa Second Motion to reconsider uses simple majority
Motion to Reconsider fails

Reimburse Area Officers and Committee Chairs for West Central Regional Forum-
At the August Area Committee Meeting the Treasurer stated we had \$20,000+ in our checking account. We discussed since we have that amount of money could we reimburse the Officers/Chairs that attended the West Central Regional Forum? There are 3 Area Officers/Chairs that attended with a total cost of \$1598.34
Discussion-
When we passed the budget the body voted to pay for only the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to attend the WCR Forum- We are coming back to the body to seek approval for reimbursement since we have the money-
We voted on the budget last fall assembly and did not approve to fund the Officers/Chairs
At the August Committee meeting during the Officers meeting it was stated we have \$25,313.73 in the checking account and it has been there for a while - what does the Area want to do with it? We decided to bring it back to the body to see if the body would reimburse expenses for the Officers/ Chairs to attend the Forum-
What is the amount for reimbursement? \$1598.34 and do we have the money - We have money in the checking account.
Did the Area get so much money and expenses are less? Are we under budget that we have additional money for this reimbursement?
We have a responsibility to reimburse them
Motion to reimburse the Officers/Chairs that attended the Forum in the amount of \$1598.34 Hal S. Joel seconded-
Discussion-
It is important to send Area Chairs and Officers to these events as we have done in the past
Beginning of year we have more expenses, now we have more money than expected
Individuals are willing to give up their time serving on committees, they should be a part of the West Central, we should support them.
Past minutes showed there was no mention of reconsidering this and we should stick to the original budget passed
If we have the funds to purchase equipment for hybrid, we should have the funds to send the Trusted servants to places they are supposed to go to per the Trusted Servant Guidelines in the Action book-
Position Roles and Responsibilities in Area Actions Book states Area Officers and Committee Chairs attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference and Forum where reimbursed.

Decision was made at the time of the budget understanding that we may not have the money- the money came in after we discussed the budget- if we have the money now, we should reimburse, if we don’t have the money then we can’t- it appears we have the money
Our District reevaluates our budget every time there is an event to decide if we can afford to go. It is appropriate to revisit it- we need to be participating in these event- It was noticed that Area 35 was not present at the WCR AA Service Conference. We need to prioritize how we spend our money.
Motion to call the question AJ, Mark N. second motion- Motion to call the question carries-
Motion to reimburse \$1598.34 to the Area Officers and Chairs that attended the WCRF carries
Minority Opinion- Every year we have a January Workshop at a cost of \$8000.00 and now \$2000.00 for equipment- we need to look at a better way to use our money
When we vote on the budget next time, add to reconsider
Maybe we should be more realistic with our budgets.

Sharing Session – Pro/Con Zoom versus Teams-
Since this is a sharing session, do we want to have this discussion since we have already discussed somewhat-
We are using Teams now but some are dissatisfied with it- and some may want to go back to Zoom-
Possible adhoc committee to try and fix issues with Teams or discuss later
General show of hands to skip discussion- overwhelming to skip

Sharing Session – Northern Light
Person that brought this forward is not in attendance- so do we want to discuss this? Again a possible adhoc committee to review if we should look at the purpose of the Northern Light-
Who is in favor of not having this discussion? Overall sense was no discussion wanted-

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

Financial Oversight Committee - Scott A
Financials are sent to Scott and Jess who review them separately, they concur everything looks good

District 7 – Jess S.

Greetings from District 7, followed by a huge apology from me! I am unsure how it got mixed up but I had next weekend on my wall calendar as our Assembly weekend. This morning, I woke up to a phone call from my bank making sure it was me who was charged for the weekend in Ely. Oops!! My sincere apologies to Area 35, I had every intention of being there with you this weekend and will miss seeing you all. Lucky for me, my trusty Alternate was already on his way there this morning. Thank you, Mark, for representing us!

In other news, District 7 is doing well! Our District meeting is held the third Thursday of each month, at the First Congregational Church in Brainerd (415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, MN) at 7:00 pm. Recently we held District Elections, to allow for a smoother transition between officers. The willingness in the room to fill those positions was huge and we did end up filling them all. While I have enjoyed my time serving as DCM, I am ready to pass the torch and feel confident in those who stepped up to serve. I thank YOU all for allowing me to serve in this position & I thank ALL who have stepped up to take over. This really is a WE effort & I have so much gratitude for all who serve the incredible program of Alcoholics Anonymous.
In September, District 7 participated in an annual Recovery Walk/Event in Brainerd. We had pamphlets and members available at a booth to answer questions. It was a great event, an even better turn out than last year. We did have to postpone our CPC/PI Workshop planned for October, due to some personal things within the committee. We are working on getting that rescheduled. Our Literature Chair created some welcome packets for new GSRs and members last month. I am registered for the Corrections Workshop next month & plan to attend either virtually or in person. I am thrilled to announce that District 7 will have 2 volunteers in the Crow Wing County Jail Transition Fair on December 10th! The jail’s corrections contact person was out of the office for months apparently, which is why I wasn’t hearing back but we are back on track to serve when we can within the jail & we are grateful for the opportunity. I’ll be attending the transition fair at the Shakopee Women's prison coming up, as well. Thank you, Mark R, for that opportunity.
That’s really all I have for now. I appreciate your grace for my being missing in action this weekend. I hope you all enjoy your time together and I will see you soon!
In Service,
Jess Skogman

Webmaster – Terry P.
Verbal report given

Northern Light – Jennifer T.
The Northern Light Committee discussed the idea of adding district hotline phone numbers to the newsletter and website. We discussed the idea of reducing publications to quarterly if printing and postage keep increasing in cost. These are things the body can add to the agenda for the future if they would like to discuss. Lastly, we debated our differing interpretation of the guidelines on Relationship Between AA and AI Anon and guidelines on

AREA 35 MEETING MINUTES

Conference, Convention and Roundups- in regards to publishing fliers for combined open meetings.

Group Records – Phyllis K.
Hello everyone!
Currently, there are 485 groups in our area (That’s a lot of groups to record details for). When you send in a form or communication, please include the name of the group, the district you are in, and the address of the group. It is very time consuming to try to research these details and it would help greatly to include this information. We will be rotating officers and GSRs now, and so the task may be great. Please help me and the next group records chair by giving as many details up front as you can.

GSRS, CONTACT PEOPLE, AND DCMS ONLY CAN MAKE CHANGES TO GROUPS. Please use the form and fill it out completely. The form is posted at <https://hibbingaread9.com> on the FORMS page. Also, on the FORMS page at <https://grandrapidsareamnaa.com> and <https://eastrangedist8.com>. It can be downloaded and printed from there.
If is it a new group registering, we need the date of the first meeting and how many attend to even be able to register the group. The computer will accept just one number (not a range-maybe pick an average). I will be sending you the form and the guidelines to use before trying to register a new group.
Your DCM also has read-access to Fellowship Connection. Please ask your DCM to look for the information posted before reaching out to group records. I need help for the next few months and our new group records chair coming in for the next rotation will need help with these things.

If you send a form to Fellowship Connection, they will send it to me to process as per our area agreement with them. Please send your forms to me and not to them. It just makes it more complicated and time-consuming. My email is: grouprecords@area35.org.

GSR/Contact People: +6 and -7 people
Meeting Guide: +6 and -6; 1 group time change; 1 group folded; 1 address change
District Changes: 1 new treatment chair and 1 Alt DCM in district 21
New Groups: Far West Group in Duluth is processed. Ely will be registering a group 10/26; and Longville will have an active group 10/18
Group Changes: 1 time change for a group in Bemidji; 1group in St. Cloud folded
Northern Light: +5 and -11 and 2 address changes; 5 returned as undeliverable; up to \$.93/copy
Help: Is this group in Wadena meeting tonight?
Thanks for helping me and the next groups records chair!
Phyllis K

District 2 – Greg
Verbal Report Given

District 11 – Kathy M.
Verbal Report Given

Literature – Mike U.
Verbal Report Given

District 8 – John J.:
District 8 meets monthly; our district meetings occur the 1st full week of the month and rotate Monday thru Friday with different groups volunteering to host. We held our elections for the next rotation at our September District meeting, and I am happy to report that most of the chair positions were filled, and we have a slate of new officers. We do need to fill most of our alternate positions. Our new district website is up and running, the old website will direct you to the new site, at least while the old one is up. We are holding a Literature & Grapevine workshop on October 18th. I was able to attend the WCRAAF in September. It is always good to see the folks from other Areas, as well as our Trustee and GSO staff and to get updates on the happenings there. As always, thanks to District 8 for allowing me to serve.
In Service,
John J

District 15 – Fred T.
My name is Fred Alcoholic, DCM District 15. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm at the Albany Senior Center.

Ongoing recruitment of District officers for the next rotation is slow going. I attended the workshops on “Going Beyond the Coffee Pot-Increasing Participation in General Service” and also “Circles of Love and Service” which were held at the West Central Regional Forum to gain insights on how to make service more attractive. I have already implemented some of those suggestions, which include input of service when I do shares at meetings.

First Saturday potlucks are still being well attended at Cold Spring bringing in people from the surrounding areas. As colder weather moves in on November 1, there will be a Chili Cook Off.

The “Fellowship Group” of Cold Spring has contributed funds for two subscriptions for the Carry the Message program.

Wednesday night meeting in Cold Spring will be having an open speaker meeting/potluck on October 29. Paul H. from Hutchinson will be sharing his experience, strength, and hope.
In Service, Fred T.

Public Information – Randy A

Hello Area, 35. Great to see everyone here today! It's been a busy month so far. I attended the Aurora Big Book 49th Annual Open Meeting, The Duluth Round-Up, and the Grand Rapids Primary Purpose Group 2nd Anniversary open meeting. I also Spoke at the Donovan Frank Treatment Center in Virginia Mn. Distributed meeting schedules, PI information cards to local police stations, hospitals and mining companies, that included a few pamphlets on sponsorship and the AA group. I participated in the WCRAAF through the audio online presentations and workshops as I was unable to attend due to a family emergency. But I did take lots of notes, (7 pages) The presentations, discussions and question/answer were excellent and had some very inspirational comments and feedback from the floor. The Saturday night speaker Class A Trustee Dawn Klug was very touching and inspirational. The only workshop available online was “Trusting the Group Conscience” but it was interesting and had good participation and sharing. At the completion of the forum, I was sent a “Regional Forum Questionnaire” to take a survey and suggest changes or comments on the topics. It's hard to believe that we only have less than 3 months in our current rotation in our service positions, some may move on, and others may choose to retire. Service work can be very busy as it takes time and sacrifice to be of service, but the rewards are instrumental and uplifting. In Closing; I want to thank the members of the Area PI and CPC committee who sat in on our committee meetings and made excellent reports, comments and or problems they may have encountered in PI work. My apologies if I made anyone left out in my reports as all the reports were pertinent and had important information even if they were redundant. We had our committee meeting this morning with 10 in attendance, we had 4 topics for discussion: 1) State fair booth review. 2) PI/CPC Luncheons 3,) presentations at Schools, colleges, employers, district meetings, etc. 3.) connecting with professionals 4.) district reports -District 9 hosted a PI Luncheon on October 16th in Hibbing which was a success. District 8 is hosting a workshop on October 18th in Cook, district 13 has an active phone line being utilized, their beginners meeting is fully staffed, they have project connect coming up this month, district 6 is planning a PI Luncheon on October 24th, district 18 is doing a presentation at Camp Ripley south of Brainerd. Thanks for all the committee members who participate in the committee, your presence and discussions are essential to PI/CPC work.
In service, Randy A.

