

Group Records Minutes from Feb. 10, 2007 Area Committee Meeting

At the Area committee meeting in Mankato on Saturday we discussed the need for updated information on all district officers and committee chairs. We need Names, addresses, phone number and email address's. Our plan is to have the new area directory printed and available by the next Area Assembly. Districts are working on the **GSO annual update process** to help GSO and the Area have accurate information in our data bases... These updates need to be returned by April 15, 2007. To do these updates some districts have the records chair call or attend all meetings to make sure the records are accurate. Some have a night where people get together with cell phones and try to call all the groups in there district. Other districts have a committee that divides the material up, each contacting the groups to see that the group is still meeting and the contact information is correct. It is very important that this information be correct.

Exciting news from group records is the FNV (Fellowship New Vision) program. This is a summary of information received from GSO. The program is supposed to go online in March/April and will allow The Area Group Records Chair to view and change information for groups and individuals in their area. Why a new a program? The old one did not work well and we had many errors. Hopefully the electronic version will be more accurate. We also will be able to export information for our area using comma-separated values (CSV format) which we will be able to convert to an Excel file. We then should be able to compare the Area Data base and make sure they are the same. The old system will not be shut down. The old program will be viewable but we will not be able to update using it. We can hold the changes from the group updates until March and then we will be able to enter them online or we can send GSO hardcopies and let them do the update. At the area committee meeting we agreed that we should probably use a mixture of both. It is important for new GSR's and committee members to receive information packets so we will submit some changes in hardcopy. The Area group records chair will have access to FNV and will be able to login using a digital certificate issued for their computer. Each user will also have a login ID and password. The system will have dual firewalls. All data will be sent over a secure connection and be encrypted. Training will be by an Interactive training on the Webb. A user guide is being created. All authorized users will need to preregister and the computer will need to be preregistered.

Group records committee has continued to discuss a policy for the area mailing list. Should the personal information of AA members be given to other entities? If yes, which types - for example, roundups in our area, other area roundups, other 12 step programs, Alano Clubs, treatment centers, etc.? Or should they only be allowed to insert flyers into the Pigeon instead of releasing the mailing list? In other words, who should have access to the Area mailing list and to what degree? Should it be each individual member's choice to receive mailings from roundups or would a blanket Area policy that covers all the names and addresses on the Area mailing list be better? Do we want a pro-con discussion at the area assembly before developing a policy? It was decided at the afternoon committee meeting to have a pro con discussion at the next area assembly.

The group records committee also discussed an agenda item for the 57th Service Conference which would consider discontinuing publishing of regional directories for (Canada, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S). Thoughts on the subject by committee members: Not everyone has a computer especially when they are traveling, people can't always find the right website, it would financially be advantageous, perhaps they could save money by putting it on a CD. This might be a good topic for your groups and districts.