Delegate Report

This month marks the end of the first year of our current two-year rotation in general service. The time is going quickly for me in my position as Delegate. As I reflect on the experience so far, I realize that the two articles I am asked to write each month are giving me some ideas. I write an article for the Greater Minneapolis Intergroup each month on the Concept that corresponds to that month of the year. The St. Paul & Suburban Area Intergroup asks me to write an article each month about a service-related topic that I think is important. Writing those articles forces me to dig into our Concepts and to pay attention to what issues are surfacing in the Fellowship. Recently, the importance of leadership in A.A. is on my mind because of those writings.

Even though it is a year out, I am already looking ahead to our next Area and District elections. Bill W’s essay on Concept Nine speaks to the need to choose qualified leaders as our trusted servants. Concept Eleven talks about the need to choose the best possible committee members, directors, and staff at all levels of our Fellowship – from the General Service Board and our corporate boards to our executive management and our staff. All through our Fellowship, we should strive to pick the best possible people to serve. A.A. must be as well-run as possible to make sure our message of hope gets carried to as many people as possible and for a long time into the future.

Start looking now to see who around you is living out the principles you value most in a leader. Watch how our current trusted servants are conducting themselves. Encourage those A.A.’s whose service you admire to stand for group, District, and Area positions. For the good of A.A., we should have the broadest, most experienced pool of candidates possible. When it comes time for the annual elections, we should open the nominations to include people who have served our Area in past or have served A.A. in other capacities. We need to look much broader than just to those trusted servants who are currently on our Area Committee. To limit nominations to that narrow group only invites us to create an elite, exclusive group. For A.A.’s sake, let’s hope we can have numerous candidates for every position.

Another topic I have been noticing lately is how we express our priorities in A.A. Priorities usually show up in how we spend our time and/or how we spend our money. Pay attention at your next meeting, whatever kind of meeting it is. Look around and see how you and the group are spending their time and money. If there isn’t financial information readily available, ask for it. Listen to what people are saying is important and then see if their time and money are actually being spent on those things. You’ll begin to see what the priorities are. And once you see the truth of it, you can then ask yourself if those are the priorities you support. If not, then you know what to do. Bring it up at the next business meeting or District Meeting or Area Assembly. You have the authority and the responsibility as an A.A. member to help shape our priorities. You do that by being an active participant in the group conscience.

To update you concerning the efforts to retrieve the printer’s copy of our original A.A. manuscript, I have received a letter from Greg T, Manager of the General Service Office, regarding the status of the case. The General Service Board and the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board have recently decided to voluntarily dismiss their case to retrieve the manuscript. The communication from Greg states that while the Boards still assert that A.A. has legitimate rights to the original A.A. manuscript, I have received a letter from Greg stating that the retrieved manuscript may not be used for any solicitation purposes.

The Pigeon is a confidential A.A. publication meant only for A.A. members. It contains members’ full names and addresses, just as A.A. directories do. This usage does not in any way violate our tradition of anonymity to the public communications media. Names, phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses may not be used for any solicitation purposes.

Alternate Chair Report

The year 2017 is almost done, so as the year went by, I was able to attend all the events on the Area calendar, except instead of attending the West Central Regional Forum in September, I attended the Bridging the Gap Conference in Minneapolis. I am glad that I did, as this was a new experience for me. Also, throughout the year I attended the monthly Officer meetings and the latter half of this year I have been attending multiple Recovery, Unity and Service Conference Committee meetings. Thank you for the many opportunities to serve you.

Curt K

Area Chair Report

Hello everyone,

Due to family circumstances, our Area Treasurer, Beth W., unfortunately had to step down from her position. After conferring with the other Area Officers and checking on past procedures, I have appointed Greg J., our CPC Chair, as Interim Area 36 Treasurer until April 7th. We will have an election to choose a new Area Treasurer that day. Brad E., our Alternate CPC Chair, has agreed to serve as Interim CPC Chair.

Since my last report in August:

I attended District 19 and District 24 District meetings to present the proposed 2018 Area 36 budget. I attended the first meeting Archives ad hoc Committee.

I attended the October Area Assembly in Hutchinson on Oct 14th. We approved an Area 36 2018 Budget which can be found on www.area36.org. A proposal made that day to add funds to the Area budget for ASL interpreters at some Area events was tabled until the April 7th Area Assembly/Delegate’s workshop. See the minutes of the October Assembly elsewhere in this issue of the Pigeon.

I attended the District 8 Workshop on Oct 28th to share my experience with carrying the AA message into institutions.

I attended the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop on Nov 18th in St Cloud. We shared ideas and experience between the Areas on how to best help the still suffering alcoholic. This is especially helpful when we work with professionals from organizations who are located throughout Minnesota. Collaboration between Area 35 and 36 helps give professionals a consistent message of what AA is and is not and how AA can help. I’ll give a more detailed report once the meeting minutes have been sent out. A brief summary of the Workshop for now: We talked about history and purpose of the joint workshop, best time of year to meet, how the workshop is helpful, ideas on how to improve content and attendance, we can be in contact with counterparts from the other Area throughout the year, not just at this workshop.

Lastly, condolences to the family and friends of Tom R., District 23 DCM, who passed away unexpectedly in November. Tom was a willing, able and active member of Alcoholics Anonymous who helped many alcoholics.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Mary M
Area Standing Committees

Accessibilities
Kelli M
accessibilities@area36.org

Archives
William W
archives@area36.org

Interim Cooperation
with the Professional
Community
Brad E
cpc@area36.org

Corrections
Laura S
corrections@area36.org

Finance
Alternate Chairperson
finance@area36.org

Grapevine La Vina
Lori N
grapevine@area36.org

Group Records
Val P
grouprecords@area36.org

Literature
Sue M
literature@area36.org

Newsletter
Peter B
newsletter@area36.org

Public Information
Erica J
pi@area36.org

Structure
Alternate Delegate
structure@area36.org

Technology
Rodney R
technology@area36.org

Treatment Facilities
Jim V
treatment@area36.org

Area Officers

Area Delegate
Curt K
delegate@area36.org

Alternate Delegate
Melissa P
altdel@area36.org

Area Chairperson
Mary M
chair@area36.org

Area Delegate (non-voting)

Area Secretary
Annette W
secretary@area36.org

Interim Area Treasurer
Greg J
treasurer@area36.org

Archivist
CJ M
archivist@area36.org

Corrections Facilities
Contact Program
Coordinator
Cynid S
cfcp@area36.org

Pink Can Coordinator
Sam St. P
pinkcan@area36.org

Treatment Temporary
Contact Desk
Vince F
treatment-temp-contact@area36.org

Web Master
Jay C
webmaster@area36.org

Other Trusted Servants

To email all Area 36 chairs
at once, you can use
Area36-Chairs@area36.org

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District Committee Members (DCMs)

District 1
Philip R

District 2
Bill H

District 3
Jan B

District 4
Open

District 5
Mort M

District 6
Open

District 7
Teresa K

District 8
Jeff T

District 9
Mark C

Districts 10 & 11
Open

District 12
Jerry S

District 13
Stacy Mc

District 14
Scott W

District 15
Nancy T

District 16
Harold K

District 17
Open

District 18
Riki S

District 19
Dan R

District 20
Mike B

District 21
Kelby S

District 22
Roy E

District 23
Tom C

District 24
Merv W

District 25
Jane P

District 26
Open

District 27
Antonio G

Note: All districts have
e-mail addresses on the Area
36 website. They are in the
format of: dist@area36.org,
where "#" indicates a district
number.
Example dist2@area36.org
General submissions to The Pigeon are due the Saturday following Area Committee Meetings. Area Officers’ and Area Standing Committee Chairs’ submissions are due the Wednesday following Area Committee Meetings, to allow them to incorporate items of relevance into their reports from the Area Committee Meeting.

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word document to the Area’s newsletter email address: newsletter@area36.org. Submissions should not be heavily formatted; indicating sentence and paragraph structure is all that is required. Please do not submit as a “read only” document it may need to be edited for space or content.

Letters to the Editor/Opinion should have a title and the city where the author is from included in the submission.

PC and Mac users can also type their submissions directly into an e-mail message. Mac users, please save your file as type “doc” or “txt” before sending as an attachment if you do not type your submission directly into an e-mail message.

If you have any questions regarding submitting an item for The Pigeon, from preparation, formatting, to deadlines, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Peter - The Pigeon Editor and Area 36 Newsletter Chair

What is The Pigeon

The Pigeon is a General Service Newsletter published four times a year by the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is no subscription fee; contributions from A.A. members, groups and districts are welcome. Bulk rate postage paid at St. Paul, Minnesota. The Pigeon presents the experience and opinions of A.A. members and others interested in the A.A. program.

Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly. Articles and letters are invited, although no payment can be made, nor can contributed material be returned.

All submissions should be sent to The Pigeon, in care of the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly address of record:
Southern Minnesota Area Assembly
P.O. Box 2812
Minneapolis MN 55402
Or you may email them to the Newsletter Chair at Newsletter@area36.org
In regards, to the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference there are fliers out there in the Area. If you run across one, don’t forget to register and pass the word on to your friends, groups and district members. This issue of the Pigeon will have the event schedule, speaker information, the main readings, and speaker synopsis with their three questions. The additional readings that were provided to each speak will be available at the conference on a separate document. Our Saturday night speaker is Cate W., Class B Regional Trustee, Western Canada.

