

GSRs and Group contacts, please read and share this newsletter with your group!

District 21 Newsletter

May, Issue #4 in 2003

District 21 meets the 4th Tuesday of every month.

7:00pm fellowship with the business meeting starting at 7:30pm

Meeting place is United Methodist church at 4325 Zachary LN NW in Plymouth. Located on the NW corner of County 9(Rockford Rd.) and Zachary LN between Hwys169 and 494 on County. 9

Check out our web-site at: area36-district21.org

The District 21 newsletter is a *confidential* document. It may contain full names, phone numbers, and addresses just as AA directories do. This usage does not in any way violate our tradition of anonymity to the public communications media. Names, phone numbers, and addresses are confidential and thus may *NOT* be used for any solicitation purposes, etc...

DCM Report

Greetings from District 21,

As I write this today, I'm looking at the agenda's from this years district meetings and reflecting on what's happened this year and what's coming up.

We made it through the conference agenda items and just had the delegate's workshop, we had a GSR orientation and we've welcomed new committee chairs. One by one, we see a new face in the form of a GSR. For four months into our new rotation at the district, we're going all right.

I've had a chance to look back and reflect a little bit about my first involvement with general service at the district level. My sponsor tricked me into general service by having me show up at the district meeting to open the door as I had a key and none of the district officers did. (Yeah – right) While he was setting me up to become the new GSR for the Tradition One group, I was busy signing myself up to be the district treatment facilities chair. We compared notes afterward and had a good laugh. I kept both of those commitments.

I like to look back and remember my fears of not knowing what's going on and not knowing exactly what to do. By attending the district meetings, I found out that I wasn't alone. Then something happened that shed a lot of light on my fears and questions and that was the standing committee meetings in Mankato. There I learned to work as a team member with the chairs from the other districts and we took on area wide projects and by communicating with each other we learned from each other's experiences and took the answers back to share at our own district meetings. I learned that as a committee chair my job was to bring 12th step opportunities to the groups in my district and to inform the district of new and upcoming events and opportunities. My job as a GSR is to bring this information back to my group and to bring the group conscience of my group back to the district.

There were area functions to attend like our annual service conference and not to mention all the area assemblies where I could vote on behalf of my group as a GSR. I attended my first West Central Regional Forum where I got to meet and talk with the staff at our General Service Office in New York as well as got to meet the chair of the General Service Board. I've attended the West Central Regional Service Conference where you get an opportunity to meet with your counterparts from eight different areas and share your experiences and solutions. There are nation wide workshops like the "Bridging the Gap Workshop" which will be held in Chicago this September.

DCM report is continued on page 2

AA Responsibility Declaration

*"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible"*

DCM report continued from page 1.

All in all, there has been no shortage of opportunities to learn and to grow and to meet new contacts and friends as we travel the road of being of service to the still suffering alcoholic. All we need to do is to commit, keep our commitments and take action.

Being of service at the district has taught me a lot about Alcoholics Anonymous and how the general service structure works as well as a lot about how to manage my own life as far as matters at work to my family life. I've invested some time into it but I'm finding that when you give of yourself expecting nothing in return, your rewards turn out to be far more than you would have ever thought.

I guess my letter this month is to encourage the new Committee Chairs and GSRs and to let them know that the answers come and that I'm there to answer questions when they need me to. We have a lot of years of experience sitting around the tables at our district meeting so don't ever hesitate to ask something if you don't know.

At our May district meeting, we will have our Delegate give her report from the General Service Conference in New York which just ended this month. I've talked to her about it and she's fired up and we're looking forward to an exciting report. You all are welcome to attend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Scott A. – Your DCM

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

We are currently in the process of putting together a list of houses of worship in the district that I plan on visiting. The goal is to make clergy aware, or remind them of, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Quite often, leaders in the religious community are the first to see the still suffering alcoholic and their families. We want members of the religious community to know what A.A. is and how to get in touch with us.

