

# District 21 Newsletter

May 2007 Issue # 5

District 21 meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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## From your DCM

The Area Committee Meeting held May 5<sup>th</sup> in Mankato was rather exciting. As you know we have been discussing ways to fund ASL interpreters for the deaf/hard of hearing member of AA wanting to participate in the General Service Structure. This had missed approval last October by only a few votes, and we were left with having to fund the interpreters on a meeting by meeting basis. The estimated costs for the ASL interpreters had gone down significantly by the use of a volunteer. At this time, the cost for providing these services was estimated at about \$240.00 per meeting. However, there was still no plan other than to continue to approve this funding a meeting at a time.

To help solve this, we at District 21 had proposed that the ASL interpreters be funded for the morning sessions only and that the cost would not exceed \$1000 per annum and that the Remote Communities and Special Needs Committee would review the success or failure of the program for a period of a year and report back to the Area Committees. This was apparently tabled, because at the time, they thought they had a Committee Chair in line that could address this new proposal at a later time. But, the offer to serve was later withdrawn. So, at this month's Area Committee meeting, there was further discussion about the fact that we have been unable to fill the Chair, and it was proposed that we discontinue the Committee and spread it's tasks to the other pertinent Committees. This will then be brought back to the Groups and will be discussed at the next Area Assembly.

I have strong feelings about this and they are shared by many. First, the Remote Communities Committee had done a wonderful job with other projects other than trying to fund ASL interpreters. They have worked with Nursing Homes and with the different language groups including the Spanish and Hmong communities. New literature is being printed for the Hmong and a new 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Big Book is in the works for the Spanish speaking groups. Secondly, by disbanding this Committee, I feel that those who have made the proposal are doing so just to move away from the divisive discussions regarding the funding of ASL interpreters. But, even though we move the responsibilities of the Remote Communities Committee to other Committees, we still have a deaf member who is active in District 18 and sits on the Area Finance Committee. So, the problem remains, how do we best serve those with special needs, and in this case, the deaf? This problem will not go away, and I think the proposal to disband the Remote Communities Committee is short sighted and doesn't solve the problem. Also, the other Committees that are supposed to take up the work of the Remote Communities Committee are busy with their own agendas. The Committee was formed for this very reason and now it seems that some want to go backwards.

I hope that all the GSR's in the District will plan to attend this coming Area Assembly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June give their groups conscience one way or the other. Also, there will be a vote for a replacement for Samira Anderson who is leaving the area to her doctorate out of state. This is a vital position and the input from all voting members is of vital importance. As a GSR, your vote does count as you carry the message of your Groups Conscience.

Thank you for the Opportunity to Serve,  
Tom L.  
DCM District 21

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

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

### **District Officers**

DCM	Tom L	Email: dist21@area36.org
Alt. DCM	Alan N	
Treasurer	Gary Q.	
Secretary	Brenda R.	

### **District Committee Chairpersons**

Correction Facilities	Fran O.
Public Information	Don D.
Group Records	Patrick
Website	Eric L.
Finance	Treasurer
Structure	Alt DCM
Treatment Facilities	Open (we need a volunteer)
Newsletter	Open (we need a volunteer)
Outreach	Open (we need a volunteer)
Literature	Open (we need a volunteer)
Coop w/ Prof. Community	Open (we need a volunteer)
Archives	Open (we need a volunteer)
Grapevine	Open (we need a volunteer)

**District 21 can use some help in filling a few more of the Committee Chair positions, especially the Newsletter position is of high priority. Please contact our DCM for more information on the committee that you can be of service to AA**

Helpful website to AA members.:

Greater Mpls Intergroup: <http://www.aaminneapolis.org/>

GSO: <http://www.aa.org>

SMAA: <http://www.area36.org/>

## **Step Five**

*Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

## **Tradition Five (long form)**

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

## **Concept Five**

*Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.*

I like the part in this Concept that talks about our world service structure. It certainly applies at our General Service Conference and I see it in action at our Area Assemblies. What about at our group business meetings, Intergroup meetings and District meetings? Are we stopping to ask for a conflicting opinion or is everybody always in agreement? Hard to believe that everybody agrees all the time.