District Committee Members please let you district committee chairs know that there will be plenty of opportunities for them to help the Area Committee Chairs man their tables and/or take away information for their own use. This means, that all Area Committee Chairs will have a table representing each committee’s purpose. There will be plenty of information to share with each other. If there is anything, as an Area or District chair that you will need at this conference, please let me know.

The Recovery, Unity and Service Conference deadline for room reservations is December 19, 2017. The rate until then will be $99/night per single or double occupancy. After December 19th, the room rate will be $109.00/night per single or double occupancy and will be first come availability. The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast from 7 am to 10 am Saturday and Sunday. So, hop to and get those reservations taken care of. You must call the hotel direct to do this.

The mail-in deadline for conference registration of $17.00 payable to SMAA, is December 19, 2017. The address is on the form at the bottom of the flier After December 19, 2017, you can register at the door for $20.00.

The deadline for online conference registration of $17.00 is January 2nd, 2018 through EventBrite, which is quick and easy. Just go to https://go0.gl/atGxeLw and you are in. There is a $1.93 service charge to the account you use. After January 2nd, 2018, you can register at the door for $20.00.

We will also have credit/debit card registration available at the door through Square Trade. See how easy it is to attend the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference.

There will be a lunch buffet, pool side on Saturday, January 20th, 2018. The menu is still being worked out. The lunch buffet helps to offset the cost of the conference room. The cost for this will be $17.00. We will also have an ice cream social after our speaker meeting and Ask It Basket on Saturday night for $5.00.

This was a busy year, and I foresee the same for 2018. Please let me know how I can best serve you. I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe holiday and see you next year.

In love and service,
Jeanne H.

Alternate Delegate Report

Hello Area 36

Since the August Committee Meeting and my last report to you, I have attended all but one of the Officers Meetings. I attended the October Assembly and was asked to share my story at the District 2 Workshop held at Whitewater Park, where CJ the Archivist was asked to bring Archives. So we had an awesome drive down and back together. I was able to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. What a great experience to be able to hear what is happening at the General Service Office and how it all works. I attended two breakout sessions: Accessibilities, which was chaired by Kelly M. Accessibilities Chair for Area 36, and one on the Traditions. Both were full of awesome information. Kelly represented Southern Minnesota AA well!!! I plan to attend The Recovery, unity and Service Conference at the Mankato City Center Hotel January 19 – 21. I hope to see all of you there!!

Grateful to Serve all of you,
Missy P

Secretary Report

Hi all,

Please review the unapproved October 4, 2017 Assembly minutes that are contained in this December issue of the Pigeon and will be on the Area Assembly Agenda for approval at the April 2018 Assembly.

I’m really looking forward to attend the upcoming Recovery Unity & Service Conference as well as the Trusted Servants Leadership Training.

If there is anything I can do to help any one of you, please just ask.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Annette W.

Treasurer Report

Greetings Area 36!

Welcome to winter! It is in love and gratitude that I say thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Area Treasurer. Unfortunately, after some very careful thought and consideration, I have made the very difficult decision to step down as area treasurer due to family circumstances. I have enjoyed the opportunity of learning to grow as a person and officer of the assembly. Thank you for your understanding and all of the support and love I have received from so many of you. I look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you again for the amazing opportunity that you entrusted me with.

In love and service,
Beth W

Financial Performance Highlights

Since switching to Digital Banking, we are unable to connect to the Pink Can Plan Account. We were able to get in to the account, but are unable to connect to Quickbooks Online. This is an ongoing process. The Pink Can Plan will be reporting today.

BALANCE SHEET ASSETS: - TCF Checking (our main checking account) up from same time last year: $21,727.

INCOME AND EXPENSE PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON

- Total Income is over budget as of November 30, 2017: $67,991 compared to November 30, 2016: $57,995. We are over budget by $12,997.

- Total Expenses as of November 30, 2017: $66,864 compared to budgeted amount of $57,995. We are over budget by $8,869.

Expense Explanation:
- Rent: Move to City Center Hotel
- ASL interpreter: $1030 for expense. Event In-Kind=$1030. This balances out as this was paid for by the districts but we wanted to show this expense in the RUSC budget as requested by the assembly
- Printing & Copying: All printing and copying for each committee and event is included in printing and copying costs (this is different from last year). This is over budget by $3653. Here are some explanations for this o TSLT printing costs are a large bulk of the printing and copying
- Trusted Servant Manuals: $459 + $389 (printed 2x this year. Revised version)
- Treatment Temp Contact Program Brochures: $509
- Bridging the Gap Printing is included
- Envelopes: $600

Financial Report continues on page 5
Financial Report continues on page 6

Submit event information to The Pigeon editor for inclusion. Please check the Area website at: www.area36.org for a more complete, current list of workshops, roundups, anniversary events, etc., of interest to the A.A. Fellowship. To ensure opportunity for attendance and participation at your event, please consider avoiding schedule conflicts with already scheduled and posted events. We publish A.A. non-service events in the spirit of cooperation with others.
### BALANCE SHEET PREV YEAR COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>100% Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4500 LITERATURE &amp; GRAPEVINE SALES</td>
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<td>$4,458</td>
<td>$365</td>
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<td>$502</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5012 Group Contribution - Individual</td>
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<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>5040 SPEAKER EXPENSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>5050 EXHIBITOR FEES</td>
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<tr>
<td>5041 Other Event Income</td>
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<td>$1,661</td>
<td>$1,661</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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<td>$6,989</td>
<td>$1,166</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5140 Net Income</td>
<td>$2,268</td>
<td>$2,469</td>
<td>$201</td>
<td>8.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The change percentage is calculated based on the current year's value. The net income represents the difference between total income and total expenses.
Area Committee Reports

Happy December Area 36!!

Since my last report in August, I was able to attend all the Area events except for the Area 36/36 Joint Workshop in November.

The West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, SD was very informative. There was lots of fantastic presentations and workshops. It was great to see how GSO valued the importance of having ASL Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing members. This gave them the opportunity to learn more about GSO and bring their voice to the Forum.

I had the privilege to moderate “American Sign Language Accessibility” workshop on Saturday evening. There were presentations from both Deaf and Hearing AA members. I felt there was lots of great discussion regarding different options for funding of ASL. We also discussed the challenges the Deaf Members have had in our Area to attend meetings and how the Metro Area is now able to provide 7 meetings a week.

At the October Area Assembly, it was great to hear so much discussion about ASL Accessibilty. There was also a motion to increase the Area budget to allow ASL at 5 Area functions. This motion was tabled and will be discussed at April’s Assembly in 2018. We also had some members from our Spanish Speaking District (District 27) attend the Assembly and they brought us some exciting news. In November, they had their 1st annual Spanish Speaking AA Conference.

There were 3 of us at the Area Committee meeting in December. Jim V, Area 36 Treatment Chair; Doug M, District 16 Accessibilities Chair and myself. We shared a lot of additional ideas on how to get ASL accessible. Doug came up with some options for funding ASL which will be discussed in 2018. I will also be reaching out to the entire Area 36 in hopes to provide a meeting list of all interpreted meetings in our Newsletter and our website

As the Accessibilities chair, I have been receiving a lot of questions and suggestions regarding ASL. Teresa K and a few Deaf/Hard of Hearing members put together a service document called “Frequently Asked Questions regarding ASL Accessibility in Alcoholics Anonymous”. This was presented at the Area Committee Meeting. This was sent to all DCM’s and will be put on Area 36 website.

I will be bringing some literature racks to Courage Kenny and my intention for 2018 is to get out to Districts in hopes to bring more awareness of Accessibility Needs

Yours in Service- Kelli M

Accessibilities

Corrections

Hello All,

Since my last report, in August. 38 inmates have requested an outside A.A. contact. Most came through the transition fair in Moose Lake, Hennepin County Adult Corrections also known as the Plymouth Workhouse and others.

I attended 27th Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend. We had a great corrections panel. Meeting Patrick, from the G.S.O. treatment desk was pleasant as well. Thank-you to everyone who was able to participate.

I'm excited that a few assistants are coming on board. These suffering Alcoholics deserve a letter shortly after we have received their request. With Gratitude in Service,

Cyndi S.

Corrections Facilities Contact Coordinator

Finance

On December 2, 2017, the Finance Committee met. There were three districts in attendance (7, 8, and 18) which consisted of one district treasurer and two district finance chairs. All three districts are trying to figure out how to spend down some of their surplus. One district has been financing American Sign Language and one district's Public Information Committee will be running a month long Public Service Announcement on KOOL108. Each of these districts have open
committee chair positions, as well as, some committee chairs who have not yet spent their budgeted monies. We talked about spreading enthusiasm, making service “attractive” and letting A.A. members know, “we need you.” District 1’s treasurer was unable to attend, but sent a report stating that they are in good shape, and are receiving funds to offset American Sign Language as well. They are currently working on their 2018 budget and most of it will probably be for American Sign Language expenses.

After much discussion on the Assistant Treasurer position which the committee has been working on since August 2016, the committee, unanimously recommends postponement of further discussion and determination of duties until the current Treasurer needs are determined and met.

