

As I write this article, we are finally having some decent summer weather. I want to thank everyone who gave up a beautiful day outdoors to attend the area committee meeting on August 6th. We had good participation and were able accomplish a lot of business.

I know that you are all waiting for the area calendar for 2006 so that you can start scheduling around area events. I have contracts for all the dates next year except for the area inventory. We are waiting for confirmation on that date by the end of August. We are planning to hold the area inventory in February. During our last inventory we talked about the need to hold one nearer the beginning of the year, so that we have time to implement suggestions before we rotate. I will e-mail the calendar to members of the area committee once the dates are confirmed.

In the issue of the *Pigeon*, you will see the summary of the area budget. I will have full details for your review at the October 22nd assembly. Please note a couple of items on the budget. First, I have listed the pink can income and expenses as a separate line item. As you know, we are now reporting the pink can on our financial statements, as we are required to do for tax purposes. Adding the pink can to the budget will provide additional accountability. Second, the PI committee has indicated a need for a new display and signage. I have listed this as a separate line item. The fellowship can choose to approve the budget with or without this line item.

At the May area committee, the Archives committee requested that an ad-hoc committee be formed to explore a new storage place for our archives collection. We have outgrown our current location. The ad-hoc committee consisted of Ian G., Archives Chair, Jerry O., Archivist, Scott A., Alternate Chairperson, and me, Chairperson. After evaluating several options, we have decided to move to a facility in Blaine. We will have more room for storage as well as a display and work area. Area 35 may decide to move its archives location to an adjacent room, which would allow for some nice joint projects between the two areas.

At the June 18th assembly, Warren McG.'s service talk was well-received, and we plan to continue to ask past delegates to talk at future assemblies. Bob B. already had a commitment for the October 22nd assembly, so I lined up Stan M. to speak. He will be speaking in the morning, so please plan to arrive on time for his talk. I'm sure Stan will keep you awake!

If you are wondering what to say in a talk to non-AA groups, you will want to attend the presentation on Alcoholics Anonymous Information talks provided by our Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Communities committees. They will present a sample AAI talk in the afternoon of the assembly on the 22nd.

Another point of interest at the assembly will be an "Outreach" skit presented by District 19. They are working on a project to reach groups that are not involved in general service. The skit will give you an idea of what to say when you visit one of these groups.

On July 16th Areas 35 and 36 held a joint workshop entitled "Cooperation and Communication in A.A. in Minnesota". Judging from all the positive comments, the joint service workshop was a great success. It really seemed to accomplish the purpose of fostering unity between the two areas. I hope that we can continue to communicate with our counterparts in area 35 throughout the rest of the year. I know that I have really benefited from my communication with JoAnne N., the chairperson for Area 35.

Our website committee continues to go through changes. We do not currently have a newsletter chair, but our Area Secretary, Sissy E., is serving as the area officer contact for this committee. Please send all submissions to her and she will route them to the webmaster.

I attended the International A.A. Convention in Toronto this summer, and I wanted to let you know that it was very worthwhile. If it is at all possible, you should consider going to the 2010 convention in San Antonio. One of the highlights for me was a workshop entitled, "A.A. and the Healthcare Professional." The purpose was similar to our panel at the June assembly.

We heard from 3 professionals: one social worker from Maryland, a psychiatrist from India, and a psychiatrist from China. The Chinese psychiatrist, Dr. Li Bing, was really inspiring. She had attended the International in Minneapolis and had been impressed that people were staying sober. She was saddened that no Chinese alcoholics were there. She left determined to start A.A. in China and she did. Through her efforts, there are now 7 A.A. groups and the numbers will continue to grow. Dr. Bing is a true friend of A.A. The International Convention has workshops to suit all interests.

Yours in service,
Samira A., Area 36 Chairperson