

I would like to thank the Area for the opportunity to serve as your chairperson for the next two years. Service has been an important part of my sobriety, and I am looking forward to everything I will learn in this new position. I have previously served as GSR, DCM, area literature chair, area group records chair, and various other positions at the group and district level. When I first came into Alcoholics Anonymous, my social skills were almost non-existent! I still need work in that area but General Service has been a great training ground!

So far I have enjoyed my new responsibilities. My first task was to ask people to serve as standing committee chairs. I am happy to say that I didn't have any difficulty finding people that were willing to stand. We have a wonderful group of people on the area committee, and the next two years should be great!

The January Service conference was a great experience. The presenters were well prepared and I enjoyed all of their talks. We also heard a lot of great sharing at the microphone. I want to thank Sonja H., our outgoing alternate chair, for doing such a wonderful job of organizing this conference.

Immediately after the service conference, the area officers had their first meeting. All of the officers were present including Mark M., Delegate, Niles A, Alternate Delegate, Scott A., Alternate Chairperson, Sissy E., Secretary, Steve K., Treasurer, and myself. One of the items of discussion was the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference. Mark M. will be chairing the Sunday morning session, "Service and the Home Group".

On February 5<sup>th</sup> we had our first Area Committee meeting of this rotation. We had a great turn-out and in the morning most of the committees were full. In the afternoon all of the committee chairs and almost all of the DCM's were present and we had great discussions. I was nervous about chairing my first meeting, but the officers helped me through the rough spots and the committee members were very supportive. Thank you!

One of our discussions centered on unity with Area 35. I met with the Area 35 chair, JoAnne N., on January 15<sup>th</sup> and we discussed ways that we can work together to serve alcoholics in Minnesota. At our March 19<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly we will be discussing the possibility of a Joint Service Workshop with Area 35.

I am hoping for a good turn-out at the March 19<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly at the Victorian Inn in Hutchinson. We will be voting on the formation of the new linguistic district 27 and the new guidelines for the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference. We will also be discussing cooperation with Area 35 as mentioned above and will allow time for questions on the General Service Conference agenda items. Please see the agenda in the *Pigeon* for more details.

Again, I am thankful for the opportunity to service Alcoholics Anonymous as area chair and I look forward to working with you over the next two years. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about our Area that you would like to talk to me about, I can be reached at [chairperson@area36.org](mailto:chairperson@area36.org). Please feel free to email me.

Yours in love and service

Samira A.

Area 36 Chairperson