One of the district finance committee chairs present today is with the deaf/hard of hearing community and expressed his concern over other members complaint of the cost of American Sign Language. His district has realized how committed he is and has been, as he shows up for all the meetings, and realize there is a need to fund this service. All it takes is one.

The web reimbursement form is still a work in progress. There is a downloadable form on the website currently, so you can download, and scan and email it back along with receipts, etc. This should ensure timely reimbursements.

We will have Square Trade for debit/credit card payments available at the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference at the registration table. It is set up under a non-profit, small transactions account. The conference will be a great opportunity to see how well it works and is received.

There was also short discussion concerning the Area taking online payments for contributions. Does this need to be voted on? The Finance Committee recommends that this is a good idea as the General Service Office is currently doing this. More will be revealed. Jeanne H

Grapevine La Vina

Group Records

Val, Area 36 Group Records Chair here and grateful to be of service. A lot has been happening since the September Pigeon. I have attended all Area Events this time.

I had the opportunity to attend the West Central Regional Forum. In addition to the presentations, I also got to have a conversation with the General Manager of GSO. I was questioning the appropriate usage of the data exported from the GSD Database, Fellowship New Vision. I was able to get confirmation that the Area can decide on the appropriate usage of this data. Additionally, I was able to speak with one of the Trustees to discuss the need for a GSO endorsed Meeting Guide App for smart phones.

Additionally, I have been working with Area 35 to understand the changes to our Minnesota Meeting Locator, aaminnesota.org. We have changed the background software on the site which requires less technical knowledge.

The AREA 36 DIRECTORY of Trusted Servants and Groups has been completed. It is available in electronic format with a password. A paper copy is also available at cost. Please contact me to request the Area 36 Directory.

In Your Service,
Valerie P

My how time flies, here I am, almost finished with my first year of this service opportunity. The Bridging the Gap weekend was quite informative for me. I enjoyed being able to display and sell literature. The new DVD “A New Freedom” was a big seller.

I also attended the October Assembly and the joint Workshop in St. Cloud. It was my first joint workshop and it was worthwhile to talk to the Area 35 literature chair and see how he does things.

The morning part of the December committee meeting was attended District 7 and District 3. District 3 has been busy weeding out old literature, sharing literature with District 16. He also has been selling books to a treatment center who gives them to clients when they leave, if they want them. District 7 is continuing to fill racks in several locations and continues to look for groups who are willing to take on that responsibility.

We continue to work on the proposal that we want to send to the General Service Conference to add wording to the eleventh tradition in “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet. The afternoon session liked the wording but the decision was made to send it out to the groups and will become new business at a future assembly.

If you have any literature needs, please feel free to contact me, I’m more than willing to help.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Sue M

Greetings from the Area 36 newsletter dude.

I will receive articles if it’s not too much of an outside issue. Will have a correct SMAA Districts map in the next Pigeon publication. Trying to make a more efficient newsletter but not change the content; may tweak the layout to read better and fewer pages.

In Service Peter B.
Hello Area 36,

As we wind down the first year of rotation I am able to look back and consider how much I have learned this year and how much I still have to discover. I have attended all Area functions, the Area Assembly, the Joint Area 35/36 workshop in St. Cloud and I had a table at Founders Day. I have been in contact a couple of time with the Area 35 Public Info Committee Chair over my first year of this rotation and at the Joint Area 35/36 workshop the incoming Area 35 Public Info Committee Chair was present and shared her contact information with me.

I was invited to District 15 to do a Public Information Presentation. I have a couple more Districts on the calendar to visit coming up soon. Please let me know if you would like a Public Information presentation at your district. I would love to visit.

I have been busy trying to help the districts get ready for an extra 500,000 people coming into the metro area for the Super Bowl this February. We are fairly certain that a few people in that group may want information about Alcoholics Anonymous and how to find a local meeting. I have looked into radio PSA's on KFAN and Interior Rail and Bus cards with the Metro Line. I have as well emailed the Super Bowl Volunteer Coordinator to see if she wanted our information. Each District is welcome at whatever level they are able to participate by contacting any local hotels, restaurants, bars, hospitals...etc. to get them Intergroup contact information and/or meeting guides.

The districts attending the Area Committee meeting discussed end of year finances and budgeting for activities they would like to see happen at both the District and the Area level. They also discussed the challenges of building momentum to turn the ideas into action.

I have asked Rob Y to be the State Fair Coordinator again this next year and he has graciously accepted.

Hope to see you all at the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference in Mankato in January! Looking forward to another year in service.

Erica J.

---

Structure

Structure Committee, December 2, 2017

Opened up with the Serenity Prayer at 9:36 am.

In attendance,

Missy P, Alt. Delegate
Carla N, Alt. DCM D-18
Bonnie M., Past Delegate
Patrick D. Alt. DCM D-19
Elliot T., Alt. DCM D-23
Will K., Alt. DCM D-22
Brian M., Alt. DCM D-7
Jennifer G, Alt. DCM-15
Denny B, Past Delegate joined later

Robert S. took minutes.

Proposed language change to By Laws to be in agreement with current actual practice which we’ve been actually doing for at least the last 20 years.

Proposed new language for Article II, item A, change following sentence from:

The Area Chairperson shall appoint, with the approval of the Area Assembly, a chairperson for each Standing Committee.

In collaboration with the Area Officers, the Area Chair selects Standing Committee Chairs and Other Trusted Servants. Committee Chairpersons and Other Trusted Servants are subject to a two-thirds approval by Area Officers.

Brian Murphy made a motion to approve this proposal.

Carla N. seconded the motion. It passed 8 to 1. Minority opinion was heard an no votes were changed.

There was lots of discussion for new language to Article II, item B starting with “any vacancy”.

The committee did not a conclusion of this discussion and tabled it until the next Structure meeting.

Yours in Service,
Missy P

---

Technology

Treatment Facilities

Pink Can Plan

Thanks to everyone who has helped get the word out about the Pink Can Plan, and Thank You to the groups and members for your contributions. It has helped get our account to a reasonable balance and we have been able to fill all of our request for literature to date.

We have sent literature to 24 different correctional facilities, In 19 of those facilities we have 53 subscriptions to the Grapevine and 21 subscriptions to LaVina

Approximately 5300 pieces of literature have been sent into the facilities which include 1050 Big Books,1120 Dailey Reflections and 410 Twelve and Twelves.

161 groups have contributed to the Pink Can Plan this year, that is up 27 groups from August.

Here is what the numbers look like

2017 Year to Date :
Group Contributions  .  $38806.75
2016 Carryover                $6805.00
-----------
Total Available Funds    $45613.75
Literature Request         $39587.26
Balance                            $6026.49

Although $6026.49 seems like a lot of money , when we get in a request for literature it is always in packet and case amounts.

It is not difficult and very common for an average order to be $1500.00 and as we have experienced a busy month and with the increase in request, it can go pretty fast.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please feel free to contact me

In service Sam S
**37th Annual Recovery, Unity and Service Conference**

**Southern Minnesota Area Assembly**

**37th Annual**

**Recovery, Unity and Service Conference**

**January 19, 20, and 21, 2018**

**Mankato City Center Hotel**

**101 East Main Street**

**Mankato, MN 56001**

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**Schedule of Events:**

**Friday – January 19, 2018**

5:00 p.m. – Registration opens
7:30 – 7:45 p.m. – Welcome
Friday – 7:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. – Session 1

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**12th STEPPING TOWARDS ALCOHOLIC**

**Topic:** How To Carry The AA Message today – June P – Saturday Morning

**Synopsis:**

“The basic principles of the A.A. program, it appears, hold good for individuals with many different lifestyles, just as the program has brought recovery to those of many different nationalities. The Twelve Steps that summarize the program may be called los Doce Pasos in one country, los Diez Etapas in another, but they rest exactly on the same path to recovery that was blazed by the earliest members of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

**Questions:**

1. What is your relationship with your AA Group (taker or giver)?
2. Am I doing my share and taking commitments in my home group?
3. Is my home group a part of AA as a whole?
4. Am I going up to the new faces or do I stay in my own little “click”?
5. Is my home group a part of AA as a whole by participating in the district, Area and Region?
6. Am I doing my share and taking commitments in my home group?

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**Saturday – January 20, 2018**

11:15 – 1:00 – Lunch on your own OR Buffet Available________________________

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**10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Session 4**

**GROUP PARTICIPATION ALL IN A**

**Topic:**

1. The Value of a GSR to the group and A.A. – Jen B – A Vision For Your Fellowship

**Synopsis:**

“The general service representative has the job of linking his or her group with A.A. as a whole... The G.S.R. represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group’s thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegator, who passes them on to the conference. This communication is a two-way street, making the G.S.R. responsible for bringing back to the group Conferences Actions that affect A.A. unity, health, and growth. Only when a G.S.R. keeps the group informed, and communicates the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole.”

**Questions:**

1. What are we doing as groups to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic and how can the GSR help support our group?
2. What can our GSR do to help support your group?
3. What is your group doing to better support your GSR?

**Topic:**

1. Using the 12 Traditions in an A.A. group – Dave B – Step Action Commitment Series Hutchison
2. A.A. Traditions Illustrated (AA pamphlet – P43) inside cover, 4th para.