DISTRICT 1 - Loren G.
Verbal Report Given

TREATMENT – Kyle - Chad O.
Kyle Not Present- Chad filled in

Greetings, The treatment committee met at the fall assembly. There were 7 people in attendance, with a few new faces, that’s awesome! The biggest issue we are seeing in multiple districts right now is the inability to bring meetings or speakers from AA into the facility. I know several facilities have changed their policy on our ability to get inside the facility. One example being, we were asked to leave a facility we had been speaking at for years based on something a volunteer had said at a meeting. Several months later we were told that we could come back if a facility member was there to monitor the meeting and we (our district) would pay for a background check on AA volunteers going into the facility. We said that we would pay for volunteer background checks and a facility member did agree to sit in on the meetings with us. We were again told no by facility staff. We also learned that nothing inappropriate had been said by an AA volunteer at the facility. So, it seems this is just a policy change and they do not want us speaking at the facility. I know staff and policies change so our district is going to be patient and circle back with them after the first of the year. We have a lot of volunteers that went to treatment and want to give back in some way to treatment facilities as this was the beginning of their sobriety. A couple members did share that they are still able to bring meetings into their treatment facilities in their respective districts, which is great. This is a we program, so we decided that a treatment committee member was going to call GSO. We prepared several questions to ask them about the problem we are having getting into treatment facilities. We believe we can’t be the only ones having difficulties getting into treatment facilities. Hopefully GSO will have some answers or advice that will help get us back on track. In service, Chad O.

District 5 – Chad O.
Hello all, District 5 meets the 3rd Monday of each month, we meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton at 7pm. Our district continues to go into the Mille Lacs county jail every Tuesday night and the Sherburne County Jail on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We bring both men’s and women’s meetings into the Sherburne county jail. Our corrections chair says we are really close to bringing a women's meeting into the Mille Lacs county jail also. We received information that nobody from our team of volunteers said anything offensive to be asked to leave the treatment center we were speaking at. We learned that it was a straight up policy change on the treatment center’s part. There was even a staff member at the treatment facility that agreed to be part of our volunteer squad and sit in on the meeting and we were still told no. I know personnel and policies change so we will focus on other facilities for now and circle back to them after the first of the year. District 5 now has 2 new meeting cards. One is a business card with a QR code that brings you to our new district 5 website and our meeting list, and the other is the old style trifold card that has each meeting listed for the particular night of the week with meeting locations on the back. We also added the QR code to this card. When we polled our groups there was still a desire to keep

(Continued from page 7)
this card around so we did. District 5 meeting members have been promoting district 5 service opportunities to their groups and we have strong interest in several positions for the upcoming rotation in January. I'm happy to see that there are people stepping up for this wonderful service opportunity in District 5. My term as DCM is quickly coming to an end and I'm so grateful that I have had this opportunity. Everyone at District 5, past and present has supported me in this role and it is humbling to me. God truly is doing for me what I couldn't do for myself.
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District 5 DCM.
Chad

District 14 - No DCM

CPC – Mary S.
I am honored to represent Area 35 as your CPC Area Committee Chair. Randy covered earlier what was discussed in our PI/CPC meeting, and I don't have much to add. But I did learn about the October 16th Camp Ripley event being planned from 8:00 - Noon.

There have been Public Information luncheons throughout Area 35 and I applaud their energy, spreading the AA Word to the community professionals.

District 16 nominated and voted me in for the DCM position beginning 2026, I look forward to serving District 16 in that capacity.

On a personal note, my 6th grandchild was born in July, and she is amazing! I will continue to stay involved in Alcoholic's Anonymous so it is available for future generations.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as CPC Chair this rotation.
Mary S.

District 21 – ALT DCM- Trevor G.
Verbal Report Given

District 6 – Julie N.
Well hello area 35,
what a beautiful weekend to gather here in Ely, Minnesota for the fall assembly. Back at district 6 we meet at Spring Lake Lutheran Church of north branch every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM please join us if you are in the area. We have been busy in CPC Pi with our luncheon, we printed out 100 tickets. We are reaching out to the groups to help buy tickets for the professionals of their choice. Our event will be held October 24th we are excited. Want to thank district to allow the alternate DCM and myself to attend the West central forum thank you Diane for asking a few of us in area 35 to join you and Scott from the general service board. I went to breakout workshop put together by Pat. The topic was, have we lost our way or are they guiding us. I can't believe it's my last fall assembly as DCM for district 6 their reward to be able to serve with so many wonderful people the past 3 1/2 years. I want to thank everybody who has came before me to guide us to where we are today.

In the spirit of rotation and service Julie N

District 9 – Tom T.
Hi, my name is Tom, and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 9 this rotation and my home group is the Hibbing Monday Downtown Group. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 P.M. and we are a hybrid group. If you would like to join us, see myself or Diane after the meeting for the information.

Our CPC/PI Committee has been very busy putting together a PI Luncheon for our District. Thank you to members of the District 8 committee for their input in the planning stages of our PI Luncheon. We believe we were very successful. It was September 26th, just last week. We planned for about 30 to attend and ended up with 38 plus the committee. It was put on by AA with the assistance of Alanon. It's been quite a while since our District did something like this and the professionals were very receptive to our presentations and literature.

Thanks to Phyllis, and some who worked with her, our new website is operating very well and consistently being looked at by a wide variety of people. Phyllis spent numerous hours doing this and has also set up similar websites for some other districts. She also had a new QR Code made and we were able to relabel all of our literature and pamphlets and business cards, saving us the cost of replacing everything.

I've been attending as many meetings as I reasonably can and finding each group, whether just a few or over 20, is doing exceptional. They are consistently staying within the AA guidelines and willing to help the newcomers as well as us old timers. It's always heartwarming to find newcomers grasp the suggested spiritual program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We are looking forward to having the Winter Workshop in Hibbing this winter and hope many will participate.

I'm also looking forward to our upcoming rotation. The candidates that are on our ballots today are all exceptional, making voting a tough decision. It's rewarding to be of service in AA, I thank all of you for my sobriety.
Tom T. – DCM – District 9

Archives – Cathy R.
As I begin to wind down my term as chair I realize that being involved with Archives is interesting and challenging both at the same time. It is interesting because there is so much information available to all of us. Challenging because so many of us think this is a waste of money and time. For me, I have found being involved with the Archivist and talking about Archives with anyone who is willing to chat with me is a different type of service work. I have learned a great deal about AA as a whole. It was truly my pleasure to put together a slide show about what is housed at the Archives location. My sincerest hope is that each district will download this presentation to their individual websites.
I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to be of service these past 2 years.
In Service,
Cathy R.

Archivist – Marc N.
Actions were mostly preservation work with a couple of research requests. The research requests came up short of desired results because the subject matter researched was not part of our archives. As an archivist it is encouraging to engage with people doing research, but it is discouraging to find that the archived records or memorabilia to support the research are not there. Many people have helped to make our archives what they are. Just during my term as archivist (four years) more than 25 people contributed to the archiving efforts; moving and unpacking the items, donations of Grapevine magazines, sorting magazines and poster boards, etc. Yet there is little that has been added to indicate our recent history. We have lots of area meeting records, some district meeting reports, but not much in so far as event history or individual histories. Years ago we had audio recordings and documented stories of AA members, some were long timers, some were people carrying our message to schools, civic groups, or local radio shows.

Attempts to make archived items available for viewing or listening have turned out to be difficult. Sharing files from One Drive only works within the Area 35.org assigned emails. To send a file to someone outside of the group requires download and attach to an email via google drive. Defining the best method remains work in progress.

After almost two years of the open house at archives repository the third Sunday of every month, it will be discontinued. I was absent on a few occasions, no-one complained, and no-one stopped by when I was there. There have been several visitors on ACM days and a few by appointment. Visiting by appointment remains as a method to view books, etc.

Thanks for this opportunity to serve,
Archivist, Marc

District 4 – Jay B.
Verbal Report Given

District 18 – Steve T.
We meet the first Tuesday of the month at Long Prairie Alano Club. Currently we have members going into jails in Morrison and Todd County Jails. The packet of books that have been given out to Todd County inmates has been well received.

We will be able to attend the veteran's information day at Camp Ripley. District 7 is graciously allowing us to use their banner and tablecloth for this event. We will be handing out AA information and meeting guides for both District 7 & 18.

The Dower Lake campout was well attended with about 70 people showing up. Diane shared information on the spring delegate conference and that was followed with a pot luck meal. Following the meal there was an Alanon and AA speaker.

Yours in Service, Steve T.
P.S. You probably have noticed I'm not Steve but my name is Cynthia and will be rotating in as the new DCM for 18. And thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Grapevine -Terry A.
Verbal Report Given

District 3 – Melvin S.

District 3 meets on the third Sunday of the month at noon in Perham. I attended the West Central Regional Forum with Paul C, our alternate DCM. This was a great experience for us meeting members of the GSO.

District 3 still is covering the 4-county jail meetings Becker, Ottertail, Wadena and Clay (with the help from Dist.5)

District 3 has been having great turnouts for our monthly Round Robins. The last two have had 70 and 80 people attend. We even had an attendance of over 100 earlier this summer. The district was hoping that the Round Robins would stimulate participation in the district meetings, but we struggle to get GSRs to attend. I still do visit groups with hopes of bringing in new members. Part of the problem is that half of the meetings in the district have

small numbers (6 to 8) if you get one GSR or contact no one wants to replace them.

Groups in the northern part of district 3 are strong, sending GSRs and contributions, so we’re thankful for that. These groups are still seeing good attendance numbers even with snowbirds packing up to leave. Dist.3 will be having elections on October 19, with half of the committees rotating. In Service, Melvin

District 12 – Rich G.
Addie gave Verbal Report

District 16 – Dave C.
Not Present – No Report

Corrections – Mark R.
I’m so grateful and Blessed for all our Northern Minnesota A.A. members who volunteer in Area 35 Districts, and Groups! Men and Women who are presently taking regular meetings into County Jails, Detention Centers, and Minnesota Correctional Facilities. Many hours are spent organizing meetings, working with jails and prisons to get volunteers approved, as well as managing schedules and rosters. God has Blessed Alcoholics Anonymous with you all!

I continue to search and attract A.A. members in Area 35 who would be willing to volunteer to be Temporary Contacts for men and women currently incarcerated in our Minnesota Correctional Facilities who will soon be released back into our communities. As a CTCP OUTSIDE volunteer, you will correspond with A.A. Members still incarcerated, upon release, bring them to A.A. meetings, and help introduce them to the A.A. Fellowship in the area they are going to be released. I continue to be available to help our Area 35 District Corrections Chairs, DCMs, and Individual members with their respective Corrections opportunities, as well as any questions or concerns.

I have been busy finding Temporary Contacts for the many CTCP requests we have received from the DOC Transitions Fairs to date as well as a few from Minneapolis Intergroup and GSO. The remaining Transitions Fairs are MCF-Willow River on October 14, 2025 (Ricco R (D9) is attending) and MCF-Shakopee (women’s) on November 11, 2025 (Jessica S (D7) is attending). For those unaware, MCF-Stillwater prison is closing its doors in 2027. Incarcerated men have already started to move out and be dispersed to other Correctional facilities including County jails were it makes sense! Questions about MCF-Stillwater, please attend the SWCC Corrections Workshop as our keynote speaker is DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell, ask him questions, he should have some good answers! More sad news from MCF-Stillwater, due to the closing, they cancelled the Transition Fair scheduled for November 19, 2025. We were excited as Jeff O (D6) Corrections Chair had volunteered and this would have been his first time attending a DOC Transition fair. Next year Jeff!

