

District 21 Newsletter

February - Issue # 2 in 2007

District 21 meets the 4th Tuesday of every month. 7:00 pm 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 Road 9 (Rockford Road) and Zachary Lane.

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 MAY NOT be used for any other purpose.

Things at District 21 are moving forward

We had our last meeting in January and there were 4 new GSR's with us and we started with some education on the Service Structure of AA presented by Scott A. After the normal business items, we went into the New Business. The first was the use of the Area's mailing list by outside entities such as Gopher State or an Alanon function. To this point, there has been no set policy involving the mailing list, and Group Records asked us to discuss with the groups what they would like to have done. One possibility was to give the list out, another to just let the outsiders include their fliers in our Area News Letter. The next topic was to discuss the News Letter Guidelines for Area 36, which was actually just putting into print those things that were already being done. After much discussion, we decided to tell the Area we didn't want our mailing list used for anything but Area 36 items. If anyone wanted, they could sign up individually for the outside program flier. The News Letter Guidelines were accepted as is, and we sent both to the next Area Committee Meeting for further action. Both these items will be voted on at the next Area Assembly held in March. There will be addition items up for vote, including spending for an ASL interpreter at the next Area Committee Meeting. If anyone is interested in what is to be done with the mailing list and who may have their names, I invite them to attend the next Assembly and voice their opinion. GSR's may vote your individual group opinion, but anyone can be involved in the discussion. Hope to see you all there.

Tom L.
DCM District 21

FROM THE ALT DCM

Some of the GSR's and groups will likely remember who I am as I have been involved in the D21 service in 3 other rotations in the past 15 years of its existence, and I just rotated off the Area Committee as the Pigeon Editor and Newsletter Chair. But as with all things in life, new opportunities arise, and I was elected this past Fall as D21's Alt DCM.

Some of you may be wondering what an Alt DCM does besides fill in if the DCM (Tom is this case) can not be at an ACM or Area Assembly. Well I basically help the DCM. In a way an Alt DCM is the DCM's right hand person to help get things done. In addition, they lead the Committee Call meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month here in D21, which basically is a steering comm. meeting. We set the agenda, discuss how to implement helping the drunks on our district, and tie up the loose ends so the District meeting runs smoothly. And why the name "DCM" came about, I do not know, but it does cause confusion in understanding, especially for the newer AA members. In a nutshell the DCM (District Committee Member) is the District Chair, and thus my position would be the Vice Chair for a better understanding of the positions.

Also the Alt DCM represents D21 on the Area's Structure Comm. A fair amount of Structure emphasis is taking care of things like Outreach to inactive Districts, education (like the GSR leadership School implemented the last rotation and held last Nov.), and also handles items that are not part of other committees responsibilities.

Speaking of the Structure Committee, I attended it this past Saturday Feb 10th. We had a lively discussion on many topics. Including to have another GSR training this coming Fall, and add a leadership workshop for the DCMs and Alt. DCMs this Spring.

One topic that came up because of numerous people contacting Area members was always having written ballots at the Area Assemblies. Last Fall some members felt scrutinized on how they voted for the ASL proposal. They felt some were not fully exercising principles before the personalities tradition while they were voting. And the result is the request to look at this. It turns out per Roberts rules of Order, any voting member could have requested it to be a paper vote and thus a secret ballot in how a person was voting (VS the counting of raised hands which is normally done.) So paper ballots will be carried in the future by the Area Secretary if anyone wants to call (make a motion) for it.

Here is a fun one. We need a new name for our Area's Delegate's Workshop. Case in point. So what does "Delegates Workshop" mean to you the GSR? Should the GSR attend? Well? Think about it for a moment. I bet many thought it is for the Delegates and why would the GSR need to be there. Well that is precisely the problem. The purpose is for our Delegate to hear from the GSRs about the GSC (General Service Conference) agenda items so they have a good basis on what our Area feels about the subjects being considered at the GSC at the end of April. Thus, we need to rename it for next year. So come up with a new name for us to use. We'll discuss it at the District meeting. Also then remember this: GSRs, please plan to attend the Delegates Workshop on April 14th in Redwing, MN. being you now have better understanding of what its purpose is.