**Synopsis:**

“Our Traditions are a guide to better ways of working and living,” co-founder Bill W. said. “And they are to group survival what A.A.’s Twelve Steps are to each member’s sobriety and peace of mind. Most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. The group must survive, or the individual will not.”

**Questions:**

1. What is your relationship with your AA Group (taker or giver)?
2. Does your group study and practice the 12 Traditions or do we just read them off the wall?
3. Do I personally practice these 12 Traditions in my AA group and then eventually in my other groups – at home, at work and in society?

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**Saturday – January 21, 2018**

1:00 – 2:00 – Session 5

**REINVIGORATING THE TRADITIONS**
1. Is my approach to recovery and service willy nilly?

2. How does practicing these principles in all my affairs connect with my recovery?

3. What are my personal responsibilities with technology and the AA message?

4. Do I continue to bring up an issue that was decided by the group conscience in hope of getting the result I want?

5. Do I still feel my feeling superior to others, in lieu of recovery, or in terms of personal achievement?

6. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

Questions:

1. Should the group conscience be our guiding force?

2. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

3. How do we ensure our group conscience will be found in our own recovery. No one else can tell you for certain what you ought to do as a particular time. 

4. Just know that you are expected, at some point, to do more than carry the message around the world to other alcoholics. In A.A., we are called only for sobriety; we try to again become citizens of the world that we rejected, and of the world that once carried the message to us. We realize this is the only way to say that we have found our own recovery. Those precepts, I need only to pray, and care for my fellow man as if each one were my brother.

5. I will share my personal experience with technology, carrying the AA message and the

Synopsis:

Questions:

1. Do I try to blame others for anything that happens, or can I accept my part in all situations?

2. Am I still unwilling to recover in such cases as late in meetings, attending during meetings or canceling plans at the last minute?

3. Our using lives existed with a strange mix of continuous humiliation and false pride. It

4. As Bill Sees It

5. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

6. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

7. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

8. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

9. Do I try to blame others for anything that happens, or can I accept my part in all situations?

10. Am I still unwilling to recover in such cases as late in meetings, attending during meetings or canceling plans at the last minute?

11. Our using lives existed with a strange mix of continuous humiliation and false pride. It

12. As Bill Sees It

13. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

14. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

15. Do I try to blame others for anything that happens, or can I accept my part in all situations?

16. Am I still unwilling to recover in such cases as late in meetings, attending during meetings or canceling plans at the last minute?

17. Our using lives existed with a strange mix of continuous humiliation and false pride. It

18. As Bill Sees It

19. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

20. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

21. Do I try to blame others for anything that happens, or can I accept my part in all situations?

22. Am I still unwilling to recover in such cases as late in meetings, attending during meetings or canceling plans at the last minute?

23. Our using lives existed with a strange mix of continuous humiliation and false pride. It

24. As Bill Sees It

25. What are some new ways we might inform a broader group conscience?

26. How do we ensure our group conscience will be a “spiritual expression?”

27. Do I try to blame others for anything that happens, or can I accept my part in all situations?

28. Am I still unwilling to recover in such cases as late in meetings, attending during meetings or canceling plans at the last minute?
The Inclusion of Deaf Alcoholics in A.A.

As I consider the manner in which we are discussing the potential for providing ASL interpreter services at Area service meetings—it seems to me that we might do so in a more constructive manner.

When reading through A.A.'s history, and the writings of its literary prolific co-founder Bill Wilson, three attitudes or approaches present themselves as the mainstay of those writings. In one way or another, he calls for prudence, compassion and compromise as the way forward in any activity, or discussion. The tendency, currently, appears to be toward a focus on either personalities or practices, with little or no conversation related to principals involved—other than name-dropping kinds of references. The discussions tend to wrap themselves into an all-or-nothing/black & white approach.

The real issue before us isn’t whether or not to have ASL interpreting at Area events, it is really an issue of how best can a subset of alcoholics who share some of the traits, be best included into the whole society of Alcoholics Anonymous. The idea that simple attendance at, and participation in, service meetings constitutes the full A.A. membership experience has the same failing as the idea that attendance and participation in an A.A. meeting constitutes a real and long-term sobriety—it fails to take into account the spiritual nature of membership, relying on an emotional or substitute in its place.

When one examines A.A.'s history in this regard some interesting patterns present themselves. There is the pattern which leads to a full inclusion of the sub-group, without the loss of its sense of self, and there is the pattern which results in failure and a measure of alienation. Almost since its inception, there have been subgroups of alcoholics who have sought to fully integrate into Alcoholics Anonymous. Most often, the two groups noted are women and gays. Without a deep review of A.A.'s experience with these two subgroups, it’s easy to come away with the idea that mere participation is all that is required. However, when the true desire of those in these groups is examined, we can begin to understand what Bernard Smith was trying to commu- nicate when he used his “disintegration vs over-integration” example in his “Why Do We Need A Conference?” presentation.

When I try to understand what might be the very best approach here, I have difficulty finding the descriptive words in order to properly consider it. I might think the alcoholic deaf community wants to be “integrated” into the whole of Alcoholics Anonymous—but that doesn’t quite describe it since “integration” is simply about rights and responsibilities, mere participation. Experience tells us that kind of integration is only a small part of the A.A. experience. Or I might think they want to be “assembled” into the whole of A.A.—but that also seems to miss the mark because assimilation results in a complete elimination of the unique qualities of those being assimilated. The only realistic way to think about it is to use the phrase on page 17 of the Big Book of “brotherly and harmonious action.” Or we might use the term inclusion, since it implies more than participation but doesn’t suggest an elimination of essential qualities.

This kind of inclusion is what is the very most attractive thing about Alcoholics Anonymous. I have sponsored those who turned out not to be alcoholic, and who subsequently left the society of Alcoholics Anonymous. To a person, what they miss most, and find most difficult to replace in their non-AA lives, is the spiritual experience of that brotherly and harmonious action—the inclusion they had experienced.

With that understanding, it seems we might fare better if we consider how to transition the deaf community into that kind of experience rather than settling for mere participation. As many who have come to A.A. service and left know—without the spiritual bond that occurs through brotherly and harmonious action, service work and involvement quickly loses its meaning and becomes unattractive. Often this becomes the precursor to an even more dire ‘leaving’ that can result in disaster for an alcoholic.

So what does A.A.'s experience show as the very best approach to this kind of situation? What is the best course to follow when the desire is for the kind of inclusion that will bring into Alcoholics Anonymous the spiritual nature offered by the deaf community without stripping that same community of those qualities necessary for it to remain whole?

First and foremost, we need to look at the initial introduction to A.A. and how that message enters the deaf community. Generally, it starts with two things; the desire for sobriety in one individual, and their being sponsored by an A.A. member. This brings the A.A. message of hope into that community for the first time. Sponsorship fans the small ember of sobriety into a flame that begins to enlighten others in the same community. That has already occurred in A.A in the Twin Cities. A foothold has been made in several places.

This brings us to the most critical aspect of the inclusion of this group of alcoholics into Alcoholics Anonymous—becoming an A.A. group. This is the core part of the A.A. experience. A primary reason for this is that it allows for the carrying of the A.A. message within the community of their peers. Providing absolutely critical information to the member about how some of their own kind deals with their alco- holic problem. In essence, giving them a mirror into their own soul. The necessity and vital nature of this cannot be over stated.

Before we leave this aspect of the hoped-for inclusion, let’s consider one more thing. Once the first of the members of the sub-group form an A.A. group, they provide something that Alcoholics Anonymous has not been able to provide to that point—a much needed ‘point-of-entry’ that eliminates unnecessary hurdles for others from their community.

When a new deaf person comes into a regular AA meeting for the first time, they are the odd person in the room. Unfortunately, this will always be the case to some degree due to the need for a sign language interpreter. With the deaf person feeling that or she is fully a part of the group—this visible differentiation will always exist. However, when the new group forms, it effectively eliminates that differentiation. The new person will now truly find themselves among their peers. Eliminating the potential to leave AA due to not finding that initial bond that keeps many of us here in the beginning.

Imagine, if you will, entering an AA meeting as a hearing person where you are the odd person—and any need for an interpreter is solely because you cannot speak ASL. This places the shoe on the other foot. It provides, for the newly sober deaf alcoholic, the one thing that each of us so desperately seek in the early days of sobriety—a safe haven in which to begin our new sober life. In addition, it provides Alcoholics Anonymous with a new method of understanding on how to effectively carry its message to a group it could not reach before.

Having now formed a group, having learned to operate in a spirit of mutual cooperation, and benefitted, and having begun to share the journey of the spiritual experience—the group and its members are now properly positioned to enter into the realm of A.A. General Service.

It is important to note here that the principle in our Three Legacies is service—not General Service. Therefore, until the group has formed and gained some experience in carrying the A.A. message, its focus ought to be centered on the service of carrying the message to those who have the same attributes as the group members—because they have the unique ability to reach these persons.

The General Service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous really has one primary function—communication. It relies on the AA groups, and their Twelfth Step efforts, for the content of that communication. It is not a place to gain titles, prestige, or garner trips to locations one may not ordinarily travel to. Without the content needed to provide effective communication regarding how to bring AA's message of hope to other kinds of populations—it serves no real spiritual purpose.