Corrections Action Chair Committee Meeting Report (There were 11 in attendance)

JEFF O. (District 6 Corrections Chair), For the months of February & September Jeff takes A.A. meetings into Isanti County jail every Thursday. Jeff is also taking meetings into MCF-Rush City prison every other Wednesday (opposite of Gary & Mike). If Wednesdays and Thursday were not enough, Jeff is helping us take A.A. meetings into Kanabec County jail on Tuesdays too! Wonder what Jeff is doing on Mondays and Fridays through Sundays ! GARY H. (District 11 Corrections Chair), Gary takes meetings into MCF-Rush City and Pine County jail. Every other Wednesday Gary and Mike U. take a meeting into MCF-Rush City prison where they average 40-50 men in attendance. Every Tuesday, Gary takes a meeting into Pine County jail. He also facilitates a meeting for the women incarcerated there. We need female volunteers in the area to Step Up to help run the women’s A.A. meetings at Pine County jail. There are volunteers Carrying the Message of A.A. at Sandstone Federal prison, Moose Lake, and Willow River, with 2 new volunteers starting at MCF-Willow River! RICCO R. (District 9 Corrections Chair), There are no corrections facilities in District 9. On the 3rd Wednesday each month, Ricco volunteers to bring meetings to MCF-TOGO. Ricco attended the MCF-Moose Lake Transition Fair Sept 9, 2025 and had another wonderful experience Carrying the Message of A.A. at the Transition Fair and signing men up for our Corrections Temporary Contact Program (CTCP). Ricco and his wife Diane will be volunteering at the upcoming SWCC Corrections Workshop registering attendees at the door! TONY S. (District 8 Corrections Chair), in the past few months, as well all experience, life has placed challenges in front of Tony. With work, car, and other life issues, Tony had to step back from his work in attracting Corrections Volunteers and his work partnering with District 12 and helping facilitate A.A. meetings at NERCC in Duluth. Knowing his rotation is up in December, Tony started working with Dave. Dave was nominated and voted in for the next rotation as Corrections Chair with District 8! J.J. (District 13 Alt-Corrections Chair), JJ was nominated and voted in as the new Corrections Chair for the next rotation at District 13! JJ has been taking A.A. meetings into Benton & Stearns County jails. He has also started helping us on Thursdays at MCF-St Cloud prison with A.A. meetings. PAUL C. (District 3 Alt-DCM), Paul takes A.A. meetings into Wadena County jail. He approached the Program Coordinator to see about starting a

2nd meeting. It was happily welcomed and now Paul and other volunteers are Carrying the Message into Wadena County jail on Mondays & Thursdays with 2 meetings each day! MELVIN S. (District 3 DCM & Corrections Actions Chair), District 3 continues to bring A.A. meetings to Clay, Wadena, Ottertail, and Becker County jails. Clay County jail is full and volunteers from Fargo/Moorhead A.A. groups bring meetings in there. Becker Couty jail has been slow with attendance and Ottertail County jail is still a “work in progress”. As Paul mentioned above, Wadena County jail is going well. ADAM C. (District 16 Corrections Chair), Adam is taking an A.A. meeting into Itaska County jail on Thursdays at 7:00pm. There are 2 pods so there are 2 meetings each Thursday. Adam had a few volunteers lined up but they did not sustain. Adam is running the meetings solo, please, A.A. members in District 16 step up and give Adam some help. DAVE (District 8 Corrections Chair-Elect), Dave was recently nominated and voted in as District 8 Corrections Chair for the next rotation. Dave has been taking A.A. meetings into MCF-TOGO. A big welcome to you Dave, thank you for stepping up! JOHN D. (District 13 Corrections Chair), John has been taking A.A. meetings into Stearns County and Benton County jails on Mondays and Tuesdays. John volunteered for us to attend the MCF-Red Wing Transition Fair back in July. John said it was an awesome experience and wants to do many more in the future! Mostly young men attended the fair and of those, the majority were addicts and not alcoholics. MARK R. (Area 35 Corrections Chair), I have been facilitating A.A. meetings at MCF-St Cloud prison on Thursday nights. Currently, I have 10 volunteers helping out. We average 22-25 men. I also take a meeting into the Mille Lacs County jail on the 2nd Tuesday each month, last month, there were 14 men in attendance.

Statewide Corrections Committee Update

For the 2025 SWCC Corrections Workshop, “The Hay Is In The Barn”! We are all set for the workshop. The only thing left to do is stuff the folders with the hand-outs for this year’s workshop. We have 100 folders to pack full of the valuable Corrections Information (and a goodie). I’m hosting a folder stuffing gathering at my house Saturday, October 11, 2025 – of course offering to cook Prime Rib, Country Style green beans, and Cheezy potatoes helped attract all the volunteers I needed! These “awesome” volunteers include – Ricco R & Diane R (D9), Chuck R(D18), Paul C & his wife (D3), Patrick W & his wife (A36), David A (A36), and Carter L (D5)!

Blessings, yours in Grateful Service,
Mark R

District 13 – Peggy M.
District 13 conducted elections in September. We are very pleased to introduce; Chad will be DCM in the new rotation, Michele Alt. DCM, Robin Secretary, Nick CPC-this position has not been filled for several years-Grayson PI, Ries Treatment, Nick H Literature. We have John D nominated for treasurer and JJ for Corrections. Most of these people are in attendance for the Fall Assembly. We will resume voting at our October meeting. We voted to support Denise R. for Delegate.

Five people claiming GSRs positions from varies District 13 groups attended our election meeting last month. This created some discomfort due to the surprise since most had not attended District meetings for years if ever. We are planning on adding voting guidelines to our District Actions Booklet when we update it for the new rotation.

Our secretary worked to secure District 13 presence at Project Connect in October. Project Connect provides an opportunity for individuals struggling with homelessness to access services and information offered by government, nonprofits and other agencies. We will have an AA information table and distribute meeting schedules and flyers. The PI committee worked on a new website for District 13. We decided to continue with the old website when it reactivated. We printed new meeting schedules with a barcode for the website and started distribution. Scott J. from Aurora as the speaker for our November workshop in St. Cloud.

Several District members attended the WCRAA forum in Nebraska this September in person. All were impressed and glad to have attended.

We continue GSR work on the committees before the District meeting. We take meetings into correctional facilities, Detox, and treatments centers. Continue to meet with District Chairs, Officers, and Area committee members during the month to keep information flowing from GSRs to District and Area.

Thank you all for your work! Grateful, Peggy M. DCM D3

(Continued from page 9)

7:30 PM Assembly Reconvened -
With Business finished as well as all reports given- evening was completed with Past Delegate Jim K. sharing his story with ice cream social

SUNDAY 9:00AM ASSEMBLY RESUMES

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT

How to get more people involved in service?
We have to make service look attractive –We get to spend time with great sober people in a great place – We need to share more information, not just at business meetings. - We need to share the benefits we receive from service work, how we have grown in sobriety – We need to invite people to join us and assure them that they won’t be abandoned. Have them ride with you. Share what you get out of service. On the way home, answer their questions- Sponsorship is key- Remind people you sponsor to talk to their sponsors about service-
When you visit a new meeting, share that you are a GSR and answer any questions- Tell people the truth. There is an attractiveness in the people who are active in service -
Some groups have many old-timers who no longer are involved in service. They need to be “stirred up” ask them “who was here when you got here? Who made you feel welcome?” As “Who is willing to be a sponsor?”
In AA, when you are asked, you show up
Area of growth- you learn to be the minority opinion. You don’t have to be liked- (This will serve you well in every part of your life)
What is service? “It’s like politics but they don’t investigate your past.”
Use the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship as a meeting topic
Primary Roll of a GSR – Share information between Group, District and Area
Some information comes from General Service Conference. Delegate shares with DCM’s DCM’s share with GSR’s background information available on AA.org- Some information is just Area-based as there won’t be any background information.
Before Spring Assembly the group conscience needs to be formed- Where to share- at group business meetings, as an announcement during a regular meeting- ask people to stay after the regular meeting
The DCM provides the information- It's up to the GSR to share with the group. The group tells the GSR how to vote. However, as a GSR you have the “right of decision” You will need to explain to your group why you voted differently than they requested.
If a Group wants to submit a Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) they must fill out a form.

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT

Verbal Report Given

ELECTIONS Proctored by PAST DELEGATES

DELEGATE ELECTION –Past Delegate Jake J. Chairred
Pat M., Vicki R., Randy A., Denise R., Mark R. Delegate

Nominees-
1st Ballot - 34 11 12 16 16 Total voting members - 89 60 needed 2/3rd 2nd Ballot 45 8 8
16 13 Total voting members – 90 60 needed 2/3rd nominees with less than 20% drop- Vicki, Randy and Mark drop
3rd Ballot 61 29 Total voting members – 90 60 needed 2/3rd
Pat M. Elected Area 35 Panel 76 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE ELECTION – Past Delegate Kelly D. Chairred
Vicki R., Denise R., Randy A., Mark R., Alternate Delegate Nominees-
1st Ballot 24 27 15 23 Total voting members- 89 60 needed 2/3rd
2nd Ballot 29 29 11 20 Total voting members- 89 60 needed 2/3rd
Nominees with less than 20% drop – Randy drop
3rd Ballot 34 34 20 Total voting members- 89 60 needed 2/3rd
- Mark drop
4th Ballot 41 48 Total voting members - 89 60 needed 2/3rd
No motion was made for a 5th Ballot-
Goes to the Hat- Vicki R. pulled from the hat-
Vicki R. Elected as Panel 76 Alternate Delegate

AREA CHAIR PERSON ELECTION – Past Delegate Scott A. Chairred
Mary nominated Randy A. Michelle nominated Denise R.
Sue nominated Mike U. Tom nominated Mark R.
Randy A. Denise R. Mike U. Mark R. Area Chair Nominees-
1st Ballot 14 39 14 20 Total voting members – 88 58 needed
2nd Ballot 9 56 7 15 Total voting members – 88 58 needed
Randy and Mike drop
3rd Ballot 66 18 Total voting members – 88 58 needed
Denise R. Elected as Area Chair

SECRETARY ELECTION – Past Delegate Jerry S. Chairred
Denise nominated Peggy M. Sammy nominated Jennifer T. Adam nominated Mark R.
1st Ballot 33 32
18
2nd Ballot 42 33
6
3rd Ballot 53 28
dropped
4th Ballot 64 16
Peggy M. Elected as Area Secretary

TREASURER ELECTION – Past Delegate Charlie C. Chairred
Sammy nominated Jennifer T. Adam nominated Mark R.
1st Ballot 45 38
2nd Ballot 55 28
3rd Ballot 69 14
Jennifer T. Elected as Area Treasurer

Cathy R. motioned to have incoming Chair choose slate of Committee Chairs for approval at the December ACM. Leroy seconded, motion carries