Another item was redistricting within the Area. There has not been any redistricting in 11 years now. I have a feeling there will be some the next 2 years though. There are at least 3 different Districts where groups are located outside of the geographic boundary of the district they are attending, but are attending the district anyhow. In all 2 of the 3 cases, the groups were located in a "dark" (inactive) district. So possibly the a county or portion there of should be formally made part of the district they are attending. Remember as a District or Area, we do not tell the groups what to do, rather the Groups through their GSRs tell us what to do. This is a crucial bit of information that many group members do not fully realize, and thus why it is so important to for a group to have a GSR. Also keeping in mind that there ideally be 15-25 groups within a District. Some Districts currently have over 100 groups, so they may consider splitting in 2. And another consideration is AA groups on the Area

Border, can they participate in the Area? At least 2 groups from WI currently send their GSR to a district located in S MN Area 36. These are groups whose town is situated on the MN/WI border. How those Districts decide within their district is their prerogative. But how about if the GSR attends the SMN Area 36 Assembly? More will be revealed on this and the whole redistricting theme.

And lastly for the Structure Committee, it will be handling the 4 GSC Comms, the biggie is the Trustees Comm, and the proposal to eliminate the publishing of the regional directories (Canada, W. USA, & E. USA) This one really hit a personal nerve with me, as I have in the past relied upon these printed directories when I traveled across the upper plains of the US and CA. where very few Cities exist, and thus hard to find meetings to attend. I counted on these directories, I also had them with in the vehicle, as often I did not know exactly where I end up at the end of the day. Funny, as that is exactly why I still keep a Mpls Intergroup directory always in my vehicle, so just for in case I am feeling a bit off, or down, I have that Ace (directory) up my sleeve so I can on the spur of the moment look up and get to a meeting. And I am sure many others AA members have and do the same as I have. So this should be very interesting GSC topic at the District and Delegates Workshop meeting in April.

One last thing I'd like to mention is that Tom and I attended the RUS (Recovery, Unity, and Service) Conference in the end of Jan. It was well attended, and I thought it was the best ever in its format and enthusiasm that was generated there. It was very informative, and that is saying a lot as I've attended at least 10 of these over the years. If you were not there, you really missed out on a great experience that AA has to offer its members who have recovered and who are in recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve District 21,
Alan N. Alt DCM.D21

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

District Officers

DCM	Thomas L.
Alt. DCM	Alan N.
Treasurer	Gary Q.
Secretary	Molly K

District Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter	Gary Q.	
Group records	Kathi W.	
Literature	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Treatment Facilities	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Finance	Treasurer	(we need a volunteer)
Structure	Alt DCM	(we need a volunteer)
Coop/w Prof. Community	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Public Information	Don D.	
Correction Facilities	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Archives	Open	(we need a volunteer)
Grapevine	Open	(we need a volunteer)

District 21 Meeting Agenda, 7:30PM February 27th, 2007

- Open with the Serenity prayer.
- Introductions.
- Concept Two:
- Volunteer to do Concept Three next month.
- Approval of January minutes.
- Treasurer's report: Gary
- Intergroup report: Julie
 - Presentation: Overview of Agenda Items—Where do they start and what do we do with them. What is Group Conscience?
- Old business: Web site or no?
- New Business: 2007 General service Conference Committees Agenda Items
 1. Agenda—Alan
 2. Cooperation With the Professional Community—Patrick
 3. Corrections—Fran
 4. Finance—Gary
 5. AA Grapevine—Tom
 6. Literature—Greg
 7. Policy/Admissions—Alan
 8. Public Information—Don
 9. Report and Charter—Alan
 10. Treatment Facilities—Molly
 11. Trustees—Alan
- 12. Additional District Committee Chairs: Newsletter, Outreach are key positions. PI, CPC, Lit are very important too. Also need Group Records, GV, Archives, Remote Communities, and Web Site.
- 13. It is now up to the GSR's of each group to bring to their respective groups the Agenda Items and bring the groups conscience to the Delegates Workshop in April. Additional printed or CD copies are available from the District.
- Committee reports. Briefly check in with District Committee Chairs.
- GSR reports. Briefly check in with GSR and any group contacts.
- Announcements.
- Next meeting:
 1. Brief discussion of Group Conscience
 2. Consideration of any New Business (if any) for Area Assembly
- Close: 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”

Upcoming Calendar:

West Central Regional AA Service Conference, Lincoln, NE, March 2-4

D21 – Committee Call Meeting March 13th, 7pm

D21 – District Meeting March 27th 7:30pm-9PM

Area Assembly March 24th 1st Baptist Church, Mpls 9am-5pm

D21 – Committee Call Meeting April 10th 7 pm

Delegates Workshop—April 14th.