Once a new group of alcoholics has formed their group, done their Twelfth Step work—a fellowship will grow up around them (as our Big Book suggests). It is this experience that is vital to the growth and long-term survival of Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore, we can say that the actions taken for a group to experience their inclusion into Alcoholics Anonymous is every bit as important to that group as it is to the AA Fellowship. It truly mirrors the experience each of us has had when it comes to our own sobriety. First, we had to do the work in preparation of carrying the message, then we had to do our best to carry that message, and then—and only then—could we begin feel the measure of inclusion we really sought. In fact, this inclusion we all seek is not the inclusion with one another—it is the inclusion in something that is greater than all of us. We become included in a Sense of the Divine.

Once this inclusion truly occurs, all of the other aspects of our
Traditions fall into place. Self-support, for example, becomes an automatic attitude. Who wouldn’t want to fully support what provides them the kind of spiritual journey that sobriety provides us? Who would want to merge it with anything or anyone else? And who would want to degrade it by adding personalities into the mix? This is how sub-groups truly experience inclusion in Alcoholics Anonymous. It’s more than just participating in A.A. meetings or General Service, and doesn’t require that they lose the wonderful group and personal attributes they bring with them; it allows for the full embrace of the differences and improves the strength and resilience of the common elements everyone shares.

To allow, encourage or suggest that any sub-group do any less than this is to offer them a half-measured approach, and thereby obscure their chance for a full experience and expression of who they really are.

Dennis B

Our common welfare should come first.

After 7 years, I finally feel like I’m starting to acquire a working knowledge of this spiritual principle. Tradition one makes clear, that the welfare of the Group should come BEFORE any one individual. The group comes before me, before you, before the old-timer, and yes, as it turns out, even before the newcomer. Who knew!

Even though I THOUGHT I have been practicing the first Tradition for a while now, I was only understanding it in my head. Not yet my heart. Because I knew the literature and was even able to cite the long form, I was able to follow the technicalities of the Tradition. “Letter of the law” Rather than the “Spirit” of the principle. But for me, I was never TRULY able to practice any of the other traditions until this vital principal really sunk into my heart. I will give an example.

I voted at my home group, that the secretary position only have a 90-day sobriety requirement. Why? Because service keeps us sober, and the newcomer could benefit most from getting into service. Right? seems logical.

Then for years following that group conscience decision, whenever our group had an election and there were two members standing for the same position, I would always, ALWAYS vote for the person who I thought “needed” the service position the most. Rather than for the person who I thought could be OF the most benefit TO the group. In other words, I would rarely vote for the person most qualified for the position.

As the result, more often than not, it was the whole group that suffered when we voted that way for those reasons. The group needs someone who is going to show up. Someone who knows and understands our traditions, someone who can be a trusted servant. Today I see that when the group isn’t strong, we lose effectiveness. A strong meeting requires a strong secretary. We are able to help more people when we have an effective meeting.

So, once again, more has been revealed. Today I will vote for who I feel has the strongest working knowledge of the 12 traditions, who is best qualified, and who I feel will be the most responsible and reliable for the job. Because ultimately, that IS the way everyone else will best be served. Including the newcomer.

I love Alcoholics Anonymous. Carrie B

Concepts In The West (CITW)

Three years ago a small group of Past Delegates who have served in our West Central Region, began a weekend workshop on the Concepts. The primary founders and organizer of the weekend are Brooke C (MT); Lori G (NE); and Estelle (SD). The West Central Region is comprised of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Northern and Southern MN. The Concepts in their entirety are found in our AA Service Manual and are listed in the Fourth edition of the Big Book. The location of the workshop is at very cozy and relaxing Youth Camp in Arlington, SD.

During the weekend of December 8-10th, there were presentations on three of the Concepts. This year Carl B (Past West Central Trustee) provided an overview on the Traditions, and an informative discussion on the recent GSO issued “Safety Card” service piece Friday night. Other presenters included Lisa Dawn G (Area 36/So MN) presented Concept 7; Mike L. (IA) on Tradition 8 and Past Delegate and Past West Central Trustee Ken B (NE) on Tradition 9. On Sunday morning, John T (SD) provided a history talk on AA Groups from the transition of the Oxford Groups to the early days in N.Y. and Ohio.

A number of Area 36 trusted servants have attended over these three years. This year quite a few headed North from Area 36. Attendees included: Bernie G, Joe B, Mary B from Winona Big Book Group; Bonnie McC Austin; Joanie M Spring Valley; Lisa Dawn G, C J M, Theo A, Fran O and Carla N from the Metro area. In 2018, CITW will be held on December 7, 8 and 9 at the same location. For further information contact Carla N

Find a meeting in The Meeting Guide

A Rabbit Walks into a Bar

From our community
DCM Reports

District 5

District 5 consists of meetings in 15 towns around the counties of Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Chippewa and Big Stone. The groups in these towns are well established and host over 25 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous to share their experience, strength and hope for the alcoholic that still suffers.

With it being over 200 miles driving around the border of District 5, we have our GSR meetings quarterly. This is working well, we have better attendance, great discussions and wonderful recovery. Meetings are the first Monday of each quarter – January, April, July, October, unless the holiday lands on that Monday, then we move it to the next Monday. Meetings are held at 7:00 pm at the Benson Alano Club.

District 5 has ten towns that host Round Robbins each year. Due to weather, we skip December, January and February, have two in April and one the remaining months. We have good district attendance at these events where we fellowship with food before and then listen to speakers.

In July each year, the district committee hosts our annual "Freedom Fest." For 40 years, it was held in Madison, MN. In 2017, the GSRs voted and moved it to Montevideo. A special committee led the event and it was a great all-day success. Starting at 9:00 am. with registration and breakfast, the day proceeded with golfing, Big Book and 12-Step studies, bowling, a motorcycle run and lots of recovery and fellowship. We were gifted with two speakers, one before and one after the evening meal, and closed the day about 9:00 pm. We counted about 70 in attendance throughout the day. It was a great success.

At our October GSR meeting, we were blessed with Curt K. (delegate) and Mary M. (chairperson – Area 36) attending to share their delegate and chair reports. Without any of us knowing Curt personally, we asked him to share his experience, strength and hope. This is how we learn to trust our trusted servants. We were very grateful for the recovery that Curt shared and for all the service that he and Mary are doing to keep AA active in Area 36.

You can check out our website at http://mndist5aa.wixsite.com/mndist5aa to find meetings, Round Robins, GSR meeting dates and contact information. We’d love to have you stop in if you are traveling through!

In service,
Mort M.

District 6

Greetings from District 7,

District 7 is made up of 40-some groups in southwestern Hennepin County (Chanhassen, Edina, Eden Prairie, and parts of Lake Minnetonka). We hold our District meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month, from 6:30-8:30pm, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. We generally have 8-10 GSRs present. Anyone is welcome to join us.

On October 28th, we hosted a workshop, “Sponsor Your Professional.” Even individually, AA members can be a valuable resource for the professional community. The 5 presenters were asked to share their experience with approaching the clergy, doctors, dentists, attorneys, etc., with whom they already had a professional relationship, to give them information about AA and to offer themselves as a potential resource. Brian M. and Charles F. organized an excellent panel of presenters, and a nice spread of coffee and snacks to sustain us. An attentive audience of 30 people participated with great questions. If your district or group would like to host a similar workshop, Brian would love to hear from you. His email address is d07adcm@gmail.com.

At our November meeting we passed our 2018 budget. In support of that, we’ve been keeping a watchful eye on funds in excess of our prudent reserve. For the past few years, D7 has carried a bit of an excess. We’ve been working to spend that down in meaningful ways.

Group outreach is an ongoing project. To date, I have contacted each of the D7 groups on record, by phone or by paying them a visit. During November, I visited ten groups that were listed with the Minneapolis Intergroup, but weren’t registered with Area 36 and GSO. (Many thanks to Riki S., DCM, District 18, for tipping me off to this investigative tool!) Everyone has been very welcoming, and each has been willing to register their group in order to be included in the General Service communication channel. Who knows, electing a GSR may be in their future.

Our standing committee chairs are doing good work: D7 groups are “adopting” literature racks that Staf M. (Literature) has placed in various locations around the district: police stations, libraries, etc.; Craig H. (Corrections) served on the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend host committee; Ashley R. (Accessibilities) was part of the panel for the “American Sign Language Accessibility” workshop at the West Central Regional Forum in Sioux Falls, SD.

And we have more work yet to do. The following D7 standing committee positions remain open: Archives, Grapevine, Public Information, Treatment, and Technology/Web. Please let me know if you’re curious about how you might help—I’ve no doubt that you have talents and abilities that will serve us well!

Respectfully, in service,
Teresa K

District 7 - 12

District 13

It is hard to believe that the end of my first year as DCM is coming to a close. We celebrated with a potluck at our December meeting. We absolutely insist on enjoying life! We had the opportunity to host the Archives display at the October assembly. I gave us the opportunity to bring some members of our district together to go through our district archives and create an awe-some display. It was a great opportunity for fellowship! We decided to highlight some of the work that was done in the early days by showing some of the fliers that were created for workshops, the minutes of early meetings, DCM reports, etc. We also had fun creating a display about one of the groups that was started here by one of our current officers.