-Ask-it-basket
Past Delegates Answered Questions in between voting rounds -

Question- Why does the Area have that much money in their account?
Shouldn’t we be doing more workshops to use the money? Answer – It seems like a lot but each Assembly costs \$4000-\$6000. If you want to do more workshops, you have a whole lot of people available to help which you can do anytime
Question - I go to AA meetings and hear people say Bill and Bob were addicts because they talked about using sedatives in their stories. When did Bill and Bob ever say they were addicts? Answer- Neither one said they were addicts; they did take sedatives, but that doesn’t make them an addict.
Question- What’s your best memory when you served? Answer – As Delegate when we won the Floor Action restoring Dr. Bob’s nightmare back to it’s original form at the General Service Conference.
Question - What are your thoughts on having a service sponsor? Answer - A great idea
Question- How does the action booklet help with guidelines? Answer – Guidelines list responsibilities and duties for each servant for what they should be doing in their positions. I hope each of you reads them before you get into your positions. It is also the history of Area 35 that shows all the past actions we have taken.
Question What does Tradition 12 mean? - Answer- Our elections today are an example of Tradition 12, this is not a contest of a beauty pageant. It is about picking out a person that you think is going to serve you well and has experience. Sacrifice and humility ask me to give up my own ideas and do what is best for AA. To be humble enough to be receptive to listen to other people.
Question - What can we do as a member of AA to get more people involved in service. Answer – GSR sharing session talked about this- we need to make it fun too so people will want to participate.
Question - Why are so many groups not sending funds to the Area? Answer – I think there is a lot of misinformation and disconnection. We need to keep talking about this and sharing with our groups about the responsibility of supporting AA. Groups aren’t here getting the correct information.
Question - Why don’t we send Area officers to things like the West Central Regional Conference? Answer - We do when we have the money.
Question – Why do we have the 2 and 4 minute buzzer if it isn’t respected? Answer- It’s a matter of where you're at, at the Conference they cut you off after 2 minutes. It depends on how important the information is and are you prepared. I keep in mind -"Does it have to be said, does it have to be said by me and does it have to be said by me now?"
Question – Is it breaking Tradition to accept money from Round Ups? Answer-Anytime it’s an outside entity we have to be careful – My understanding is if you hold a Round Up you are basically holding an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Round Ups charge a fee-If you are taking money in from non alcoholic people, you can not contribute those monies. However, for instance the St. Cloud Roundup has a designation when you register if you are an AA member, Alanon member or other- If you designate just money taken from the AA members that attended, you could contribute that amount.
Question - What do you think is the biggest challenge for Area 35? Answer - Singleness of purpose is one of our challenges.
Question – As a GSR there are many items discussed and voted on, how do I filter out and decide what to bring to my group. Answer - There are a lot of decisions to be made and you have the right of decision that was given to you by your group. It’s important to have meetings and listen to your group. Take into account everybody and do what is best for AA as a whole.
Question – How important are the Concept 4 warranties? Answer -They are so important that they can’t be changed without approval from 3/4th of the Groups. Same as the Traditions-
Question –.What happens to past Trustees? Answer - Like any other position, we rotate out of the position. Probably wouldn’t be appropriate to have a Trustee come back to serve in General Service.

Thank you to Diane for serving as our Delegate the last 2 years.

Assembly closed 12:30pm with the Lord’s Prayer

Disclaimer: This material is provided for informational and humorous purposes only and does not reflect recommended practices in the AA program, which encourages open and honest communication with a sponsor. The examples provided below are comedic scenarios based on common experiences in AA culture and should not be taken as advice.

"Advanced" techniques for sponsor and inventory avoidance:

- **The "Pocket-Dial" Misdirection:** Call your sponsor, but then pretend to have pocket-dialed them. To make it more believable, hold the phone up to your ear and pretend to be having a separate, mundane conversation. Example: Talk to your dog, "Who's a good boy? Not you, buddy, not today."
- **The "Unexpected Tech Issues":** Develop a sudden, recurring pattern of "technical difficulties" whenever your sponsor calls. Examples include a "dying battery," a "dropped call," or a mysterious "bad signal" that only affects their incoming calls.
- **The "Confusing Availability":** Become a master of indirect scheduling. Respond to a request for a check-in with a vague, non-committal answer like, "Let me check my AA schedule. Things are really picking up." This is effective because, technically, you never said "no."
- **The "In-Person Evasion":** At meetings, perfect the art of leaving right after the closing prayer. This requires a precise, almost athletic timing to be the first one out the door before your sponsor can get a word in. This is also known as "pulling a ninja."
- **The "Emergency Service":** Always have a story ready about an urgent "service commitment" that prevents you from meeting. The key is to make the task sound both important and time-sensitive. Examples include reorganizing the literature rack or an emergency coffee restock.
- **The "Enthusiast":** Answer all questions with "ODAT!" (One Day At a Time) or "Doing the work!"
- **The "Late-Night Texter":** Text at 2:00 a.m. claiming to be a night owl and busy working on "inventory."
- **The "Classic excuse":** Never answer sponsor return calls and respond, "I was on the other line."
- **The "Sponsor Hop":** Switch sponsors right before having to do the Fourth Step (the personal inventory). Start fresh with a new, unsuspecting sponsor.
- **The "Blue light Special":** Call them after all major decisions in your life and tell them how well you've managed by yourself.
- **The "Happy Go Lucky":** Avoid calling them when you feel angry because you know they will help you look for your part in it.
- **The "Selective Story":** Tell them only what they need to hear, omitting the details that you consider unimportant and slanting the story in your favor.
- **The "Traveler":** Avoid attending meetings where they might be, and tell them that you still go to a lot of meetings--they just happen to be on the other side of town.
- **The "Ball in Their Court":** Call them in the middle of the day (knowing they have a daytime job) and leave a message requesting a call back, giving yourself some time to "do it your way"
- **The "Promoter":** Give them credit for all of your new decisions and behaviors, telling everyone that "my sponsor recommends," whether they actually did so or not.
- **The "Poller":** If you don't like the suggestions your sponsor makes, keep checking with other AA members until you find one who gives you the answer you want.
- **The "Deflector":** Remember the character defects that your sponsor has shared over time and throw them up to them when they are helping you discover your own defects.

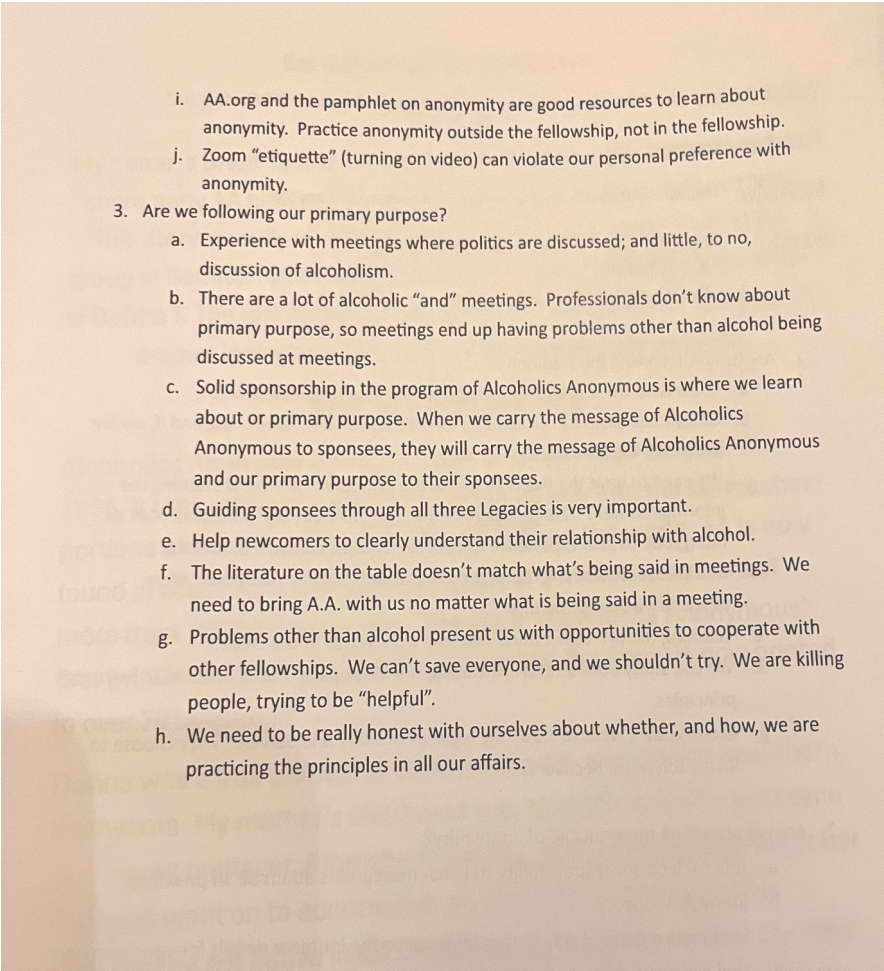
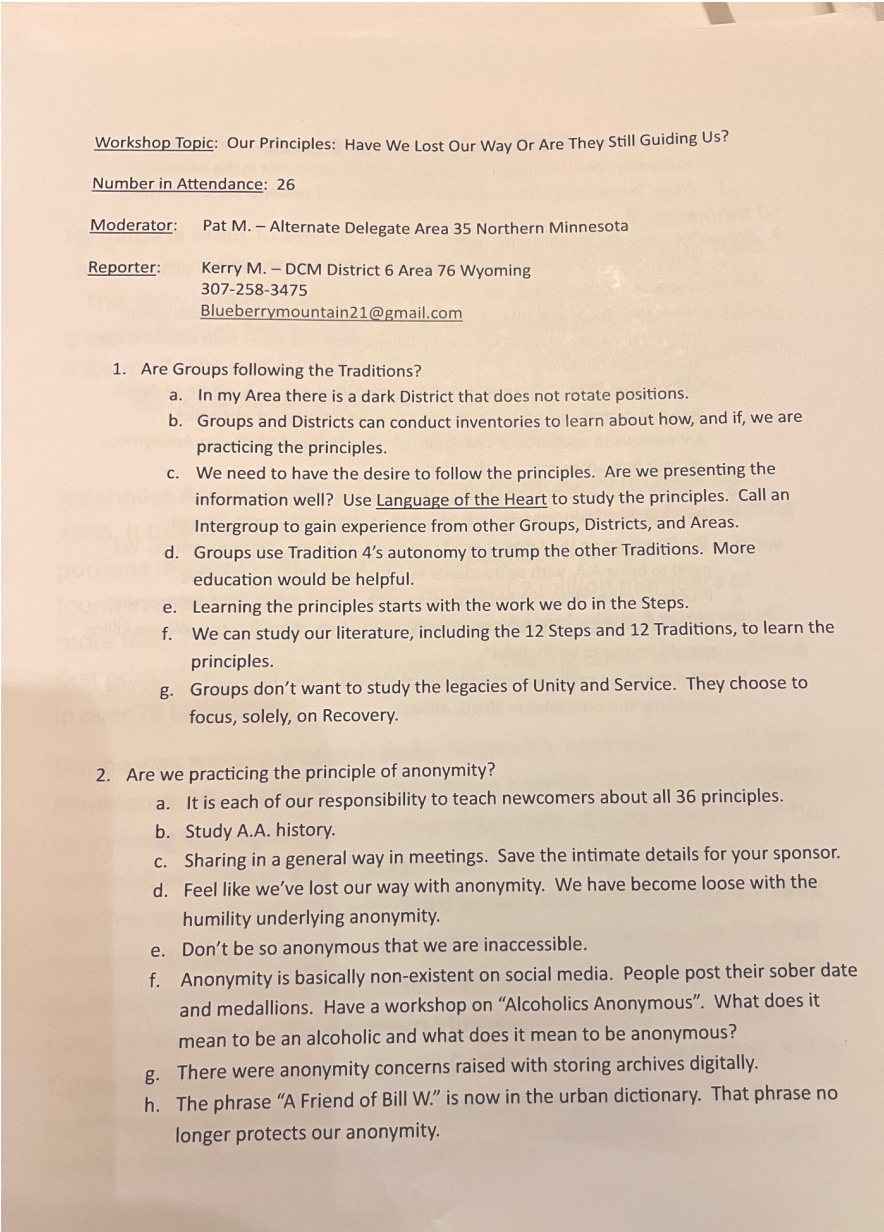
ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

"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." This idea did not start with the adoption of the traditions, but like the others was an outcome of the trial and error of the first decade plus of our fellowship. The idea of the group conscience has been around since alcoholic number 2 was found after a 6-month search. You could say Lois represented the group conscience, even before this, when reminding Bill, he was still sober as he lamented the continuous failures. This tradition was formed from incidents such as Bill being informed by the group that being paid to work with alcoholics may not be the great idea he thought it was. It showed up in the early discussions of how the big book should be put together and more importantly, marketed. The debate between the more conservative members and the "promoters" has been characterized as spirited, to say the least. Our founders give example after example of ideas that the group conscience decided were not appropriate for the budding fellowship. The traditions and then the creation of the conference were efforts to codify the group conscience as AAs leadership, in effect, saving us from our own egos.