I've got a meeting at work tomorrow because of a hasty and uninformed decision was made to programs and services that I work with. By allowing the minority or opposing opinion to be heard in the first place, we would be better serving our clients and we wouldn't be taking time out of our day tomorrow to right a wrong.

A well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

## From your Alt. DCM

I attended the Structure Comm meeting in Mankato on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We covered 4 points of discussion and the following is a briefing of them.

Discussion as old business was the minority opinion and whether it was being heard at the Area level. So what more could be done? Most in attendance thought the opportunity was given to minority opinion/s and the Area was supportive of the procedure. This question came from the Area Inventory responses.

A discussion was had about moving the date of the Leadership School from November to January as most felt there were not enough people in place whether it be GSRs, or District Comm members who were not in place in early Nov, so that by Jan there should be the new GSRs, etc. by then. Remember a few districts rotate on the even years, unlike D 21 which rotates the odd years. But often what we do the year before carries over to the following year, so this would influence D21 heavily in 2009

Parliamentary procedures were discussed. We talked about this at the last D21 Comm meeting. At that time input from our past Delegate basically indicated we as a D did not need to go any further as it was a simple administrative oversight by the Area Chair at the March Assembly. But as it turns out it was not, in the sense that they are looking at the whole parliamentary procedures within the Area, and what applies? Meaning there is Robert Rules of Order, AA Traditions, and the hybrid of past parliamentary procedures that the Area has followed. So they will be discussion of this in the coming months.. Personally, my view is the Area has a hybrid of parliamentary procedures in that we have both AA traditions and portions of Robert Rules of order that we have adhered to. I think we just need to agree in writing what it should be for the Area. But this is something that definitely the groups need to weigh in on, and they will be given that opportunity.

Lastly we talked about a name change for the "Delegates Workshop" . This was held In April each year to prepare our delegate on how we look at the different issues before the General Service Conference. The problem seems to be the new people to AA service are clueless as to what it is about, as some have mentioned they thought it was for the Delegates only and General Service Representatives were not expected to attend. When is reality we definitely want the GSRs to attend as that is how the Delegate gets the pulse of the various groups. Some district feel the name is OK, but we need to step up the education of the GSRs as to what happens there and other events. But more than \_ thought there should be a change in the name to more reflect what the Workshop is all about. A few names thrown out were Mini GSC, GSC Agenda Items Workshop, etc...to more reflect what it is about. So the Area wants to hear from the GSRs and there will be a discussion at the June Area Assembly so the GSRs can have their voice heard as to what they want the name to be.

As you can see, the GSR is a vital part of the AA Service Structure as the District and Area takes our cue from the GSRs, the GSR set policy and what should be done, the committees, districts and Area just carry out what the majority want done. So if your group does not have a GSR, please elect one. If you want more info about the GSR, we have pamphlets available too. But basically the GSR carries their groups conscience to the District monthly meetings and to the Area 4 times a year.

Yours in Service,

Alan

Alt DCM and Structure Chair D21.

### **Unapproved District 21 Meeting minutes for April 24th, 2007**

- Opened with the Serenity prayer.
- Introductions. **13 in attendance**
- Concept Four: **Fran. Volunteer to do Concept Five next month.**
- Approval of March minutes. **March minutes were approved as written by unanimous voice vote.**
- Treasurer's report: Gary **D21 has a balance of \$1941.71 including prudent reserve. Gary will check on New Freedom and Tradition III contributions.**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. *Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*
- Intergroup report: Julie: **Gopher State Round up is coming up Memorial weekend.**