We had a great discussion about some of the challenges that face people who have accessibility issues. This is part of an ongoing conversation in District 13. To add to the conversation, we watched a segment of the Special Needs/Accessibilities dvd. The messages are communicated by a sign language interpreter with subtitles and they are narrated as well. However, adding a flare for the dramatic, we watched it without any sound. It was a moving experience for many and gave us all a glimpse into what it is like to try to participate in something without one of our five senses. A lively and heartfelt discussion ensued that was fun to be a part of.

Our district is starting to prepare for next year. We will be reviewing some of the agenda items that didn’t get voted on last year. We will also take a look at some that did – all in an effort to start focusing our minds on what might come before us next year.

Looking forward to another year in service!
Stacy M.

District 14 - 17

Hello Area 36!

As always, we need more service workers willing to give of their time and talent to our district projects. We are looking for a CPC/PI Committee Chair, and for people willing to help with Archives work and Group Outreach. Our Literature Chair has been seeking more opportunities to provide Big Books, and we recently purchased some for local sober housing. Our Treatment Committee has been establishing ongoing relationships with some of our local treatment facilities by visiting them once a month. Group Outreach efforts continue.

We are collaborating with Districts 25 and 8 in a workshop titled “Safety in A.A.”, with John D, Area 35, as the presenter. It will be on
DCM Reports

The proposed 2018 budget has been presented to the GSR’s to take back to their groups for discussion and we hope to have an approved budget after the December meeting. As promised, we have presented a budget, that while very tight, will accomplish the goal of prudently spending the funds sent to us by the groups.

Our workshop committee has been very busy and we have our first scheduled event of 2018 on the books - Archives Movie Night, Saturday, March 10th, 6:30pm - Serenity Village, Crystal, MN. Movies, popcorn, root beer, archives display and speakers. Hosted by districts 20 and 22. Hope to see you there.

As you read this we are already into 2018 and the days are getting longer!!! I hope the new year finds you well. And if you need a touch of the magic that service gives us in return, please join us on the 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm at Mizpah UCC, Hopkins, MN, where everyone is always welcome.

Gratefully yours in service - Roy E.

District 23

District 24

District 25

District 25 (Richfield-Bloomington) has additional service opportunities at the District level: Grapevine, Treatment, Temporary Contact and Archives Chairs.

We have had presentations from Jim V regarding the “Bridging the Gap” conference to be held in September in Bloomington; we are working hard on providing literature to schools and public safety offices throughout the district; we have printed our first 1000 wallet-sized District meeting guides and are distributing them to meetings in the district and we are also planning to participate in a workshop along with two other Districts for late October or early November to coordinate with the topics from the Recovery, Unity, Service Conference (RUSC) coming in early 2018.

Come join us to get our message out to more suffering alcoholics!!!! We need you!!

Grateful to be of service, DCM Jane

District 26

District 27

Greetings to all from District 19!

Since the last report, we started our budget process and changed the presentation style to use expenses by function versus committee. The goal is to help the groups in the district understand with greater transparency where the group’s contributions are being used. At our December district meeting, we will be looking to pass the 2018 budget.

Our outreach to hospitals and medical offices continues to work well. Our outreach to high schools has been stable. Patrick D., our Alternate DCM, is starting to plan for workshops in 2018. This rotation so far has provided many opportunities to be reminded about the beauty of imperfections. One of my shortfalls has been in group outreach, and while it may be understandable, it reminds me that I am only one person and that it takes many hands to help maintain our unity. I look forward to this challenge during 2018!

Dan R

Greetings to all from District 22 -

As I left earlier tonight for our November District 22 meeting I played the “poor pitiful me card” in my head. Work is crazy, family is busy, commitments are over whelming and it’s dark at 4:30...poor, poor me. And then the magic happened - I was in the middle of a group of people excited about reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic, excited about general service, excited about a better way of life in sobriety.

That’s the wonderful group of people I have the pleasure of working with in District 22.

Again tonight we had multiple first time attendees, that came to check out general service and left excited - and with a new service commitment. Since my last report we have new committee chairs already in place and getting to work. Melissa M. and Olesya A. have stepped into Group Records/Outreach with enthusiasm and purpose. James N. has gratefully offered to share his experience to help guide us in the area of Corrections and Chrissy M. is taking on the challenge of the revising the district newsletter to better inform all the groups in District 22 of work we have lying before us. Sadly, Lisa B., Secretary will be stepping down, due to changing school commitments, after filling in the last rotation and serving again in this rotation. She will be greatly missed, but we are very happy that Tammie N. will be taking over as we head into 2018. We currently have two open committee chair positions - Website and Accessibilities.

Tony S., P.I. has finally broken through in getting Big Books into the Hennepin County libraries in our district and is reaching out to the other districts in the metro area to see if we can get ALL the libraries stocked with Big Books, as many of them have no copies on the shelves. Becca H., Literature and Jared H., Treatment Facilities continue to get A.A. literature out to those in need. Becca is working with Minneapolis Intergroup on pamphlets in several languages to meet the needs of the community.

D22 was well represented at the West Central Regional Forum with three car loads of people, which included five first time attendees to the forum. This was a great opportunity for people to see what happens at GSO and meet the people that make it run.

Greg J, Area CPC Chair, visited in October and shared the importance of working with the professionals - as group and as an individual - and ways that all of us can get involved with the professionals in our lives. We are looking to participate in a CPC gathering in 2018. Thanks Greg!
Note: ASL Interpreters are present so the deaf and hard of hearing folk can participate. Mary M requested that those using the micro-phone to speak slower for the interpreters.

Open with Serenity Prayer and Introductions.

Approval of April 01, 2017 Assembly Minutes: John S motioned to approve the minutes and Riki S seconded the motion.

Discussion: Bonnie Mc pointed out that the minutes are corporate minutes and should contain last names in the printed Pigeon as a matter of record and we should be using first and last names at Area events. Annette W, Area Secretary, advised that previous 2017 Area minutes have been consistent with using the last name initial as she does not know the last names of most people who speak at the microphone.

April 01, 2017 Assembly Minutes approved.

Approval of June 17, 2017 Assembly Minutes: John S motioned to approve the minutes and Jim V seconded the motion.

June 17, 2017 Assembly Minutes approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Delegate, Panel 67 - Curt K:

Visited and provided the Delegate’s Report to all active Districts; finishing with Districts 5 and 27. There is no new information to report on the litigation info we received at the West Central Regional Forum concerning the initial draft copy of the Big Book that was bequeathed by the owner to the Fellowship in its original form; and there was a letter to that effect, but discussion didn’t make it to the Fellowship. When that person passed, the original draft was sold on the open market. We are asking for the original bequest and that the original draft not be sold again. This issue is currently in negotiations and the manuscript is held in trust until a resolution is made regarding ownership. There have been no legal proceedings on either side of it. This has been forwarded to the Nominating Committee and there have been conversations by folks on the Nominating Committee that will likely come to the Fellowship for the next Conference so it is sent out to the Fellowship for group conscience.

Alternate Delegate - Missy P: Home group is the Third Tradition for the next Conference so it is sent out to the Fellowship for group conscience.

Carla N, District 18 Alternate DCM, asked why there is a difference in figures in the report that Pink Can Plan contributions are $27,003 and expenses are $31,630 a carryover from last year and Laura S, Corrections Chair, responded that she Sam St. P provided those figures as of 10/13/2017, year-to-date Pink Can Plan Contributions are $32,900 and year-to-date expenses are $37,500. Teresa K asked for clarification on $600 for envelopes and Mary M responded that this amount is for Area 36 contribution envelopes as well as bulk mailing. Carol N, District 18 Alternate DCM, asked why there was a carryover of $2,000 from the previous year.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:

Accessibilities, Kelli M: Attended the June Area Assembly; Doug Madow, District 16, provided the report at the August 19 Committee Meeting; Districts 1 and 7 reported that they shared ASL (American Sign Language) availability info at their District meetings; District 1 is using the Green Can to collect ASL funds; and District 7 reported that they are not a fan of the Green Can funds collection method. District 8 distributed a two-sided flier explaining why and how Groups can contribute to the District ASL Fund. District 16 is doing outreach via posters to assisted living facilities; and there is a new connection with healthcare organization for low-income families with non-English speakers; District 24 is providing assistance to individuals with mobility issues by giving rides to meetings.

District 2 is doing outreach via posters to assisted living facilities; and there is a new connection with healthcare organization for low-income families with non-English speakers; District 24 is providing assistance to individuals with mobility issues by giving rides to meetings.

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Vesna V: Will be participating in a Corrections Workshop, October 28 in District 8, St. Paul.

Alternate Chairperson - Jeanne H: Attended the August Area Committee meeting and chose to attend the Bridging the Gap Conference instead of the West Central Regional Forum. The January 19-21, 2018 Recovery, Unity and Service Conference (RUSC) fliers are ready and tickets can be purchased online thru EventBrite for $18.93 (with service charge) thru January 2, 2018; $17 by snail mail by December 19, 2017; or $20 at the door. All RUSC presenters have been assigned and will be receiving a pre-senter’s letter. Hotel rooms can be reserved directly with the Mankato City Center Hotel for $99/night.

Secretary, Annette W: Have attended all of the Area events and the West Central Regional Forum. Will get last names, at least phoneti-cally, into the minutes and will work with Val P, Group Records Chair, to obtain the spelling of last names.
and will be doing the same at District 12’s meeting on Monday. Attended the Ramsey County Chemical Health Resource Fair. Attended my first ever West Central Regional Forum. District 7 has a CPC Workshop coming up on October 28 on How to Sponsor your Professional and are willing to share their workshop format. Also attended a number of CPC Reunions and How to Sponsor your Professional workshops coming up.

