

District 21 Newsletter

April - Issue # 4 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.

FROM YOUR DCM

Easter has come and gone and I hope each and every one of you had a happy holiday and a special time with loved ones and friends. District 21 remains up and active (despite the cold and snow) as we approach the General Service Conference. At our March meeting, background materials were reviewed and discussed with special attention going to those items which affect us directly. If your group's GSR did not attend this meeting, and you wish more information, please contact me. The Delegate's Workshop or Mini General Assembly will be held on the 14th of this month in Redwing, at the St James Hotel. Here, the GSR's from around the Area will gather to pass on their Groups' Conscience to the Delegate. I hope you have a chance to attend.

At the April District meeting, Mark M, our immediate past Delegate, will be sharing about what now happens with the information that has accumulated at the Delegate's Workshop and how this information is brought to New York. Here will be first hand experience discussed, and if you have any questions as to what does happen there, please attend and ask what you wish.

Our attention at the District will now move from the General Service Conference preparation to other local items. We are going to be doing more out reach during the next months, since we have grown by some 12 groups in the past year or so. We will be trying to get more literature into the hotels in our District and many of the libraries, too. We will try to hold an informational session with the folks at the Work House to help keep them informed as to what AA is and is not. I want to set up a local speaker list for the use in our many speaker meetings. The Pink Can Plan will again be emphasized to get literature to those in correctional facilities. These are just some of the things we are looking at.

Samira Anderson, our current Delegate, will present her report on the General Service Conference at our May meeting. In June we will celebrate our 15th Birthday as a District, and we plan to have as many of the DCM's and other District Officers from the past attend to help us celebrate and share their experiences. In July or August, we will have an Archives presentation about AA in our area and how we grew to what we are now.

We still need people to help with the News Letter, and this month will be voting for a new District Secretary. If you have an interest in either, please come and join us, or let me know.

My many thanks and gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Tom L.

DCM District 21

Email: dist21@area36.org

Report from Group Records

We are currently in the process of gathering all of the Districts groups, group addresses, GSR and other group contacts. There are 80+ groups in District 21. We have updated about 95% of the groups and their present addresses, however we only have about 50%-60% of the Group's GSR and/or contacts. I am sending to Area 36 Records the updates in our possession now. Through the next six months I will be traveling to these groups to obtain the group contact. Groups could help me by submitting a Group Update Form and sending it back to the District

We are taking gigantic steps to have more groups and GSR's to become more involved with your District 21. This starts with the ability to disseminate information to all of District 21's groups. This is going to be a slow process, but once completed, the next Group Records Chair will be able to think more forward looking as opposed to getting caught up with the basics. I look forward to traveling to your group and to meet each group in the next six months.

Patrick S.
Group Records Chair
District 21

Notice of Special Election

District 21 will be holding a special election on April 24 for the position of Secretary. Any A.A. member may stand for this position and all are encouraged to attend the meeting on this date. For the duties of Secretary, please consult Tom L., our DCM, for more information.

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

District Officers

DCM	Tom L.
Alt. DCM	Alan N.
Treasurer	Gary Q.
Secretary	Open

District Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter	Open
Group records	Patrick S
Literature	Open
Treatment Facilities	Open
Finance	Treasurer
Structure	Alt DCM
Coop/w Prof. Community	Open
Public Information	Don D.
Correction Facilities	Fran O
Archives	Open
Grapevine	Open

Financial report.

2007 First Quarter Summary

Income:

Group Contributions	\$106.30
In-Kind contributions	105.32
Other income	<u>70.86</u>
Total income:	\$282.48

Expenses:

Assembly operating	\$ 72.00
Committee expenses	328.00
Other Exp.(Officer Travel)	<u>357.04</u>
Total expenses	\$ 757.04

Account balance:

Beginning balance	\$1591.07
Total income	282.48
Total expenses	<u>757.04</u>
Ending Balance	\$1116.51

District 21 prudent reserve	<u>800.00</u>
Overall total	\$1916.51

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

- Apr 22-28 56th Annual General Service Conference, New York
- Apr 24 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary Ln NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM
- 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
- May 22 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary Ln NW, Plymouth, 7:30 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

Step Four

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition Four

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly effect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Concept Four

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Of course, when you read this Concept, Bill talks about how it applies to our General Service Conference, Board of Trustees, Staff members, and Committee members. He started writing the Concepts in 1955 while this whole service structure was being developed and completed then in 1962. Most of these are things we can take with us to our Areas, Districts, and Groups.

This Concept deals with the “Right of Participation” which means that in A.A., we don’t have any second class members. Our Warranties also tell us this. On the Group level, this protects us from having dictators. This means that when we have our business meetings, all home group members are allowed to vote and every vote is equal. The guy who sweeps the floor or puts away the chairs has the same voice as the guy selecting the speakers or the treasurer. We all have the right to speak up and have our voices heard no matter what the issue. There will be no secret meetings held behind closed doors.

