

District Agenda 9/13/05

Present: Terry D., Mark M., Doug A., Gene, Jim V., Tammie J., Eva, Scott, Travis M., Tom L., Bill, Catherine, Julie R., Barb, Shawn F., Tom, Steve, Mary C., Megan

Open: with "I am Responsible"

Delegate report and Questions and Answers: Mark gave his report and distributed copies of the delegate's report from the General Service Conference, "Basis of Our Home Group—Recover, Unity, and Service"

Announcements:

9/17 – District 1 Sponsorship into Service, 10:30-2:30, Rochester

9/19 – Southern Minnesota Roundup Committee Meeting, 7:00, Fifth Avenue

9/30-10/2—West Central Forum, Great Falls, MT

10/14-16 – Hiawathaland Get-Together, Holiday Inn, Austin

10/22—Area Assembly, Holiday Inn, Austin

12/3—Area Committee Meetings, Best Western, North Mankato

Minutes: distributed with Agenda/Minutes for 9/13/05 Meeting. Please notify secretary of any additions or corrections. Also, meeting schedules are available from the Secretary, Sarah C.

Treasurer's Report: 8/9/05 - The ending balance at the Aug. District meeting was \$179.40.

8/11/05 - I paid the July phone bill to Hickory Tech in the amount of \$30.01.

8/12/05 - I deposited the \$108.00 donation (money order) we received from the Wed. night 8:00p.m. Step Study group at Lutes via Doug A.

8/27/05 - I balanced the checkbook to the checking account. They balanced to the penny. Yay!!!

8/29/05 - I talked with Vicki Ristau at Wells Fargo Bank about the \$2 monthly fee on our account. I was told that the \$3 monthly service fee for low activity business accounts and the \$2 monthly check return fee had been waived to our account for July and Aug. and these fees would continue to be waived in the future also. She suggested that we not change our account to a non-profit business account at this time because as it stands today it would be in our best interest (no fees) to keep our current account the way it is.

8/29/05 - I ordered 1 box of 150 duplicate checks from Wells Fargo Bank as Checks Unlimited and Deluxe Check printing was about \$8.00 more per box of 150 for the most inexpensive duplicate checks than Wells Fargo was when I checked then online. We received the checks in our P.O. Box on 9/6/05. The \$19.95 charge will be deducted on our next statement in Sept.

9/7/05 - I paid the Aug. phone bill to Hickory Tech in the amount of \$30.01.

9/8/05 - I deposited the \$338.00 donation (cash) we received from the Wed. night 6:30p.m. group at Lutes via Gary P. on 9/7/05.

9/8/05 - As of today our balance is \$565.38. I don't foresee any reason for deductions or other transactions before the District meeting at this time.

9/8/05 - I finally finished the Thank You Letter to the groups for their generous donations, I printed them and I hope to get them to the groups somehow before the District meeting or at that meeting.

DCM Report: The situation concerning contacting as many AA groups in District 9 as possible as well as distributing the Self Support pamphlet, accompanying literature and message from the District has been completed with the exception of a few out of Mankato groups. I will strive to meet with them in the upcoming month. It was a pleasure to meet the new groups, to me, and many new faces. There were a couple issues that became very apparent during this visit, such as:

* A large percentage of groups do NOT have Group Service Representatives nor do they really understand what the duties are. I suspect most feel it is a much larger task than it is. If you have questions about it, please ask me.

* Sponsors that have some sponsees with close to two years sobriety may want to urge them to get involved with Service work (12th Step work) as the G.S.R for their group or being involved with the District at the committee levels.

* It is my impression we have a still formidable task of rebuilding the status and image of District 9 to the various groups. I would be open to all suggestions as I feel the groups are accustomed to the District doing nothing for them so...why should they bother with the District? I feel it is imperative we continue to fill the committee Chairs and if we are in those positions, do the duties called upon by that position. Anything we can do to change the image of a "do nothing, bureaucratic boring bunch" will help us achieve our goal a great deal in my opinion.

In my personal opinion we are making headway in getting our District back on it's feet. The publishing of updated, correct schedules, announcements prior to meetings, getting contributions from some established groups with percentages in place for future support, placing the Grapevine in key locations, new Members coming forward volunteering for positions are all very positive things and I don't mean to diminish these things. There has been a very strong response to the recently updated and improved District AA phone line. Several 12th Step opportunities have resulted as well as referrals to Al-Anon. The more we can get information out to the public and the various groups, the better we serve our District I believe.

There is an Area function during October in Austin, MN. that I will be attending as well as a GSR workshop coming up this fall. I encourage all to come forward with suggestions to continue to revitalize and assist our District serve the other alcoholics of this area. We have had casual conversation of Workshops, travel to various individual groups and explain what the District and G.S.R. positions actually are about etc. All reasonable suggestions will be taken into consideration.

CPC/PI Report: Ordered and received TV and Radio public information spots to air on KEYC TV and KTOE/KDOG. Saved radio spots to duplicate for further radio airplay locally.