Corrections, Laura S: The Pink Can Plan contributions have been down and orders have increased so we did get pretty close to the end of our reserves this month and there are some outstanding invoices with the InterGroups. Please encourage group members to contribute to Pink Can Plan. We have a flier noting a lot of corrections opportunities right now in county jails and prisons and most will require background checks and have sobriety requirements. Lino County Jail is piloting a pilot program that needs one more person to cover that which will make a total of 9 meetings a week at Lino Lakes SOTP. Difference between Offender (state) - Inmate (county). Offenders are currently facilitating and they need outside AA members to facilitate. Moose Lake Prison’s treatment center has openings that need outside AA members. Dakota County Jail is looking to start meetings. Wade Madsen, District 6, is working on starting meetings at the Carver County Jail. Hennepin County takes in 35 meetings a month and there are opening in all of those meetings. Corrections Facilities Contact Program needs volunteers to correspond with offenders while they are in the facilities as it is very critical for offender to get access to a meeting within 24-48 hours of release. CFCP also needs AA volunteers to help correspond with offenders that are requesting an AA contact. GSO also has a correspondence service; correspondence only, AA volunteers will not meet with requesting offender. Transition Fairs have been attended to at Shakopee Women’s Prison, Waseca Women’s Prison, Federal Medical Center in Rochester, and the state prisons in Faribault, Stillwater and Red Wing. Speaks at Lino Lakes SOTP Class quarterly. We also have quarterly 6 week parole meetings with Northern Minnesota Area 35 Corrections Committee. Will be attending the National Corrections Contact Conference next month.

Finance Chair, Jeanne H: Will look at our current Finance Policy for any clarifications needed. September Finance letter has gone out. If you have a change of address for the Finance letter, please contact the Group Records Chair.

Public Information (PI), Erica J: This last quarter was all about our AAA booth at the State Fair and the Booth Coordinator’s report on that will follow. Attended all Area events including the West Central Regional Forum. Alternate PI Chair, Jason H presented PI activities at District 19. District 19 discussed AA presence for upcoming Super Bowl in February and PI will be reaching out to Districts to organize that. Have done outreach to those areas that have previously provided an AA presence at Super Bowls.

2017 Public Information State Fair Booth Coordinator, Rob Y: Sincere thanks all booth captains and AA volunteers. Close to 1,000 pieces of AA literature were distributed; about 50 pieces of that in foreign language. 600 hours of service by over 100 members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Total cost $1,466 after $500 contribution from Area 35. It was questioned if the State Fair Booth was worth it. Answer is if one piece of literature helps someone take the AA journey and the help volunteers received by doing this service, then yes, it was worth it.

Structure, Missy P: Structure Committee Chair is also a duty of the Alternate Delegate. Attended West Central Regional Forum. Out of the country at last Assembly for a trip planned before elected as Alternate Delegate. There has been discussion from GSRs and Districts regarding a 2013 Proposal that came out of District 17 in regards to the Area Committee Meeting making too many decisions on behalf of the Fellowship rather than the GSRs making them at the Assemblies. This issue was added to the August 2017 Area Structure Committee meeting agenda and the decision was that a new proposal wasn’t necessary, but that we be better stewards as a Structure Committee for keeping the role of the Area Committee Meeting to set the Agenda for the Area Assembly only. If there is an emergency proposal at the Area Committee Meeting, it would be the Alternate Delegate’s responsibility. Also discussed at August 2017 Area Committee Meeting was the proposal out of the Finance Committee for a new Alternate or Assistant Treasurer. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the position should be an Assistant Treasurer position appointed by the Chairperson, rather than Alternate position. There is continued work to match the Trusted Servants Guidelines with the Area Bylaws and two Alternate DCMs, Brian M and Will K are the subcommittee chairs working on this. Hoping to have a proposal at December 2017 Area Committee Meeting.

Questions from Body:

Karín F, GSR Cavalier Club Mainstreeter, asked what was decided for voting rights of Assistant Treasurer position and Missy P responded that it was decided; that’s asked of the Structure Committee to discuss; only the decision to have it a voted-in position.

Treatment Facilities, Jim Y: Happy to have Vince F as our new Treatment Contact Coordinator and will get together with Minneapolis InterGroup to get updates to the database there. Attended District meetings past few months to provide information on the Treatment Facilities Contact Program (TFCP); especially with outstate areas. TFCP volunteer brochures are available for GSRs to take back to their groups. The TFCP are short two GSRs - one person for each week; the TFCP volunteer brochures - consists of one shift each month at the Minneapolis InterGroup. One of the Hazelden speakers at the Bridging the Gap Conference learned of our TFCP and as a result, has asked for a TFCP presentation to some of the Hazelden counselors. I’ve asked his assistance to get into two other treatment facilities in the metro area.

BUSINESS:

Discussion: ASL Interpreters for Defeaf and Hard of Hearing Alcoholics at Area 36 Events: Estimated ASL Interpreter Costs for 2018 Area Events provided for this Assembly includes Event name, Location, # of Hours, Interpreter costs, Mileage costs, and hotel costs. Does not include lunch or dinner provision. Accessibilities Committee asks that ASL interpreters at 2018 RUSC; and that includes the $400 ASL set into the RUSC budget. We voted unanimously at the August Area Committee Meeting to provide ASL interpreters at October Area Assembly. Provided on the tables is a packet which includes the proposed 2018 budget and more details. This discussion is about ASL interpreters and Area 36 possibly paying for them at future Area 36 events. Want to hear from GSRs. Are we going to provide ASL interpreters on 2018 Area 36 budget?

Discussion from Body:

Rob Y, GSR Thunderbird Groups, Bloomington asked that the Group is for this; and would like to take the $8,900 figure back to the Group before we vote on at Area.

John S, GSR There is a Solution, Eagan advised that his Group is for this. We need to figure out how to pay for it.

Nancy T, DCM District 15, provided that the GSRs at the District support the Proposal and queried with so many events in Mankato and also home to a major university, would there be ASL interpreters available in Mankato so we don’t have to pay for travel? Mary M responded that proposed figure is budgeted for interpreters coming from Twin Cities, but if there is someone available in Mankato, we would use them.

David K, GSR Third Tradition Group, Northfield advised that his Group supports ASL to be included in 2018 budget and that District 19 supports the Area if the Area itself can budget for it.

Mike C, GSR Bridge to Shore advised that his home group isn’t sure that not everyone should have a general service experience. There are “able” considerations which directly ties in to the budget with respect to special events such as RUSC.

Wade M, GSR Lakeyers Tuesday 6:30pm advised that his Group is in support of ASL, but wondering if there is an estimate of deaf or hard of hearing members who may be participating in general service in 2018. Kelli M advised that there are three deaf District Chairs who are body serving in general service and will be rotating out of their respective positions in 2019.

Ashley R, District 7 Accessibilities Chair, added that she understands that there are no deaf and hard of hearing in their District, but for budget purposes it’s good to have those emergency funds.
Stacy Mc, DCM District 13 suggested that we need to be really careful about excluding people from general service work. We have always provided funds so that people can do general service work so we don’t want to force people to do work they cannot afford to fund or for service work themselves. We don’t want to limit people based on their income.

Brent A, GSR Queer Ideas of Fun, District 7, advised that his Group is not in favor of budgeting for a large amount for only 3 people for next year vs. the cost of our various Committee works reaching out to a larger number of people. Suggests we do outreach.

Will K, GSR Sat Morning AA Fellowship, Brooklyn Park, District 20, offered that we don’t know who isn’t showing up. Quick search on MN Dept of Health states that there are between 530,000 to 742,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in MN. If the national estimate that 10% of this number is estimated to be alcoholic, we are looking at 53,000 to 74,000 people that we could potentially help.

Gretchen B, District 16, advised that The District’s Alt DCM stepped down and our current DCM is stepping down. District did talk about it. Sent money for Assembly event for ASL. We don’t have any ASL needs. Cited the Responsibility Pledge.

David S, GSR Depth and Weight Group, Minneapolis asked that since the revised proposed 2018 budget has a net operating loss of $1,509, is the ASL interpreter costs for 2018 events of $8,892 going to be added on to the deficit of $1,509? Mary M confirmed and added that this is a proposed budget. If we vote in an amount this morning, it will increase the deficit that we vote on this afternoon. David further asked what expense line item will that additional deficit going to come out of? Mary responded that it depended on if it was RUSC expense or for Assembly and if there is an offset, we have a reserve fund that can be tapped into and we will pay the reserve fund back.

Mark M, Past Delegate 65 advised that the Fox Hall Chapter 7 Group provides ASL interpreters where recovery is found. The Responsibility Statement is for recovery, but we are talking about spending around $9,000 or 12-13% of our budget to provide a service. We need to provide avenues of recovery for all people, but we’re not talking about that. We’ve had a Spanish speaking District for many years and we have never provided Spanish interpreters. One person attended RUSC that needed ASL.  

Vince F stated that we have a number of issues on the table, should we provide it, and who is going to pay for it. As a GSR, my Group helped out. This expense should be provided by the Group they are representing, not all funds should come from Area.