This spirit of humility is the primary reason I love service work at the group, district and area levels. It is the reason that sponsees are strongly urged to get involved in service as they start experiencing the promises coming true in their lives. There is no better reminder of the importance of humility than sitting in a room and sharing opinions that you absolutely do not agree with and being ok with it. This is a way for my higher power to remind me that it is not all about me. We can not be of maximum usefulness to God and our fellows if we ignore the group conscience and believe only we know best, not only for ourselves but for AA as a whole.

In the last few years, I have witnessed many apparent challenges to this spirit of humility. This shows up when we constantly try to re-legislate settled items, sometimes passed by a large majority. This is the very definition of the group conscience. More troubling is the emergence of the word "them". In this context it refers to the majority passing these decisions and sets them up as adversaries instead of what they are, members of AA voting through their trusted servants, just as we are. It seems to be that when those votes do not align with our opinions, we are becoming quicker to suggest there is a conspiracy or at least a lack of understanding of what is "right". This becomes counterproductive as we spend significant time trying to "fix" these perceived indiscretions instead of conducting valid business.

What is more concerning is the broader implication of these trends. If God acts through the group conscience in AA and we decide the group conscience can't be trusted to act in our best interests, what are we really saying? Are we then indicating that we know better than God and his agents need to get in line? It seems I spent many wasted years living exactly that way. Utilizing my time letting anyone that would listen know exactly the circumstances and actions others needed to provide so I could be happy and successful. Accepting the group conscience of AA and the principles of this program have provided me the freedom to be happy, regardless of the circumstances of my life at any given moment. This principle is intended to allow our service structure to function effectively and move on to the next right thing when our ultimate authority has spoken. My hope is we are vigilant and recognize the lack of spiritual principles involved in constantly questioning our ultimate authority and what the consequences



My term as archivist (so far)

How it began:

There was a need to find rental space for our Area 35 archives and then move the archive materials to that space. I thought: I can do that. I was not aware of the history of the storage space nor all of the opinions that would be expressed. I did not know how slowly the Area Assembly would move to approve of the location and expenses related. Climate controlled space was located, expenses approved, and the move was accomplished.

What happened:

All of the expressed opinions were found to be of value. Several AA members stepped up to pack the materials and make the move happen and then to unpack into the new space. I got to see how AA members not only talk the talk but also walk the walk. When the Archive Chair and I surveilled the archived materials we had many questions: Why does it seem that so much is not AA relevant?

Why did the collection of Grapevine magazines end in 1996?

Why are there so few Grapevine books?

Why did collection of AA Big Books and other AA books diminish?

Why are there so many old magazines and posterboards?

How can preservation and organization happen?

What its like now:

A few others and I have learned that archived items might not seem relevant to one person but had value to another. One never can know what memorabilia could affect another's sobriety. As for myself, my inner monolog plays old song lyrics and offers strength (Billy Joel - ...hot funk, cool punk, even if its old junk its still rock n roll to me..., Neil Diamond - ... except for the names and a few of the places the story's the same one..., Johny Cash – ...I got it one piece at a time and it didn't cost me a dime... feel free to ask how these affect my sober life.)

Grapevine magazines have been available online (with paid subscription) since 1996. Several members stepped up with donations of GV magazines after a request was made. There are still many missing, after a while another request will be made. Donations of books just diminished. My hope is that when fifth edition Big Book is available there will be donations of third and fourth editions. And I hope more AA and GV books are donated in the future.

Magazines and posterboards lost relevance due to changes in media, so much of media has become "online".

Most of my time has been spent digitizing the old phonograph records and cassette tapes. These were the most vulnerable to age related loss and were digitized to mp3 format. I have had the opportunity to listen to many stories as the digiting process is realtime listening while digitizing. Digitizing these audio recordings has been quite rewarding, the stories from days past are sometimes funny and sometime tearjerking, as a bonus sometimes the same story can be both depending on who listens. The downside of this is that I might not be able to speak my own story.

A minor part of my time has been scanning old documents to digital format (most often pdf).

Of course a really enjoyable part the archivist role is visiting events, area assemblies, districts, roundups, and round robins to display archive memorabilia and share about our archives.

It has an enjoyable four years. I would like to pass this opportunity to someone who wants the experience. I will stick around to sponsor in service or to be part of archives committee.

Archivist 2022 to ?
Marc N

UPCOMING EVENTS

*See area35.org for printable flyers

50th Anniversary
Area 35 Winter Workshop
“Humility In Action”
January 17th-18th, 2026
Red Rock Hotel
1402 East Howard Street Hibbing, MN 5546

Guest Speaker -Jimmy D. Dallas TX

Room Rates: Standard Rooms- \$140/night
Standard Rooms have the following types:

1 Queen bed (occupancy-2)
1 King bed (occupancy -2)

Suites - \$240/night - (Occupancy - 4)

1 King Bed
1 Queen Sleeper Sofa
1 Full Air Mattress

To make **reservations** please call: 218-231-3501
Reserve under: Area 35 Winter Workshop Cut Off Date: **November 1,2025**

Saturday, January
8:00 AM Workshop Registration
9:00 AM Workshop Convenes

Sunday, January
9:00 AM Workshop Continues

Contact information: Pat M 320-241-3909

The Area 35 Service Workshop is designed to be educational and attended by any and all members of Alcoholics Anonymous inside and outside of Area 35. These workshops allow an opportunity to see what services are being provided in Northern Minnesota to better carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Several Districts in Northern Minnesota will be presenting and allowing for sharing on topics pertinent to Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Please come and join us for this wonderful opportunity and weekend of Recovery, Unity and Service!

To strive toward the Area action of making the Service Workshop self-supporting, there will be a registration fee of \$25.00

2026 West Central Regional Service
Conference

Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2026

Hosted by Area 24

HUMILITY IN ACTION

Conference Registration

Pre-Registration before Feb 1st = \$30
After Feb 1st = \$35
Mail in form below with check by 2/15/26 or
Register Online: <https://tinyurl.com/WCRSC2026>



Hotel Information

DoubleTree Downtown Cedar Rapids
350 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Lodging Reservations = \$135 (taxes + fees included)
Parking = \$15/day
<https://tinyurl.com/DTCR-Reservations>



Miscellaneous Info

For more conference information,
visit <https://westcentralregion.org>.

Attend in person or virtually
(Link provided after Registration).

Unlimited **coffee pass** available
for \$30, buy in advance, or pay per
cup at the Conference.

To register by mail, send this portion with your check made payable to West Central
Region. Mail by 2/15/26 to WCRAASC, PO Box 196, Cedar Rapids, IA 52410

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Home Group: _____ Service Position: _____

Do you need Closed Captioning? _____ Spanish? _____ Will you be joining in Person? _____ Virtually? _____

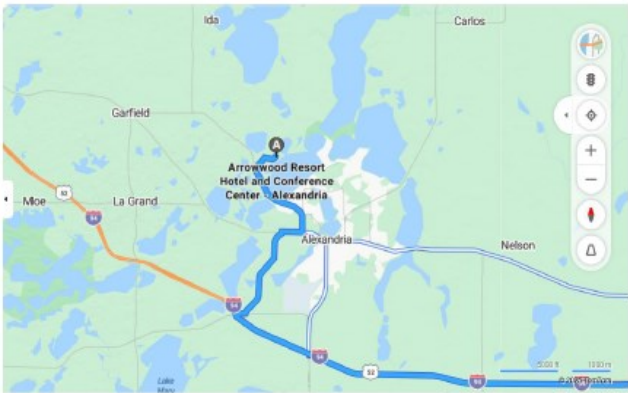
Are you purchasing a coffee pass? Yes _____ No _____

Area 35 Spring Assembly

March 28th – 29th, 2026

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
2100 Arrowwood Lane NW
Alexandria, MN 56308

Room Block under NMAA: \$159.00 plus \$29.21 tax/fees
Cutoff Date February 20th
Phone: 320-762-1124 or
reserve@arrowwoodresort.com



Saturday, March 28th
9:00 AM Assembly Convenes
Sunday, March 29th
9:00 AM Assembly Reconvene

All DCMs, GSRs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Past Delegates are encouraged to attend as well as all others interested in carrying the AA message to the alcoholic still suffering.

9th Annual

DRUNKS ON ICE

FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA

Chili and Cornbread Cook Off

Saturday February 21 2026



Fishing contest on Lake Alexander just East of Lincoln off of Highway 10

Lake access South of Scandia Valley Town Hall on Lakeveiw Drive

Pot Luck Supper

Chili and Cornbread Cook Off With Speaker Meeting

to follow at

Scandia Valley Town Hall

3518 320th St.

Cushing, MN

Social Hour 5:00

Contest Judging 5:30

Dinner 6:00

AA Speaker 7:00

Alanon Speaker 8:00

50/50 Raffle

For Fishing Contest questions call Scott S. 218 - 296 - 3795

Services Make AA Tick

NOVEMBER 1951

A coffeepot simmers on the kitchen stove, a hospital sobers the stricken sufferer, general Headquarters broadcasts the AA message; our service lifelines span the seven seas. All these symbolize AA in action. For action is the magic word of Alcoholics Anonymous. So it is that every AA service daily proves that so-called “material activities” can lead to magnificent spiritual results.

Once upon a time, all AA meetings were held in homes. There weren’t any committees and nobody put up a cent. We hadn’t even a name and founders were unheard of. It was that simple. Yet we did enjoy one “service”—a valuable one, too. Wives baked cakes and brewed strong coffee for us alkies huddling together in the front parlors, still terrified that our new program might not work after all. Those wifely dispensations of good cheer smoothed the way and so lightened our burden of doubt. Thus, from the very beginning, did such gracious service make AA tick.

By and by, meetings got big. Our front parlors couldn’t hold them. We had to move into halls. Gathering places seldom came free so we must needs pay rent. Landlords weren’t a particle interested in the spiritual advantages of group poverty. So someone passed the hat and we dropped money into it voluntarily. We knew we couldn’t meet or function as a group unless we did. We grudgingly learned that rent was necessary to insure sobriety—our spiritual dividend, life itself.

This rent-paying process also produced the first AA “official.” The gent we picked to pass the hat soon became our treasurer. Then phone calls had to be answered, letters written, literature ordered and distributed. The now familiar group secretary put in an appearance. Presently newspaper interviews had to be given, preachers and doctors canvassed, hospital arrangements made, banquets set up. Not by anybody, either. Somebody special had to be picked to do these chores. That “somebody” became the group service chairman.

Of course, this was all quite troublesome, for it marred our sometimes fallible serenity. Squabbling began, dark forecasts of our future were made, and everybody yearned to go back into the parlors. But we didn’t because we couldn’t. We saw we’d have to have service committees or

of good intergroup associations now, voluntarily supported. The new man is getting a better break, the hospitals are pleased. The office of one large association has sponsored and hospitalized 7,000 alcoholics. Prompt interview and phone service is planting the seeds of recovery in other thousands. Local meeting directories are issued, public relations attended to, regional gatherings and dinners set up. We found these last couldn’t be carelessly left to anybody who happened to feel like giving interviews or printing up a bundle of tickets and handbills. In short, intergroups do those area chores that no single individual or group could. They unify regions; they make AA tick.

