

Area 36 has had a busy start this rotation. Our committee meetings have had full agendas, and fortunately, we are having good attendance from the DCM's and standing committee chairs. Since assuming this service position of Area chair, I have tripled my hours on the phone. I have always had a fear of calling people on the phone, and this position has certainly forced me to face this fear!

I want to thank those of you who braved the snow to attend our area assembly on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Hutchinson. We had great attendance, including several representatives from the newly reformed District 4. One highlight of this assembly was the voting in of District 27, a linguistic district for Spanish speaking A.A.'s southern Minnesota. This district will now have new opportunities to participate in local and area service.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our second area assembly of the year. It will take place at the Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie. We are going to start having past delegates do service talks at our assemblies. We feel that this will give GSR's and other attendees a sense of our area's history. Warren McG., panel 21 will do the first service talk, and then we will work forward in history.

Under new business, we will be voting on a proposal from the Area Committee: Substitute the word "contribute" instead of "donate" in all literature pertaining to the seventh tradition. We will start with a presentation and discussion on the seventh tradition. The specific language used in our literature has always been considered important, and we hope that this proposal will spark some interesting discussions about how we incorporate the seventh tradition into our A.A. work as well as our personal lives.

I attended the West Central Regional Service Conference in Rapid City, SD. It was great hearing how other areas carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I learned that other areas randomly assign DCM's to the standing committees, similar to the way delegates are assigned to committees at the General Service Conference. This practice has helped strengthen their committees. I would appreciate your thoughts on this and if it would be feasible in this area.

At the March assembly, we approved a proposal to hold a joint service workshop with Area 35. I have been working with JoAnne N., Area 35 Chair, on the preliminary details. The date has been set for July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Central Lutheran Church 1103 School St Elk River, MN. I have asked D.J. C., DCM of District 26, and Jack C., CPC Chair, to serve on the committee along with A.A.'s from Area 35. We will have a planning meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> and will circulate flyers soon after.

Did you know that our website has an incredibly useful page, [www.area36.org/newtoservice.html](http://www.area36.org/newtoservice.html), that explains the structure both in Area 36 and in the General Service Office? I was working on a presentation for one of our districts, and found a number of useful downloadable pages. The Area 36 structure site has a clear diagram of communication between the groups, districts, area, and General Service Conference, as well as our committees.

According to this chart, a group's concerns typically go through the district and then to the appropriate area standing committee. One important note about our structure, however, is the ability of any A.A. to bring a concern directly to the area. Traditionally, our service structure has provided for more than one way of bringing up ideas or concerns, which is consistent with the principle of minority opinion described in our concepts. For this reason, we allow time on both the area assembly and area committee agendas to bring ideas for consideration. So, I want to encourage any A.A. member to work through the standing committees, but feel free to express your concerns during open mike times as well.

Yours in service,  
Samira A., Area 36 Chairperson