The whole thing will probably start with a letter to the various religious entities within our District. Then it will be followed up by a phone call to see if they would be interested in meeting with us briefly. When visiting these churches, temples, mosques or synagogues (what ever we can find). I plan to take just a few minutes to speak with a pastor or even a secretary to let them know why I am there and what we hope to do. If they are interested in some free literature I will leave some for them. We have many pamphlets, of course and some third edition big books. Also, I will give them information on meetings in the area.

Tom M., a past delegate, has given me all the information on this and has been very helpful. I am sure he will be in the future, as well. I am new at this and his experience is greatly appreciated. Tom has experience doing this in Omaha and San Antonio. He tells me it worked well in those cities. We can always use some help with making the message available to all who may need it. If you would like to help feel free to contact me.

Yours in service,

Kevin H.

The Pink Can Plan

You will notice a pink flyer in this newsletter and what that is, is a wrap for a coffee can for spare change (or dollars) to go to the "Pink Can Plan". In Southern Minnesota we get a lot of requests from correctional facilities for A.A. literature for the inmates. The state will not cover the cost of this literature as they classify A.A. as a religious organization. The "Pink Can" is one of the ways we help carry the message to those behind the walls. Please pass the can around at your meetings and make an announcement so our members know about it. There are instructions on the flyer on what to do with the donations. We in district 21 lead the area in donations and it's a nice place to be.

Scott A. – DCM District 21

May

Readiness to serve others

...our society has concluded that it has but one high mission---to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 151

The "Light" to freedom shines bright on my fellow alcoholics as each one of us challenges the other to grow. The "Steps" to self-improvement have small beginnings, but each Step builds the "ladder" out of the pit of despair to new hope. Honesty becomes my "tool" to unfurl the "chains" which bound me. A sponsor, who is a caring listener, can help me to truly hear the message guiding me to freedom.

I ask God for the courage to live in such a way that the Fellowship may be a testimony to His favor. The mission frees me to share my gifts of wellness through a spirit of readiness to serve others.

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The following are the volunteers that are currently serving the groups in District 21.

District Officers

DCM.	Scott A.	dcm@area36-district21.org
Alt. DCM	John S.	alt-dcm@area36-district21.org
Treasurer	Jeff H.	treasurer@area36-district21.org
Secretary	Ken J.	secretary@area36-district21.org

District Committee Chairpersons

Website	Earl B.	webchair@area36-district21.org
Public Information	Cullan L.	pi@area36-district21.org
Newsletter	Alan N.	newsletter@area36-district21.org
Group records	Kathi W.	records@area36-district21.org
Coop. with Prof. Community	Kevin H.	cpc@area36-district21.org
Literature	Tom M.	literature@area36-district21.org
Finance	(Treasurer)	
Structure	(Alt DCM)	
Correction Facilities	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Treatment Facilities	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Archives	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Grapevine	Open	(we need a volunteer)

If you are at all interested in helping out District 21 by the volunteering of your time and talents, please contact Scott our to discuss it with him.

About our Finances at District 21

Please note that due to extended out of town personal business, the District Treasurer has not been able to update the records, but is currently working on them so that next month they will be included in the newsletter.

Calendar of Upcoming Service Events

All are welcomed to attend these events.

- May 27 District 21 meets in Plymouth 7pm, with 7:30 - 9pm business meeting
- June 21 Area Assembly. St Olaf Collage, Northfield 9am-5pm with a lunch break
- June 24 District 21 meets in Plymouth 7pm, with 7:30 - 9pm business meeting
- July 22 District 21 meets in Plymouth 7pm, with 7:30-9pm business meeting
- August 9 Area Committee Meetings. Best Western, Mankato, MN
9:30am – 11:30am Standing Comms. meet. 1:00pm – 5:00pm Area Comm. Meeting

Upcoming Roundups and related

- May 23-25 Gopher State Round Up XXX, Bloomington, MN
Radisson Hotel South, Hwy 494 and 100
This event has the best speakers in the country each year in attendance.
6pm-Friday through 12 noon on Sunday \$12 per person, \$6 for juniors & seniors.

District 21 General Service
P. O. Box 47322
Plymouth, MN. 55447

Change Service Requested.