

Hello everybody,

I attended the Area Service Conference in January that was held in Rochester. The Service Conference had some of the best presentations that I can recall and was well run. If you missed it, too bad as it was a great weekend of hope in helping the person who still suffers from this dreadful disease that still so many are afflicted with. As it turns out I met a young guy who was a new GSR for his group and was able to provide a room for him to sleep over Saturday night as he did not have place to stay. Hmmmmm.... it pays to pay attention to those little intuitive hunches as I had registered for a 2 bed room earlier that day and then happened to see him off to the side after the ice cream social that evening and I asked if he had a place to stay, which it turns out he had not. I really get a kick out of it when God has a hand in putting me in a position to be of help to others.

I was also present for the ACM in Mankato in February, there was one person in attendance for the Area Newsletter Committee meeting. The Website and Newsletter Committees are now in the room that the Structure Committee used to be in, and it worked out quite well as both committees are communication related for the Area. Dan from Fairmont was the sole representative for the Newsletter committee from the Districts, I hope he got a few things out of the morning meeting and I know he stayed around for the afternoon main Area Committee meeting, which is a very good sign that he is eager to learn and be of help to others. I sure hope to see a few more Newsletter people though at the next ACM, as I know the Districts are putting out their own newsletters. I need them to participate, and I can be of help in return.

Speaking of the afternoon Committee meeting, it was some of the best positive energy I have seen in a long time in the Area, and very well attended at that, to the point that not all the ACM members could be seated around the main tables. So I am very pleased and eager to see what all can be accomplished in the next 2 years by everyone.

As for my new role in putting the Pigeon together, well it has been a daunting task for me. I recently just upgraded my computer so I am learning a much newer operating system than I had, and to top it off I am learning Adobe InDesign software program for the publishing portion of putting the newsletter together, which I have never used before. The Area just purchased the software, and yes it was budgeted for in the Area's budget, so it's not an unexpected expense. Thus between the hardware and 2 software upgrades and everything—it is a lot to learn for me and has taken more time than I thought it would.

I'd like to point out that the proposed new Pigeon Publication Policy will be up for discussion and approval at the Area Assembly in March.

And to just to be clear in the future, all DCM, Area officers articles, and any editorials are due by the day of the regularly scheduled ACM. The Area Committee Chairs are due the first Wednesday after the ACM so that they can include their Standing Area Committee discussion report in the Pigeon so we are kept up to date on the activity of their Committee. I was a bit relaxed this time on deadlines as many people were brand new to the article being due as the email situation was trying for some to figure out, but in the future I will be expecting a lot more discipline from the ACM members for being on time with their articles. And I would like to thank those people who actually did send in their article on time, and even a few who were early with their articles.

I know some of you are writers out there, or have something on your mind, so do not be bashful, go ahead and write an editorial, or similar for the Pigeon. Please follow the new Policy for the Pigeon in the articles as a guideline when writing.

And lastly, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Samira for asking me to be of service to the Area as the editor of the Pigeon. It just goes to show you that even a person with mild dyslexia can be asked to be an editor if they are willing to put the time and effort in. Yes, regardless of our abilities or disabilities, we all can be of help in A.A. and even sometimes beyond all things we think that are possible when we first walk into the door of our first meeting.

Yours in service,

Alan N.
SMAA Pigeon Editor and Newsletter Chair