TF Report: Spoke with House of Hope, who would like a donation of hardcover Big Books. Made contact with Johnson Hall in St. Peter. Will continue contacting other treatment facilities providing meeting schedules.

Literature/GV: Since our last August meeting, it was discussed that the literature cabinet prices list needs to be taken out, and a updated literature price list put in its place that has all prices reflecting the same price as the cost (cost means the same price we originally paid for the book). I made a new list that has all prices at cost, and will put the new list up on Tuesday, September 13, 2005.

Since our last August meeting, I telephoned Kim S. (board member), and asked her about the District literature and District Literature money, and if there is a list of people who are "Key-holders" to the literature cabinet. She said that she has been holding all of the literature money envelopes, (keeping them for the treasurer, locked safely in the office at the club). The new treasurer will need to get in touch with her (I have Kim's phone number and can give it to the treasurer at the next District meeting). As for the names of people who have keys to the literature cabinet, there is no list. Kim said that she has one key, Tom J. has one key, Dale (house manager & board member) has one key, Sarah C. has a key, and I have a key. The rest is unknown at this time.

In our August District 9 meeting, it was suggested that we change the lock on the Literature cabinet, and issue new keys (make copies) to the above named people. Also, it might be a good idea to issue a key to the DCM (Terry D), District 9 Secretary (Sarah C), and the District 9 Treasurer (Jo Ann E.). I agree, and would like to discuss or vote on this issue at the next District 9 meeting.

Website Report: Meeting schedule is now posted at http://www.area36.org/district_9.php .

Old Business:

Elect Archives Chair – Tom L. elected

Elect Corrections Facility Chair – Travis M. elected

Literature for Treatment Facilities – House of Hope would like 6 hardcover Big Books. Much discussion was had about whether this was twelfth step work or affiliation with an outside agency. After two votes, the motion passed and books were given from district supplies to TF chair to give to director at House of Hope.

New Business:

District Archives on Webpage – there is a place on http://www.area36.org/district_9.php for district archives. Do we want to look into posting District meeting agendas and minutes there? – Discussion tabled due to delegate's report.

Hotline – We are getting lots of calls and some reports of people leaving messages even though they shouldn't be able to. It would be really nice if we had more volunteers. Do we want to include more phone numbers or rotate phone numbers? Should we hire an answering service? Should we include people who are not district officers? Decided secretary will rotate volunteers who have at least one year of sobriety on a monthly basis.

Literature Cabinet – Do we want to replace the lock? Do we want to continue selling literature in that cabinet? Much discussion was had, including confusion over who has keys and money. Literature has a list of current key-carriers and treasurer is meeting with Kim on Alano board to get the money. The question was asked what other districts due and the issue was tabled until more information was available.

Phonebook Listing – Fifth Avenue is listed under "AA Groups" in phone book. Discussion was had about how this might be confusing and it was decided that DCM will ask Fifth Avenue to change the listing to something that does not confuse the Alano club with Alcoholics Anonymous.

GSR sharing session

GSR Report for Wed. Night Step Study at Lutes (8p.m.) - On Wed. Sept. 7th we had our Group Conscience meeting after our regular meeting. We discussed the 2 issues at hand to be voted on and took a vote on both. The 1st issue we discussed was whether or not to approve the candidates being nominated for office to the Area committees to submit a résumé-like hard copy of their information (i.e. sobriety date, length of continuous sobriety and qualifications for the position they were being nominated for) before being accepted as a candidate. Most people liked the idea of giving the information before the elections and yet some people didn't want the written résumé process to drag out the election process because of sorting through the résumés, etc. at the District level. It was suggested by the group that at the time of being nominated the day of the elections that the candidates stand, give their name, sobriety date and qualifications for the position they are being nominated for so that everyone that will be voting that day is present and receiving this information all at the same time. There was also some concern expressed about a person really wanting to grow in service in a particular capacity not being elected because they had less schooling, training, experience or qualifications than another nominee. We reassured them that qualifications are not the sole reason people are elected to a particular office and if they have some skills that would work in that position and a great desire to serve in that particular capacity to speak from their heart...it couldn't hurt. Bottom line...we voted against the proposal for a hard copy résumé of information to be submitted at the time of nomination. We strongly make to the District the suggestion above. The 2nd issue we discussed was whether or not to have the Pigeon (area newsletter) put into an electronic file for people to access to read via computer. There was brief discussion on this due to most people agreeing that it made a lot of sense in this day in the age of technology...as long as it was still being printed in hard copy format so people without computers would still have the opportunity to read it if they so desired. The only concern being expressed was that it would still be printed in hard copy so people without computers could still read it. And the bottom line here was that we voted to approve the Pigeon area newsletter being put into electronic format as long as it was still printed in hard copy also. There were about 12 people present at the meeting and there was wonderful participation by many people. It was an awesome Group Conscience meeting and I am very grateful to them all for showing up, speaking up and

Meeting was closed with the declaration of unity. **Next Meeting:** October 11, 7:00pm, Taylor Hall.