

GSRs and Group contacts please read and then share the newsletter with your group.

District 21 Newsletter

July 2007 Issue # 7

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 RD 9 (Rockford Road) and Zachary LN. District 21's website is: www.area36-district21.com

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

I hope everyone had the chance to be at the 15th Birthday Party for District 21 because it was a great time. Karin Nord, our first DCM of the District spoke about why the district was formed off of District 7. The primary purpose was what the District hold dear to our hearts to this day; to help the still suffering alcoholic and to help others to serve. She spoke for about 45 minutes and then answered questions. We had cake and ice cream and even sang "Happy Birthday". Present were other prior DCM's: Scott A., Mark M and Fran O. Others from that first year, including our current Alternate DCM, Alan, were also there. Karin is going to write a letter touching the highlights of her talk for those unable to attend, and this will be included in a future News Letter.

This next month, Carla N will be presenting on the Area's Public Information Committee, and what it is now doing and hopefully getting other groups involved in this area of service to A.As. As part of the Public Information, at the Minnesota State Fair, AA has an information booth in the Grand Stand. We are still looking for groups to take a slot of time to help staff it. If you are interested, you can Don D our District 21 PI Chair pi@area36-district21.com Please see his article in this newsletter for more details.

The District 21's website is up and running once again. Our address is www.area36-district21.com Please see Eric's report for further details on our website.

We had a great Area Assembly last month with the discussion points noted in the Minutes from our last meeting. I had the privilege of presenting the "pro" position of having a non-alcoholic become the Manager of the General Service Office. Currently, only alcoholics can fill this job. The problem has been though that the Manager attends many meetings nationally and internationally and because of this, has become the "face" of AA. Since AA has no leaders and no one presenting AA as a whole, this fact that he has become the "face" of AA has become troublesome. Normally, people in his position rotate out after 5-7 years, but currently, some of the Trustees want him to stay on. There is no current "policy" on rotation only the tradition. So, as I see it, the problem is two-fold. One is to get a new Manager, and the other is to open it to non-alcoholics. The Board of Trustees will be discussing this item this month and the Group Conscience of the AA Groups needs to be there. Our next District 21 meeting will be held on the 21st of this month, in time to get our own Group Conscience heard. So, please plan to attend and let us know what you think—and for this, we need the GSR's there.

For the GSR's, the West Central Regional Forum will be in September 7-9 in Omaha, NE. The flyer for this can be seen on of website or come to our next district meeting as we will have a few copies on hand. Some groups are paying the travel and lodging of their GSR's so that they may attend. Many will be car pooling and sharing rooms to keep the costs down. And that means consider possibly car pooling with some of the district committee officers or chairs as we all need to watch the bottom line. If you would like to attend, I would suggest you bring this before your meeting since reimbursement for GSR expenses for such things as this, is the Group's responsibility. For more information about your Groups responsibility, see the pamphlet for the Group Treasurer and the GSR. I would love to see as many GSR's as possible, attend. It would be a great learning experience and the opportunity to keep their groups informed. It is a way to meet and ask questions from the people from the General Service Office located in New York who serve A.A.

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	dcm@area36-district21.com
Alt. DCM	Alan N	alt-dcm@area36-district21.com
Treasurer	Gary Q.	treasurer@area36-district21.com
Secretary	Brenda R.	secretary@area36-district21.com

District Committee Chairpersons

Correction Facilities	Fran O.	cfc@area36-district21.com
Public Information	Don D.	pi@area36-district21.com
Group Records	Patrick S.	records@area36-district21.com
Website	Eric L.	webchair@area36-district21.com
Finance	Treasurer	See above
Structure	Alt DCM	See above
Newsletter	Open (we need a volunteer)	Alan and Gary are temporarily doing this service.
Treatment Facilities	Open (we need a volunteer)	District 21 can use some help in filling a few
Outreach	Open (we need a volunteer)	more of the Committee Chair positions
Literature	Open (we need a volunteer)	especially the Newsletter position which is of high
Coop w/ Prof. Community	Open (we need a volunteer)	priority. Please contact our DCM for more
Archives	Open (we need a volunteer)	information on the committee that you can be
Grapevine	Open (we need a volunteer)	of service to AA

Concept Seven

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

This is a fun Concept because it can be misleading. I talks about our General Service Board having complete power to do what they wish in our world service affairs. This is true. They can because legally, they have the right to and our General Service Conference doesn't.

Are you getting nervous yet? It really is a delicate balance of power because we have to remember that the “ultimate authority” of our world service affairs is the groups themselves as our Second Tradition and our First Concept remind us. We hold the power of the purse strings and a board has very little to manage if there's nothing there to fund it. We've not had to come to this yet and hopefully never will.