By 1937, some of us realized that AA needed a standard literature. There would have to be a book. Our word-of-mouth program could be garbled, we might be destroyed by dissension over basic principles, and then our public relations would surely go to pot. We’d fall flat on our obligation to the alcoholic who hadn’t yet heard unless we put our knowledge on paper.

But not everybody agreed; many were badly scared by this proposal. Money in some quantity would be needed; there would be huge disputes over authorship, royalties, profits, prices, and the contents of the book itself. Some truly believed that this seemingly reckless project would blow our little Society to bits. “Let’s avoid trouble, let’s keep things simple,” they said.

Well, we did quarrel violently over the preparation and distribution of that AA Book. In fact, it took five years for the clamor to die down. Should any AA’s dream that the old-timers who put the Book together went about at the time in serene meditation and white robes, then they had best forget it. The inspiration that readers now say they find in the volume must have got there by the grace of God only!

Yet see what has happened. Two hundred thousand AA Books circulated in this year 1951, silently scattering our message worldwide, lighting the path of progress for nearly every incoming member. Without doubt, that Book is the backbone of our unity, it has unbelievably simplified our task. Although its preparation was, in part, a very “material” proceeding, indeed, those early labor pains of its creation did help form our Society and cause it to function. The spiritual result, in sobriety, in happiness, and faith, is altogether beyond any reckoning.

This group of Headquarters services enables AA to function as a whole. They guard our Tradition; they issue our principal literature. They watch over our general public relations and so relate us rightly

fail to function, perhaps fall apart entirely. We’d actually have to organize services in order to keep AA simple.

Hospitals, we early found, disliked drunks. We had been noisy nuisances who ducked paying bills and seldom got well. Yet we quickly saw that many an alcoholic might never get a real chance with AA unless hospitalized. What could we do?

At first, we went in for home “tapering.” But instead of “tapering off,” our new clients usually “tapered on”—and right back into the bars again. Some groups tried to organize “AA hospitals” with MDs on call. This carried matters too far; it put our groups straight into serious business. All these early attempts were busts. We finally learned that each AA group ought to be primarily a spiritual entity, not a business corporation. Then individual AAs and their friends began to set up rest homes and drunk farms as private enterprises. This worked a lot better, but still it wasn’t enough.

At length the medics began to come to our aid. Agreeing with our hard-earned conclusion that doctoring ought to be the affair of doctors, they commenced to help us make hospital connections. Our first attempts to cooperate with hospitals in city areas often led to damaging confusion. Anybody sponsored anybody, and those hospital bills still didn’t get paid. Cocksure AAs told doctors how to run wards. This easygoing lack of head or tail in our hospital relations didn’t keep AA simple at all. Confusion was general until some hospitals bluntly told metropolitan AA groups that responsible members with whom they could consistently deal would have to be named—or else. Nobody, said the hospitals, could possibly cooperate with an anarchy.

It began to dawn upon AA that group responsibility would have to reach much further than the meeting hall doorstep on Tuesday and Thursday nights only. Otherwise the new man approaching our door might miss his chance, might lose his life.

Slowly, most reluctantly, groups in densely populated areas saw they would have to form associations, open small offices, pay a few fulltime secretaries. Terrific outcries went up. To many, this really meant destructive organization, politics, professionalism, big expense, a ruling officialdom, and government. “Believe us,” they argued, “a local central office could cost metropolitan AA members fifty cents a month apiece. That could turn into a damned head tax—what about our AA Tradition of no ‘fees or dues’?”

Of course these exaggerated fears never materialized. We have lots

to the world outside. They mediate our difficulties; they guide our policy. Therefore, these indispensable services are AA’s principal lifelines to the millions who do not know.

It is this world center of service which constitutes the principal bequest in our recently announced Third Legacy. And it is by the terms of this Legacy of Service that the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, a representative body of state and provincial delegates, assumed control and guidance of these principal affairs of AA last April.

That event marked the passing of responsibility for our world services from Dr. Bob, our friends, and myself, to you—the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Support and guard these assets well; the lives and fortunes of millions, the very survival of AA itself, may depend much upon how well you discharge this, your newfound obligation.

Let us make our services respectable; let us rank them in importance with the Twelve Steps of recovery and the Twelve Principles of AA Tradition. Let us forget our fear of over-organization; let us remember that AA as a whole cannot be organized; but that we must so organize and support our special services that AA can function. Let us forget our early fears of professionalism, of the accumulation of wealth, of government. Experience, now fortified by our Traditions, has already assured us none of these evils are likely to descend upon us.

Above all, let’s change our old attitudes about money. Collectively, AA members earn an enormous income because of their sobriety; it’s a one-half a billion-dollar bonanza each year. Can we not wisely, gratefully, and humbly reinvest a tiny fraction of this vast sum in those vital services that make AA tick? I think we can, and I think we shall. For in our own lives we have seen sobriety produce money, and in our AA services we have seen a little money produce incalculable spiritual dividends. Let’s think this all through again.

By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified, and through our Third Legacy—Service—we shall carry the AA message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this, I am happily confident.

Old Timer’s

I think that sometimes the AA Old Timer gets a bad rap. What comes to mind when I hear someone call a member of AA an Old Timer is some old fart that has a comment for everything that is said, and it doesn’t matter if they are right or wrong, everyone nods their head in approval because he or she has been hanging around the rooms of AA the longest. I have a new perspective of the Old Timer and that’s because I know Jerry W. He would probably consider his home group the 6:00 pm Thursday Night Big Book Study that meets downstairs in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MN. He is usually there around 5:30 or earlier, to meet with new and old friends and always ready to talk and joke. He attends his home group regularly and on a weekly basis, even though he recently celebrated 29 years of sobriety. He continues to work with new people who want to live a life without alcohol. He takes each person under his wing and together they attend his home group as well as meet weekly at his home and read the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous paragraph by paragraph. Together they study the directions to sobriety as outlined in the book. He teaches and encourages the new person how to live a sober life. He was recently called by the local hospital to help transport a couple of drunks to a local Detox Center. These two people had no one else to turn to for help. But Jerry and his wife drove them to Virginia and safely deposited them to a Detox that wasn’t full. I’m not saying that there aren’t other members of AA in District 16 who do things like this, but I am saying that the number of AA members drop off as the number of years of sobriety increase. It’s sad, but true. It’s easy to take on higher positions in the program of AA or leave the program altogether because things are going well in one’s life... and forget what it’s like to be the newest person in the room. Those feelings of loneliness, guilt, low self confidence and battered self-esteem don’t go away easily. The financial problems, the family problems and the job problems caused by drinking and spending more money than we earn create many untold problems. What brings the whole AA program home is when one drunk puts their arm around another drunk and says —...Welcome to AA... can I get you a cup of coffee? AA turned 75 years old this past June 2010, and Jerry will turn 75 years old July 2010. So, Happy Birthday Jerry – and many, many more.

-Originally submitted by: Mary S, Grand Rapids, District 16

-resubmitted by Marc N.

Service Experience Strength, and Hope from a Past Delegate

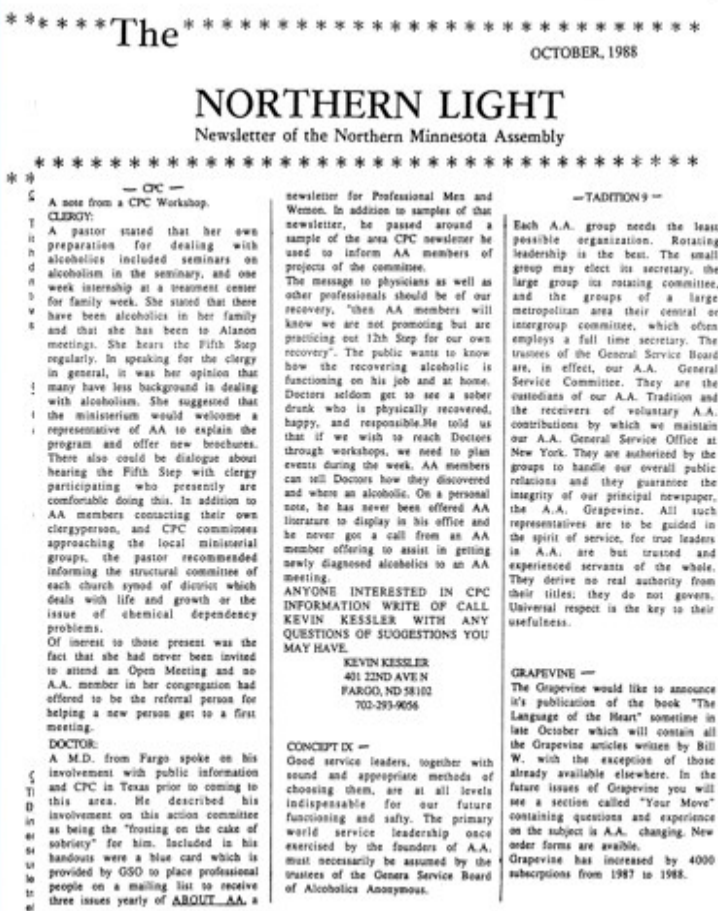
My service experience began when after a few months of sobriety I began to realize what a unique and wonderful organization A.A. is, and that there were little jobs in it that some body had to do, and that I had the time to do them. Coffee maker was the perfect place for me to start. It made me demonstrate commitment, reliability, and consistency, because I was entrusted with the key to the meeting place, and if I didn’t show up there would be no meeting and I would have to face a posse of grumpy alcoholics the following week. I received the benefit of an increased sense of belonging; a feeling of being a member of a group rather than just an attendee of meetings. I made a brief attempt to be a General Service Representative (G.S.R.) before I had worked the 12 Steps and found that I did not yet possess the patience and tolerance and gratitude that is generally required to sit through a District meeting. That soured me on General Service for a while, but I was on the District mailing list, and I began to feel guilty every month when the minutes appeared in my mailbox. After a year or so I went back to the District meeting and it had changed completely (or perhaps I had changed as a result of working the Steps!). I served as a G.S.R. for a while and learned about the A.A. service structure and found it interesting. I sat on my hands, however, when they asked for volunteers to serve as District officers. Somehow, despite all my best intentions, my hand went up and I became the District secretary. It turned out to be a great job for me, consisting of simple, yet time-consuming repetitive tasks that produced a measurable result in the form of envelopes of minutes. I would deposit them in the mailbox with a certain kind of satisfaction that came from doing a little something to give back to the fellowship of A.A., which by now I knew was saving my life. When elections rolled around, I was asked to stand for District Committee Member (D.C.M.). I was going to decline the nomination because I was sure I couldn’t possibly do the job as well as the present D.C.M. did. I asked a respected A.A. friend about it, and he suggested I put my hat in the ring and let God decide. So I did, and was privileged to serve as D.C.M. for two years. I think it was during that time that I realized more fully what an honor and a privilege it was to be an active participant in A.A. general service, and to experience the wonderful spirit of love and service that exists at the District, Area, and Regional meetings. All of these entities are part of the General Service Conference Structure, which essentially is a communications tool through which information flows back and forth between the A.A. groups and the General Service Board of A.A. It is usually free from politics, and is always in need of A.A. members to serve within it. Most of us know the rewards that come from working with another alcoholic face-to-face, and the joy we feel when light begins to shine from eyes in which there had been only darkness. But there is a very special reward in general service that comes from helping alcoholics who we will never meet, but for whom we work by helping ensure that A.A. will be there for them when they need it.

-originally submitted by Bruce B. Past Delegate, Panel 44

-resubmitted by Marc N.

The NL had a rough start with Issue One being published 6 times in the first 8 years.

- Oct 82
- June 85
- June 88
- Oct 88
- Feb 89
- June 89



From DECEMBER, 1989
Kathy D[REDACTED], Editor wrote

Who Wants It, Anyway?