Remember to use the website resources that are available to us:

District 21 www.area36-district21.org SMN Area 36 www.area36.org

GSO www.alcoholics-anonymous.org Mpls Intergroup www.aaminneapolis.org

Step Two

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

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.

Concept Two

When in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our World Services and there by made the conference – excepting for any change the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the active voice and effective conscience for our whole Society.

If you haven't read Concept II, this certainly sounds like we're giving it all away to the Conference. We need always remember that the groups hold the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" over A.A. as a whole. It would be impossible, however, for the groups to manage the affairs of A.A. as a whole. The groups are responsible for electing a representative, a "GSR" to carry their voice to the Area Assemblies where they elect a Delegate to represent them at our General Service Conference. A group without a GSR has no voice. It's just a matter of delegation. The group delegates to its GRS and the GSRs in the Area delegate to their Delegate. That's why we call them a Delegate.

"In making this momentous transfer, we old-timers deeply hope that we have avoided those pitfalls into which societies have so often fallen because their originators have failed, during their lifetimes, to properly delegate and distribute their own authority, responsibility and leadership."

Concept One

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Our structure in Alcoholics Anonymous differs greatly from what you may expect from an organization the sizes of ours. We have a General Service Board which is made up of Trustees and we have a General Service Office located in New York City. We have a founder and co-founder. What makes us different is that our General Service Office and World Service Operations are under the direction of our General Service Board and our General Service Board is under the direction of us, the groups. Our Second tradition reminds us of this so please look at it while reading this and you will get a much better understanding.

On July 3rd of 1955 the fellowship was turned over to the groups, thus relieving Bill and those Trustees that nobody seemed to know anything about, the task of calling all the shots. Pretty brave move! Not to worry as it was tested for a number of years prior to this happening. The “Experimental Conference” idea seemed to work pretty well with the exception of the Trustees not liking to be held accountable to a bunch of Delegates. They got over it and the structure is still working well today. The key to its success is representation on the part of the average groups. “Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern” as Tradition Two states. We need to give them direction.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

All are welcome to attend

Every Saturday, Intergroup A.A. Orientation, 10:00 AM Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 2544 S Hwy 100, St. Louis Park

Feb 27 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary Ln NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM

Mar 2-4 West Central Regional Service Conference,
Lincoln NE; 7:00 pm 3/2 – Noon 4/4

Mar 24 Area Assembly, First Baptist Church, 1021 Hennepin Ave
Minneapolis MN 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Mar 27 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary Ln NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM

April 14 Delegates Workshop, St. James Hotel, Red Wing MN
Discuss agenda items 9:30 am – 11:30
Delegates discussion time 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Apr 22-28 56th Annual General Service Conference, New York

May 5 Area Committee Meeting, Best Western, Mankato MN
Standing committees meet 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Area Committee Meeting 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

June 23 Area Assembly, Best Western Victorian Inn, Hutchinson MN
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Aug 11 Area Committee Meetings, Best Western Inn, Mankato
Standing Committees-9:30 am; Full Committee 1:00 pm

Sep 7-9 West Central Regional Forum, Doubletree Hotel, 1616 Dodge St.
Omaha NE; 7:00 9/7 – Noon 9/9

Oct 13 Area Assembly, Holiday Inn, Austin MN 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Dec 1 Area Committee Meetings, Best Western Inn, Mankato
Standing Committees-9:30 am; Full Committee 1:00 pm

Financial report.

February (through Feb 13)

Income:

Group Contributions	71.30
In-Kind contributions	0.00
Other income	<u>25.00</u>
Total income:	\$ 96.30

Account balance:

Beginning balance	\$1616.27
Total income	96.30
Total expenses	<u>152.34</u>
Ending Balance	\$1560.23

Expenses:

Assembly operating	\$ 0.00
Committee expenses	152.34
Other Exp.	<u>00.00</u>
Total expenses	\$ 152.34

District 21 prudent reserve	<u>800.00</u>
Overall total	\$2360.23

**7th tradition contributions accepted at: District 21, Box 47322, and Plymouth, MN.
55447**

**...progress can be reckoned
in two words: humility and
responsibility.****

Bill W, from a talk in 1965, printed in the Grapevine-January 1966