Continued on next page

- Old business:
  - Web site: where do we stand? **Eric is willing to do what he can to get this up and running. Thank you, Eric.**
  - Need of District Chairperson for News Letter, and other committees
- New Business:
  - Election of a New Secretary for the District—Mark Miller presiding. **Brenda Rau was elected to be the Secretary.**
  - Splitting the News Letter responsibility **Alan will do layout and Gary will do mailing.**
  - Need for guidelines at the Area Level to request paper ballot – **need clarification on this as there has been some confusion. Intent is to prevent intimidation by allowing people to vote privately via paper. Guidelines of Roberts Rules exist and should be kept in front of the DCM as they lead the meetings. No further action is necessary.**
  - Discuss possible recommendation to the Area to have ASL interpreters funded on a trial basis for one year and then review the results. **We have a member who is deaf and wants to volunteer. He would require an interpreter. Interpreters are \$40/hour. Proposal is to give this a trial to see if this is a way for the deaf community to contribute to carrying the message and contribute to the AA service structure. Anything under \$1000 does not need to go to area assembly for approval.**
  - Options for recommended action:**
    - make the recommendation to be considered by committee
  - District 21 Birthday Celebration, June 26<sup>th</sup>. 1992 – 15 years
- Presentation: Mark Miller, Past Delegate Area 36. *What now happens to the information given to the Delegate once they reach New York. Included will be some of his own personal experiences-* **Mark told his story, how he got involved with service work and what it has meant for his sobriety.**
- Committee Reports
  1. **Finance – Gary – report already provided**
  2. **Group Records – Patrick – tracking down groups in D21, 84 or so groups in D21, got the most up-to-date info, filling in the details on individual groups**
  3. **Corrections – Fran – Fran is contacting Corrections chair to see about how we handle the Hennepin Cty workhouse on Cty Rd 6, wants to establish a district contact (the person who takes meetings to the facility) for each facility or jail,**
  4. **Website – Eric –**
- GSR Sharing
- Any Additional Items/Announcements
- Closed with Responsibility statement

## District 21 Financial report. May 2007 Summary

### *Income:*

Group Contributions	\$361.81
In-Kind contributions	100.00
Other income	<u>72.00</u>
Total income:	\$433.81

### Expenses:

Assembly operating	\$ 0.00
Committee expenses	366.69
Other Exp.(Officer Travel)	<u>82.59</u>
Total expenses	\$429.28

### *Account balance:*

Beginning balance	April 1st	\$1,116.51
Total income		433.81
Total expenses		<u>429.28</u>
Ending Balance	May 8th	\$1,121.04
District 21 prudent reserve		+ <u>800.00</u>
Overall total		\$1,9121.04

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions can be sent to: District 21, Box 47322, and Plymouth, MN. 55447**

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events All are welcome to attend**

Every Saturday at 10:00 AM, the local Intergroup Assn puts on an A.A. Orientation, located at: Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 2544 S Hwy 100, St. Louis Park, MN.

- May 22 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary LN NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM  
**May 22 District Meeting Agenda Highlights**  
Recap of what happened at the Area Comm Meeting  
Prepare GSRs for Area Assembly topics  
Samira A., our Delegate present her report on what happened at the GSC
- June 23 Area Assembly, Best Western Victoria Inn, Hutchinson, MN 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
On Hwy 7 on the west end of town on the left side.
- June 26th District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary Nn NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM  
**15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party of D21!** We will take of biz for \_ an hour, and then serve cake and ice cream, and then Karin N, D21s 1<sup>st</sup> DCM will speak about the history of D21
- July 21 Joint Area 35/35 Archives Workshop, St. Cloud, MN 8-5 see the Area's website for further info <http://www.area36.org/>
- July 24 District 21 meeting, 4325 Zachary LN NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM
- Aug 11 Area Committee Meeting, Best Western Inn, Mankato  
Standing Committees-9:30 am; Full Committee 1:00 pm

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

**Change Service Requested.**