“If therefore, in the years ahead, the Conference will always bear in mind the actual rights, duties, responsibilities, and legal status of the general Service Board, and if the Trustees in their deliberations will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority, we may be sure that neither will be seriously tempted to make a “rubber stamp” out of the other. We may expect that in this way grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule

Step Seven

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Unapproved District 21 Meeting Minutes, 7:30PM June 26th, 2007

- **Open** with the Serenity prayer.
- **Introductions.** 25 people in attendance including 3 past Delegates and the current Delegate
- **Concept Six:** Patrick. Thank you, Paul for volunteering to give Concept 7 next month.
- **Approval of May minutes.** Minutes were approved as written.
- **Treasurer's report:** Gary Balance \$1158 + the \$800 prudent reserve.
- **7th Tradition.** *Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*
- **Intergroup report:** No report
- **GSR Sharing** GSRs from Open Door, New Freedom, NS Sqd 7 Sun BB and Keep It Simple reported.
- **Old business:** Alan provided a recap of highlights of the Area Assembly held June 23th
Elections- Steve K is Alt Delegate, Niles is now our Alt Chair
RCSNC- Consensus was to NOT abolish this committee
GSO Manager-Should non AA be able to be considered for this position? Pro/Con discussion. Tom our DCM gave the Pro side. No consensus was made.
- **New Business:** A brief overview of each—GSRs – please bring to your groups as we will discuss more at the July District Meeting, as these items will be discussed at the Aug ACM
 1. Name Change of Delegates Workshop. – Should it be changed to Mini GSC Workshop (or similar) to more convey what takes place?
 2. Literature. “Whereas, the Big Book describes itself as a text book, it should therefore contain a glossary in the Appendix section as a means to make it more coherent and helpful as a tool for recovery.” Background info in May issue of the *Pigeon*, see page 8.
- **Committee reports:**
 1. **PI.** State Fair booth – Thursday, first day of the fair, all time slots are open 11-1, 1- 3, etc. the booth is under the grandstand – GSRs are asked to sign up their group with Don tonight
 2. **Outreach.** How to get different D 21 groups to adopt a hotel or library to put AA meeting info into the hotel or library. See Patrick if your group wants to take a hotel. Also, want to get a contact name they can call if they need a ride or if they don't know which meeting is nearest to their hotel.
- **Break for Cake and Ice cream** District 21's 15th Anniversary
- **Presentation:** Karin N., District 21's 1st DCM and past Delegate. Why was D21 formed, how it came about, and how service has effected her life based upon her personal experiences.
- **Announcements** “History Matters” joint workshop with Area 35. Saturday, July 21, 9 am to 5 pm. Bethlehem Lutheran church, 4310 County Rd. 137, St Cloud, MN. See flyer.
- **Closed with the Responsibility statement:**

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

(Back side page of minutes-left blank- scroll down for more newsletter)

Tradition Seven (long form)

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority

From your Public Information Chair

Hi, My Name is Don currently serving as your Public Information Chairperson. What a great summer it has been so far! I can't believe Independence Day has come and gone!

Things at District 21 are really moving along great, and although things are usually slower during the summer, our turnout has been very good.

We are looking ahead and I think we have some great service opportunities planned. The one I would like to talk about today is the Alcoholics Anonymous Information booth at the State Fair. This year, Thursday August 23rd (the opening day) is District 21's day to host the PI booth at the State Fair. This is a fun time to connect with others in recovery and to talk to some people who may be a little curious about A.A. Mostly we have a lot of literature, meeting schedules, etc. available. Most things at the booth are free. I call this event "entry level" service because it's pretty easy and really fun to do. It is a great way for a sponsor to introduce a sponsee to service in A.A. and then also to have fun in sobriety at the fair. The booth is located under the grandstand and we have some time slots open, as of now, the afternoon and evening is there are openings. 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, & 7-9 are available. You do have to pay admission to get in, but the 1st day is 1/2 price. If you are interested please call soon. You can contact me at pi@area36-district21.com. Although the fair seems far away, like the 4th of July it will be here before we know it. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

In Love and service,

Don

From your Website Chair

Your District 21 web page is back on-line and can be found at the <http://area36-district21.com> address. The site information is being updated on a best effort basis but all ideas from you are welcome. Feel free to e-mail your comments or suggestions to webchair@area36-district21.com and we'll see what we can do.

In service,

Eric

District 21 Financial report. July 2007 Summary

Income:

Group Contributions	25.00
In-Kind contributions	0.99
Other income	33.00
Total income:	<u>\$258.99</u>

Account balance:

Beginning balance 6/26	\$1158.22
Total income	258.99
Total expenses	<u>171.99</u>
Ending Balance 7/12/07	\$1245.22

Expenses:

Assembly operating	\$ 171.99
Committee expenses	0.00
Other Exp.	<u>0.00</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 171.99</u>

District 21 prudent reserve	<u>800.00</u>
Overall total	\$2045.22

7th Tradition contributions can be sent to: District 21, Box 47322, and Plymouth, MN. 55447

Calendar of Upcoming Events All members of the fellowship are welcomed to attend.

*** Denotes events that both the groups' General Service Representative & Alt. GSR should attend to represent their groups' conscience.**

- July 21st **Joint Area 35/36 Archives Workshop**, St. Cloud, MN 8AM-PM see the Area's website for further info <http://www.area36.org/>
- July 24th ***District 21 meeting**, 4325 Zachary Nn NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM
July 24th District Meeting Agenda Highlights
- Carla N. our Area Public Information Chair will present on what the Area PI committee does, and what a districts PI comm. along with the groups can do. Including the State Fair booth.
- Discussion by the groups of District 21 on the inclusion of a Glossary for the Big Book.
- Discussion by the groups of District 21 on a new name for the Delegates Workshop
- Aug 11th **Area Committee Meeting**, Best Western Inn, Mankato
Standing Committees 9:30-11:30AM. Full Committee 1-5PM
- Aug 28th ***District 21 meeting**, 4325 Zachary LN NW, Plymouth, 7:30 PM
Paul H. our Area's Archives committee Chair will be presenting.
- Sept. 7-9th ***West Central Region Forum** Omaha NE. See the District's or Area's website for the flyer.
Meet the folks from the General Service Office – they bring the office to our region once every 2 years.

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

Change Service Requested.