

## **Alcoholics Anonymous District 19**

As a result of our recent District inventory, we discovered that most groups in our district either don't know about or aren't linked to the District and therefore, to A.A. as a whole. So, we decided to visit all the groups in our District to share some information about District 19 and General Service.

This is a quote from Bill W. out of the General Service Manual. "The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole."

The voice of your group is critical to ensuring that the best decisions are made for our fellowship. The individual groups are the group conscious of Alcoholics Anonymous and this group conscious is heard through A.A.'s service structure as follows:

- **As groups**, you are at the top because the groups are the ultimate authority and decision-makers in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- **The District** is the next level of communication where the group's voice is carried by each group's General Service Representative (otherwise known as the GSR) at the monthly District meeting. We are in District 19 which is made up of all of Dakota County.
- **The Area** is the next level of communication where the GSR also carries the voice of the group to the three yearly Area Assembly meetings. We are in Area 36 which is the southern half of Minnesota.
- **The General Service Conference** is the annual meeting in New York where the Area Delegate carries the voice of all the groups in Southern MN Area 36.

Some examples of how a group's voice can make a difference in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole are:

- **The decision to make a 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Big Book to update the stories and add the 12 Concepts**
- **The need for more teen literature in Alcoholics Anonymous** was raised by a group in our District. This issue went all the way through the service structure, was discussed at the General Service Conference in New York last year, and helped raise awareness of this need in Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **What District 19 does and how we can help your group:**

- Our primary purpose is to support the groups in District 19 and help them carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. We're able to do this work through individual group contributions of time, energy, and money.
- We help groups by providing info on 12<sup>th</sup> step opportunities made available through District and Area Committee meetings as well as Minneapolis and St. Paul Intergroups.
- We maintain up-to-date meeting directories for District 19.
- We arrange workshops on a variety of different service topics
- The District meeting is a good place for your group to get answers to questions and problems from other groups who've had similar experiences. For example, currently a group is being asked by their landlord to buy renter's insurance and has asked other groups in the District how to handle this.
- There are different ways to get involved in District 19 activities. For example you could:
  - be your group's voice as a GSR
  - help at a workshop
  - deliver meeting directories
  - serve on a committee
- Our District meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail (State Hwy 3) in Rosemount.
- Everyone is invited to participate and all are welcome to attend.