“All of us deeply desire to belong. We want an A.A. relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the “*spiritual corporation*” of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as second class.”

Unapproved District 21 Minutes, March 27, 2007

- **Open** with the Serenity prayer at 7:34pm
- **Introductions.** 14 in attendance. Tom our DCM is on vacation, so Alan our Alt DCM Chaired the meeting..
- **Concept.**
 - Rob presented on Concept 3: Greg will present on Concept 4 next month.
- **Minutes** January and February Minutes were approved individually as written by unanimous voice vote.
- **Treasurer’s report:** D21 has a balance of \$1269.75 not including our prudent reserve. Expenses were less than anticipated due to 2 officers did not attend the WCRAASC because of the blizzard.
- **7th Tradition.** *Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*
- **Intergroup report:** April 14th is Mpls. Intergroup Gratitude Night at Mpls Convention Center
- **12 Step Opportunity:** The Retreat in Wayzata, 2nd Tues at 7pm, Contact Tom our DCM 763-229-3723.
- **Old Business**
 - Continued discussion on if D21 should continue to have a website. There was a 15-20 minute discussion. Some thought the website should be continued, some thought it would be of little benefit. Should we table this or vote on it? A motion was made and seconded to fund the website at a cost of no more than \$200 for the next year. A voice vote was called, and too close to call, so a counted hand vote was then used. 5 for, 3 against, 1 abstaining. Minority opinion was expressed. None of the majority were willing to change their vote, so the vote stands as is and the motion carries.

- We still need a Newsletter Chair + other positions. GSRs please ask your people in your group if any of them could be of help.

• **New Business**

- Our Secretary has resigned, there will be an election at the April District meeting to elect a new Sec..

- Quick overview of Area Assembly highlights provided by Patrick and Alan. Samira our delegate will be stepping down in Aug. because she will be moving. The Area newsletter *The Pigeon*, has not been published. The Area Newsletter Chair and Editor was not able to get *The Pigeon* published, but will resume his duties for the next issue. District and Committee reports are available on the Area website. The Assembly approved the ASL funding for the May ACM.

- D21 will be looking to make a recommendation the ACM (Structure) on ballot procedure at the April D21 meeting. A proposal of D.21 requests that: "The Area Structure Comm. review and formulate a guideline or policy concerning when there is a request of a secret ballot and the proper procedure concerning the request so it is clear to all what the procedure is." There was a fair amount of confusion on the procedure at the March 24 Assembly, so lets clarify it up.

- A discussion and possibly a recommendation to Area Remote Communities and Special Needs Comm. on drafting a proposal for a trial period funding for Area Comm. morning session. A possible proposal is that D21 recommends that: "The Remote Communities and Special Needs Comm. propose a request for the funding of ASL interpreters for the ACM morning session for a trial period of 1 year. The RCSNC will review and report in May of 2008 on its overall effectiveness and make a recommendation at that time to the Area Comm.". We will be discussing this at the April D21 meeting. GSRs, please bring this up with your group, as we will have a good discussion at the April meeting on this subject.

- Patrick reminded everyone to please update the groups records ASAP as we need to send the updates in.

• **Presentations** on the 2007 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items were given.

Presentations of approximately 2-5 minutes each to help GSRs better understand the items. GSRs were encouraged to ask questions, and a few questions were asked..

-Agenda—Alan 2 minutes

-Cooperation With the Professional Community—Don 2-3 Minutes

-Corrections—Fran 2-3 minutes

-Finance—Gary 5 minutes Page 1 of Impact Items

-Grapevine --- Greg 5 Minutes Page 2 of Impact Items

Alan asked if would be OK to go until 9:15 as it was 8:40 and need at least a 1/2 hr to go over the rest of the agenda. Consensus was we could go past 9, but not go past 9:15.

-Literature—Greg 5 minutes Page 3 of Impact Items

-Policy/Admissions—Patrick 2-3 minutes

-Public Information—Don 5 minutes Page 4 of Impact Items

-Report and Charter—Alan 5 minutes Page 5 of Impact Items

-Treatment Facilities—Spencer 2-3 minutes

-Trustees—Alan 3 minutes Page 5 of Impact Items

-Archives—Patrick 3 minutes Page 7 of Impact Items

-International Conventions/Regional Forums Alan 2 minutes

Reminder, it is now up to the GSR's of each group to bring to their respective groups the GSC Agenda Items and then to bring the groups conscience to the Delegates Workshop in April. 14. The orange flyers for the Delegates Workshop (Mini General Service Conference) shows the particulars of where it is, etc..

• **GSR sharing.** None.

• **Announcements.** Mpls Gratitude Night April14

• **Adjourned** at 9:15pm with the AA Responsibility Declaration

*District 21 meeting, fourth Tuesday every month.