As Bill W. told readers of the then one-year-old Grapevine, "This is your periodical. It will be the vehicle for your thoughts, your feelings, your experience, and your aspirations ... if you care to make it that." ...

And did you know anyone can contribute

Give yourself a real present for the new year - - - a Northern Light you look forward to reading!

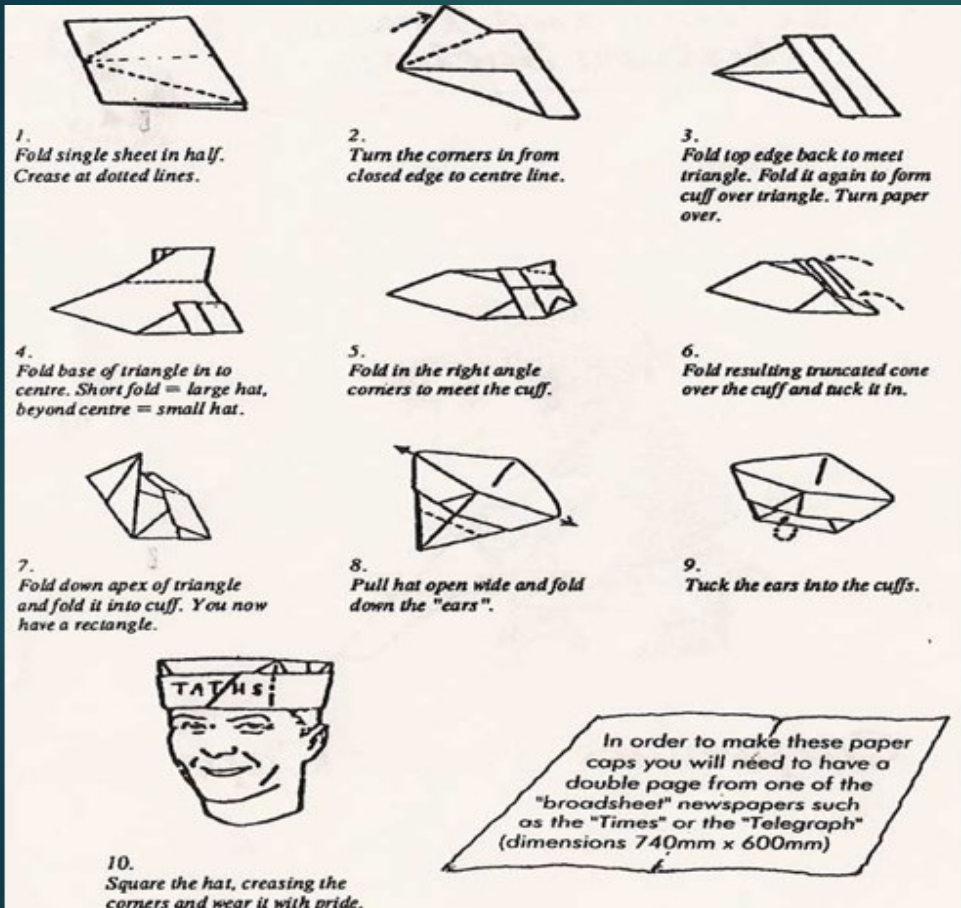
Article Ideas

Experience at an Assembly
Strength from having a Home Group
Rewards in staffing a Fair Booth
Gratitude for chairing a Jail Meeting
Challenges you find doing the Steps
Hope you find at your AA Meeting

Rewards from Sponsorship
Strength from working with another Lush
Coming to grips with your Higher Power
Rewards from working on a Round up
Committee
And the list go's on...

My Question to you is :

DCM's do you inform GSR's what's in the NL?
When you receive the NL do you share it with your Group?
At your Groups Business Meeting or District Meetings do
you use the NL to discuss :
Area's Budget
Delegate Resume's
New business brought up at ACM's from the minutes



Thanks for Reading

Here are the directions for making
your own newspaper hat out of the
NL. To wear for inspiration in writing
your article for the Northern Light.

Any Questions ?

AREA OFFICER & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

DELEGATE- DIANE R

On October 18, I attended the District 8 Literature and Grapevine Workshop. Special thanks to Terry, Grapevine Chair, and Mike, Literature Chair, for their active participation. Craig, Alternate DCM of District 8, delivered a presentation on how to write a Grapevine article. He provided writing materials and encouraged us to jot down one to three opening sentences for a potential article. Several attendees shared their first sentences aloud, and it was remarkable to hear how creative and compelling they were. Hopefully, some day we will develop these ideas further and see our articles published in the Grapevine.

On October 25, 2025, I attended the Corrections Workshop in Duelm, an event that had been 10 months in the making. The workshop drew 72 in-person attendees, with an additional 8 to 12 participants joining online. The highlight of the day was a keynote address by Paul Schnell, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. His presentation emphasized the importance of personal transformation and the role we can play in helping others make positive changes in their lives, especially those facing challenges such as alcoholism. Carter, Statewide Corrections Chair; Mark, Area 35 Corrections Chair; and David A., Area 36 Corrections Chair also delivered very interesting presentations. In addition, two corrections speakers shared valuable insights from their experiences. The most exciting take-away of the workshop was the Fellowships of Area 35 and Area 36 working together.

The Final Conference Reports for 2025 were received later than expected, so I was unable to distribute them at the Fall Area 35 Assembly. I have handed out a few copies and will be mailing several more. Any remaining reports will be brought to the Aitkin Committee Meeting in December. If you would like me to set one aside for you, please let me know.

In Service with patience, kindness, and love. Diane R., your Area 35 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-PAT M

No report given

CHAIR-VICKI R.

Since Fall Assembly, I’ve signed agreements for Spring Assembly – March 28-29th, 2026 at the Arrowwood Resort & Convention Center in Alexandria, MN. I’ve done a lot of research and am reviewing proposals for 2026 Fall Assembly. I will have the information ready for the budget process.

Organized files for incoming Chair

Updated Chair trusted servant guidelines; read those sent to me
Attended the Corrections workshop Oct 25. It was a very inspiring workshop with good speakers

I’ve summarized the attendance and evaluation forms as follows:
Attendance at Fall Assembly was as follows:
137 signed the registration book – 92 as voting members and 45 as non-voting members

Voting District	92	Percent
1	1	1%
2	1	1%
3	3	3%
4	2	2%
5	7	8%
6	7	8%
7	4	4%
8	14	15%
9	9	10%
11	8	9%
12	8	9%
13	8	9%
15	3	3%
16	2	2%
18	4	4%
21	7	8%
Unknown	4	4%

Total District	137	Percent
1	1	1%
2	2	1%
3	4	3%
4	2	1%
5	9	7%
6	11	8%
7	7	5%
8	29	21%
9	12	9%
11	8	6%
12	14	10%
13	13	9%
15	3	2%
16	3	2%
18	4	3%
21	7	5%
Unknown	8	6%

2025 Fall Assembly Evaluations Summary
Total Attendees: 137 – completed evaluation 24

GSRs (63 total attendees – 12 completed evaluations – 3 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

2 GSR Orientation 5 Area
Committee Reports
6 Action Committee Breakout Sessions 7 Old/
New Business
3 General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor 0 Other (AA Meeting)
6 GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions

Did you like to attend this assembly?

10 Very much
2 Somewhat
0 Not at all

Did we meet your needs at this assembly?

9 Very much
2 Somewhat
1 no response

Do you feel Area 35 as successful in completing Area 35 business:

9 Very much
3 Somewhat

How can we improve this assembly?

More education & excitement
Turn off mic when time expires
I love the location
It would be nice to have some light snacks, for purchase or free, near the coffee; also pens for if ours run out
Start earlier on Saturday; 0800 registration; 0900 Assembly begins
Keep up the good work

DCM – 2 completed evaluations out of 15 attending

How can we improve this assembly?

We could vote through an app on our phone to make election and count quicker

2 Alt GSRs; 2 Alt DCM; 6 Other (10 total evaluations)

How can we improve this assembly?

Strive to educate voters prior to business: re: process and issues
Bigger facilities – not enough places to sit comfortably – not enough places to stay in the area (Ely) - places in the community not open to eat. (Area too small)
Sign on the doors had AA on the sign with AA – should not have been on it. It was whited out by the staff of the hotel on Sunday. We need to be aware of this so it doesn’t happen again.
Voting process

AREA OFFICER & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

DENISE R.

Greetings Area 35,
Since the Fall Assembly I have completed and distributed the minutes from that Assembly. I am continuing to work on updating the Area Actions book.

I have also started filling the Area Committee Chair positions for the next rotation. Thank you to those that have contacted me and made yourself available to be of service.

It has been a pleasure serving you as your Area Secretary for the last 2 years!

In service,
Denise R.

TREASURER – HEIDI B

No report given

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WEBMASTER – TERRY P

No report given

NORTHERN LIGHT – JENNIFER T

I am preparing to hand off the newsletter to another trusted servant and learn a new skill. I am feeling a bit overwhelmed by fear of being too busy not having enough time for myself. My sponsor says, “I don’t know what too much AA looks like, but I never want to find out what too little AA looks like”.

GROUP RECORDS – PHYLLIS K

Hello all and thank you for letting me serve the area this rotation. Please remember to fill out the forms as completely as you can and write legibly. It takes extra hours to try to track down details. Let’s be thoughtful of our next Group Records Chair by remembering they have to be able to read your information in order to input it. Thank you.

GSRs/Contact people: +4 and -3
Meeting Guide App: +3, -2 people and +1 group
New Groups: Always Improving Group in Longville
Group Changes: a meeting in Battle Lake closed
Northern Light: 1 address change; +5 people; -2 person
Help Messages: What do I have to do to go to a meeting? from Alexandria
How do I get my brother into AA? -from the cities
Reactivated Groups: Ely Miracle on Camp Street
New Groups Pending:
Depth and Weight Group D12-Superior
Easy Does it Group D7 -Ironton
Happy, Joyous, and Free D7- Baxter

Thanks,
Phyllis K

LITERATURE – MIKE U

No report given

TREATMENT – KYLE H

No report given

PUBLIC INFORMATION – RANDY A

Greetings Area 35, It's been a very slow month in PI Work – Just checking on District phone lines to see if the districts are active, there are many that answer immediately. The phone lines are an important PI tool to reach the still suffering alcoholic. There are many good and active people on the PI / CPC Committee that would be good for service at the Area level. Thank You Area 35 for giving me the opportunity to be of service at the Area level, although we always think we could have done much better. PI work requires AA members to sacrifice their time and personal ambitions to serve and carry the message, PI work involves spending time contacting and responding to media, schools and other organizations to inform them about AA. There was an anonymity break on public television when a TV reporter was interviewing a former TV Reporter from Southern Minnesota. She talked about writing a book and how alcoholism dismantled her life and how she attended AA Meetings to save and change her life. Her full face and first and last name were used in the media interview. It is incidents like these and how important our Traditions on Anonymity are to our fellowship and Public Information. In closing, thank you Area 35 for letting me be of service and it is imperative that we continue to be diligent in our efforts to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

CORRECTIONS - MARK R

No report given

CPC - MARY S

No report given

ARCHIVIST – MARC N

Activities during September and October were mostly preservation of audio cassette tapes.

My report in Area Assembly was in two parts, the part that was oral because I lost my scripted report and the scripted report that I found later. Members donated a stained glass circle/triangle and memorabilia from International Convention in San Antonio.

An archivist highlight from the Area Assembly at Ely: a past Area36 archivist (Duane B) asked about an event from Ely’s past. I found some information and sent it to him. I might have this wrong, but the event was that our past delegate Pearl N’s husband found some camera gear while hunting. The camera gear belonged to Henrietta Seiberling's exhusband who lost it while on a hunting/fishing trip. Pearl returned the camera bag when she travelled to the GSC. The story is written in the book Courage to Change by Forrest Richeson and Pearl talks about it on an interview recording (both are in our archives).

I was really impressed with the elections. The quorum of voters remained all the way through. Our third legacy and Higher Power selection process was quite visible with a bit of humor when a blank ballot was pulled from the hat. It was also good to see how many were nominated for the elected roles.

Archivist, Marc N

ARCHIVES – CATHY R

No report given

GRAPEVINE – TERRY A

I am Terry, alcoholic and Area 35 Grapevine Chair. It was so much fun being the GV chair for the past 2 years. Like everyone says, "Just as I was getting the hang of it... it comes to an end." I was able to go to the WCRAAF and connected with GSO staff and Grapevine Staff. I was able to use some of the GV presentation at the Forum for the Literature and Grapevine Workshop in Cook on Oct 18th and will use again for the Grapevine Writing Workshop on Nov 22, 2025, 10am-2pm at St Michaels Church, 4901 East Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55804. Lunch will be provided. Everyone welcome... pass info on to your friends who may be interested. We may even have the "Grape Suit" appearance. Greeting Cards are available through Grapevine...and they go fast. Themed: Thinking of You and Congratulations / Anniversary.

The Next Frontier - Emotional Sobriety I & II is hard cover and sells out quickly.

Any books or materials you may want, please contact me.
Thank you for letting me serve.
Terry A

Statewide Corrections Committee (SWCC) Chair Report

No report given

Upcoming Events in Area 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

2025 Service Events

Dec 7: Area Committee Meeting
Aitken, MN

2026 Service Events

Jan 17-18th Service Workshop
Hibbing, MN

Feb 1st - ACM - Aitken

February 27-March 1, 2026
West Central Regional AA Conference
Cedar rapids Iowa

March 28-29- Spring Assembly - Alexandria, MN

June 7th - ACM - Aitken

Aug 2nd - ACM - Aitken

Oct 3-4th - Fall Assembly - location TBD

Dec 6th - ACM - Aitken

PLEASE POST

“But we
do have
expenses...”

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

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



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

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, INC. • P.O. BOX 458 GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10163
(212) 512-3400 • FAX: (212) 512-3052 • www.aa.org

E-198-4/96 1M

“Concerning any given service, we pose but one question: ‘Is this service really needed?’ If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who seek AA.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1955, “What Is the Third Legacy?”, *The Language of the Heart*



Area 35
General Service Conference
Agenda Items Process

Greetings Area 35,

The Agenda Items **do not** come out any sooner to the Delegate than the week of February 15th due to the January General Service Board Meeting.

We realize that this timeframe does not give us a lot of time for discussion within our home groups before our April Spring Assembly.

It is the responsibility of the DCM’s to get the Agenda Items along with the “Hot Topic List” to the group GSR’s in their District. It is important that this information be passed on as soon as it is received.

Thank you for your help.

Agenda
Deadline Dates

September 15th

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

February 15th

Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office and sends them along with background information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

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

1st Sunday in February

Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 electronically or DCM Can request a hard copy from the Delegate.

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

Diane R.
Area 35 Panel 74 Delegate
delegate@area35.org
(218) 929-7846

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, Jennifer T.

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. **A \$20.00 fee will be added for a submission larger than 8 1/2 x 11.**

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

NMAA
1102 E Camp St
Ely, MN 55731

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST CURRENT ADDRESS!!!
- | Number of Copies | Printing Costs | | Insertion Fee | Total Cost |
|------------------|----------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| | 1 Sided | 2 Sided | | |
| 750 | \$ 68 | \$ 90 | \$ 30 | \$ 98/120 |
| 1000 | \$ 90 | \$ 120 | \$ 30 | \$ 120/150 |
- RELATED FLIER INSERTION INFORMATION
- ◆ Only Area 35 A.A. Members may submit a flier. Fliers must be for A.A. sponsored events only.
 - ◆ Fliers needed—750 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and handouts.
- Northern Light Deadlines for 2026 are as Follows:
- ◆ Jan 1, 2026: Flier will be included in the Jan/Feb Issue
 - ◆ Feb 28, 2026: Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
 - ◆ May 2, 2026: Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
 - ◆ June 29, 2026: Flier will be included in the July/Aug Issue
 - ◆ Aug 31, 2026: Flier will be included in the Sept/Oct Issue
 - ◆ Oct 31, 2026: Flier will be included in the Nov/Dec 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
- FC - Fellowship Connection
- FOC - Finance Oversight Committee
- GSB - General Service Board
- GSC - General Service Conference
- GSO - General Service Office
- GSR - General Service Representative
- GV- Grapevine
- GVR - Grapevine Representative
- ICYPAA - International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
- NL- Northern Light
- NMAA - Northern Minnesota Area Assembly
- PI - Public Information
- Panel - The Two Year Rotation a Delegate Serves (Ours is an Even # Starting with Panel 2 in 1952)
- WCRSC - West Central Regional Service (Conference)
- WCRAASC - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (same as above)
- WCRF - West Central Regional (Forum)
- WCRAAF - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Forum (same as above)

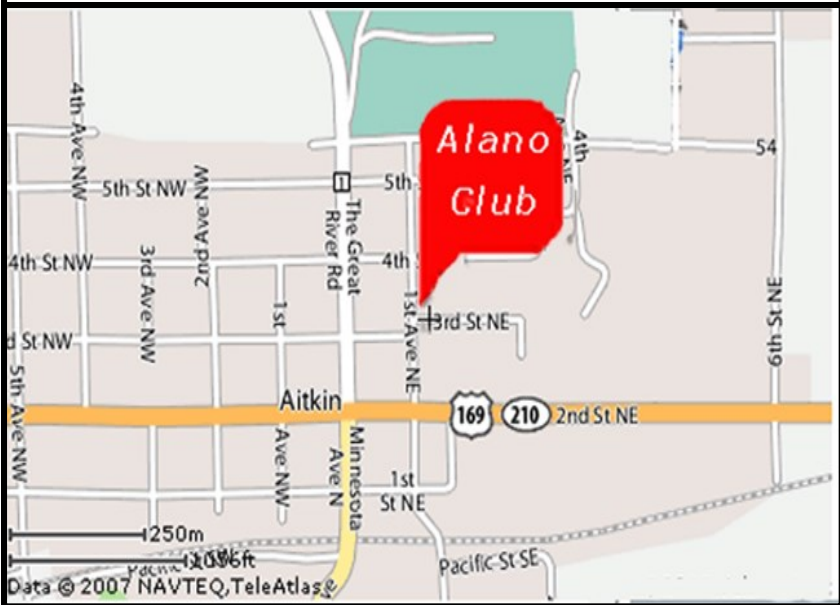
AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

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

AREA 35
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

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



Volume XLIII Issue 6		NORTHERN LIGHT		Created 1982	
Nov/Dec, 2025				Page 23	
Newsletter of the Northern Minnesota Area 35 Assembly					
OUR PAST DELEGATES					
<u>Panel 72</u> 2022-2023 Steven L	<u>Panel 44</u> 1994-1995 Bruce B	<u>Panel 18</u> 1968-1969 Dave H (deceased)			
<u>Panel 70</u> 2020-2021 Jim S	<u>Panel 42</u> 1992-1993 Greg G (deceased)	<u>Panel 16</u> 1966-1967 Arno A (deceased)			
<u>Panel 68</u> 2018-2019 Christine G	<u>Panel 40</u> 1990-1991 Bob J	<u>Panel 14</u> 1964-1965 Donald F (deceased)			
<u>Panel 66</u> 2016-2017 Kelly D	<u>Panel 38</u> 1988-1989 Scott J	<u>Panel 12</u> 1962-1963 Donna T (deceased)			
<u>Panel 64</u> 2014-2015 Michael J	<u>Panel 36</u> 1986-1987 Louie H	<u>Panel 10</u> 1960-1961 Bob B (deceased)			
<u>Panel 62</u> 2012-2013 Jim K	<u>Panel 34</u> 1984-1985 Bob P (deceased)	<u>Panel 8</u> 1958-1959 Pearl N (deceased)			
<u>Panel 60</u> 2010-2011 Jon C	<u>Panel 32</u> 1982-1983 Tom L (deceased)	<u>Panel 6</u> 1956-1957 Waldo H (deceased)			
<u>Panel 58</u> 2008-2009 JoAnne N	<u>Panel 30</u> 1980-1981 Don M (deceased)	<u>Panel 4</u> 1954-1955 Wendell H (deceased)			
<u>Panel 56</u> 2006-2007 Jerry S	<u>Panel 28</u> 1978-1979 Garfield S (deceased)	<u>Panel 2</u> 1952-1953 Arthur R (deceased)			
<u>Panel 54</u> 2004-2005 Charlie C	<u>Panel 26</u> 1976-1977 Vern R (deceased)				
<u>Panel 52</u> 2002-2003 Tim C	<u>Panel 24</u> 1974-1975 Gordon H (deceased)				
<u>Panel 50</u> 2000-2001 Tom A	<u>Panel 22</u> 1972-1973 Frank J (deceased)				
<u>Panel 48</u> 1998-1999 Susie A	<u>Panel 20</u> 1970-1971 Clarence B (deceased)				
<u>Panel 46</u> 1996-1997 Bill P (deceased)					

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
Dec 7, 2025

<div><div><div>_____ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings (9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting</div><div>_____ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>_____ Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>_____ Add to Agenda</div><div>_____ Approve Minutes from February 2 ACM</div></div><div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div><div>_____ Delegate – Diane R</div><div>_____ Alternate Delegate – Pat M</div><div>_____ Chair – Vicki R</div><div>_____ Secretary – Denise R</div><div>_____ Treasurer – Heidi B</div></div></div><div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div><div>_____ Financial Oversight Committee- Scott A</div><div>_____ District 7 – Jessical S</div></div><div><div>_____ WEBMASTER – Terry P</div><div>_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Jennifer T</div><div>_____ GROUP RECORDS – Phyllis K</div><div>_____ District 2 – Kim B</div><div>_____ District 11 – Kathy M</div><div>_____ LITERATURE – Mike U</div><div>_____ District 8 – John J</div><div>_____ District 15 – Fred T</div><div>_____ PUBLIC INFORMATION – Randy A</div><div>_____ District 1 - Loren G</div><div>_____ District 21 –</div><div>_____ TREATMENT – Kyle H</div><div>_____ District 5 – Chad O</div><div>_____ District 14 -</div><div>_____ CPC – Mary S</div><div>_____ District 6 – Julie N</div><div>_____ District 9 – Tom T</div><div>_____ ARCHIVES – Cathy R</div><div>_____ ARCHIVIST – Marc N</div><div>_____ District 4 – Jim T</div><div>_____ District 18 – Steve T</div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Terry A</div><div>_____ District 12 – Richard G</div><div>_____ District 16 – Dave C</div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Mark R</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>_____ District 3 – Melvin S</div><div>_____ District 13 – Peggy M</div></div><div><div>12:00 P.M. Lunch</div><div>12:45 P.M. Reconvene</div></div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div><div>_____ Ad-hoc committee updates:(if the committee has one)</div><div>_____ Archivist needs a volunteer to provide support</div><div>_____ Tech Adhoc committee update</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div></div></div><div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____ Turn meeting over to Incoming Chair Denise</div><div>_____ Approve slate of Area Committee Chairs</div><div>_____ Select Districts out of the hat to serve on with Area Committee's</div><div>_____ Calendar of Events</div><div>_____ Adjourn - responsibility statement</div></div></div></div>
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Please remember to include your group service number on all contributions.
This will ensure that your contributions get credited to your group.