Marissa L, Accessibilities Chair, District 1 and GSR Monday Big Book Autonomous Group stated that three years ago, there was nobody from the deaf and hard of hearing fellowship; now we have three. We are trying to stand up for ourselves, we want to be involved and learn so we can provide to our community as well. Money should not be the big issue here.

Laura S, Corrections Chair agreed that money shouldn’t be an issue, but offered that elderly, TBI’s, loners - we all should be here. But money is an issue. Could support if the Groups would increase their contributions to support it. Is this for one or two ASL interpreters? Mary M responded that the proposed budget is for two ASL interpreters.

Kip B, GSR Eagan Open Speaker: ASL Interpreter at October Assembly was approved at ACM. Our Group is in favor of budgeting for ASL. Has there been a formal request to provide ASL for all 36 events or some of them and then we’ll vote on it.

Bonnie M, Past Delegate Panel 49. The RUSC Committee decided that we were not going to budget the money for ASL because if the Districts wanted it then they would put it back in like they did last year. We need to look that cannot afford to spend the money on: if it’s carrying the message to other alkoholics such as at a convent of people who are in the professional community or to have certain people at Area events? Bonnie asked Mary M directly if when preparing the budget, were there Committee projects that were denied funds because we couldn’t afford them? Mary M responded that yes, there was.

Ed Morrow, GSR Nicorette Family Group, offered that our purpose is attraction rather than promotion and if people can’t hear, we are not attractive. Everyone should contribute more than a dollar; equivalent to what a drink downtown costs today and the Area budget would have a surplus.

DeEltie L, Treasurer District 7 added that Miranda is here; we are watching ASL come in the door. How did Pink Can Plan come about; maybe we need an ASL can plan.

Teresa K, DCM District 7, advised that for the past 4 years, District 7 has demonstrated high support of deaf participation in general service. God lives in our collective group conscience; we are cutting ourselves off from their voice in the collective group conscience. AA is 80 years old and we are still having this conversation; always tied to money. A roomful of hearing people are deciding on whether deaf or hard of hearing people can participate. Why aren’t we inclusive?

Ashley R, Accessibilities Chair, District 7: It’s crucial that we support the money for this. I would not have the opportunity to serve and do the things I’ve done in AA. It’s vital to me. We have several long-term deaf people who have stayed because of service work. It’s important to carry the message to deaf children; if we didn’t have service, but only AA meetings – 90% of deaf people leave because they can’t hear.

Ann C: GSR Friday Night Shift: What do the 2016 and 2017 Actuals to date look like? Are we looking to have a deficit in 2017 also? Jeanne H clarified that the information is in the Finance Report and in the previous year’s balance sheet.

Melanie W, GSR Common Solution: Service is part of my recovery; I relapsed and the reason that I drank was because I stopped being involved in general service.

William W, Archives Chair: The question is how that gets funded. Heard a few models: Area funds it; Districts support by contributing more. Do not personally feel that Area should fund it.

Kalene M, Alt DCM District 8: District 8 has an ASL Committee to provide ASL at our District. Groups contributed more to District to fund this. Had nine deaf members attend our last District meeting. Corrie S, GSR Hour of Power, District 8: I work professionally as an ASL interpreter. I was interpreting for a Group in D08 and quickly learned of Tradition 8 in the need to employ special work. April Assembly was my first. Fairview Treatment Center has the only residential program for deaf and hard hearing in the country. Many people stay here in MN. There is a 2-sided flyer with a list of nine meetings that provide ASL in the Area.

Dave B GSR Self Imposed Crisis, Hutchinson: Area 36 Events are for GSRs. ACM are for Area/District Committee members. ACM afternoon is not for GSRs. If you choose to provide ASL for those that include GSRs, that might be a line item to look at.

Carla N, Alt DCM District 18: A review of the Pigeon includes conversations that begin in 2003 re ASL interpretation being provided in Area events and that culminated in a vote at the March 2008 Assembly. There are only two District Chairs that are members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. There are numerous groups in favor of providing full ASL interpretation for Area events and maybe that is indicative of a Green Can Plan.

Mary M asked if there is a Motion.

Kelli M, Accessibilities Chair: Clarification. There are three District Committee Chairs that are members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. There used to be four.

MOTION: Add $4,828.54 to the Area 36 2018 proposed Budget to provide ASL services (including service, mileage and lodging, if needed) at the following 2018 Area Events: 1. RUSC $2,087.75 total cost (14.25 hours ASL service $1,567.50; $80.25 mileage and $40.00 in lodging). 2. Delegate’s Workshop/Area Assembly $818.15 total cost (7 hours ASL service $770.00 and $48.15 mileage) 3. June Assembly: $816.65 total cost ($715.00 ASL service and $101.65 mileage). 4. October Assembly: $755.99 total cost ($715. ASL service and $60.99 mileage) and 5. Area Inventory: $300.00 ASL services. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing community will notify the Accessibilities Chair seven days prior to each event if they are unable to attend so Interpreter cancellations can be made.
John S seconded the Motion.

Discussion from Body: DeEtte L, Treasurer District 7: Want to investigate this to support as this is just a proposed budget at this point.

Terese K, DCM District 7: Curious as to why the TSLT wasn’t included in the list of Area events to fund. Suggest alternating who goes to West Central Regional events to cut down on travel and lodging costs. Green Car Plan may be a vehicle that we would have to maintain a structure for and cuts into group conscience.

James N, GSR Tradition 5 Golden Valley: My Group has had ASL for 15 years. Our Group supports this. If support, we need to go all in or there may be something else on the line that should require Area funds. Cut back on some of the things we’re doing so we can provide.

Brett A, GSR Queer Ideas of Fun, District 7: 2018 budget best suited to take back to my Group. There are several different functions that aren’t covered in the proposal.

Brett A, GSR Queer Ideas of Fun, motioned to table this discussion to the next April Area Assembly.

Riki S seconded the Motion to table this discussion.

37 voted to table the Motion and 27 voted not to table the Motion

Table the Motion to the April 2018 Assembly passed.

Terese K, DCM District 7: MOTION: Respectfully request that we make the same arrangement that we made today to have interpreters here so that our deaf members can participate in this conversation come April Assembly. Jen B seconded the Motion.

Mary M asked for a show of hands against that the Area would pay for ASL Interpreters at the April 2018 Assembly/Delegates Workshop. Motion approved by simple majority.

The Area will pay $818 for ASL Interpreters at Area Assembly/Delegates Workshop in April. Passed with Simple Majority Vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Southern MN Area 36 Directory of Trusted Servants

Val Peterson, Group Records Chair: In the new orange Trusted Servant Guidelines, p27 of 38, No. 6 under the Group Records Secretary Specific Suggestions, is to “Produce the Area directory after Area elections (every two years).” The Motion is to have it electronic and protected by website, password protected, so that it’s available by Area people to use and that way it can be updated more frequently.

Questions from Body:

Terry L, Past Delegate Panel 63: How easily will I be able to get the password? Val explained that the Proposal that we made was that after the requester has been verified as an AA member by contacting the Area 36 Group Records Chair, the password can be provided or printed copy at cost.

PROPOSAL: Area 36 Group Records Committee proposed creating the Area 36 Directory including the following information:

1) Area Service Positions listing Name, Telephone Number and Email only
   a. Area Officers
   b. Area Standing Committees
   c. Area Non-Rotating Positions
   d. Area Past Delegates

2) District Service Positions listing Name, Telephone Number and Email only
   a. DCMs, Alt DCMs, and Treasurer
   b. District Members serving on Area 36 Committees

3) Area 36 Registered Groups
   a. Group name and address
   b. GSR Name Only

4) The Area 36 Directory to be created in electronic format, password-protected and available on Area36.org website. The Area 36 Directory will be available in printed format to purchase at costs upon request.

Discussion from Body: Stacy Mc, DCM District 13: Our District has mixed emotions and think that it is not needed any more and want it taken out of the Guidelines.

David K, GSR Third Tradition Group Northfield: Does Group Records have to do all the updating and how often? Would like to get feedback from Group Records Chair in a year. Val P responded that the Directory has already been created; creating it was the hardest part. It is downloaded from the GSO database into Excel format and Group Record’s intent is to update on a monthly basis with an estimated 4 hours labor time to so.

Flow C, GSR Central Pacific Group: I am increasingly excluded because I don’t have computer access, email, cellphone, etc. I need phone numbers, not email addresses. I like password protected to protect anonymity. Mary M responded that Area will do its best to accommodate those that need hard copies.

Vote: Requires substantial unanimity: 58 for and 4 against. Minority opinion not voiced.

Motion passes. Area 36 Directory will be created.

NEW BUSINESS 2. Proposed 2018 Area 36 Budget

A one-page 2018 Area 36 Budget is provided at this Assembly and includes income and expense totals: “Detail of Proposed 2018 Area 36 Budget” along with expense totals from each budget worksheet. Extra sheets are provided as supplementary information to explain where the figures amounts come from. Some people just want to see that one page and doesn’t want to see any more supplements. For those of you that want even more information, the rest of those stapled pages will give you more information on where these numbers came from.

The Proposed 2018 Area 36 Budget, Detail of Proposed 2018 Area 36 Budget, and all Budget Worksheets for Area Officers, Area Standing Committees, and Area Events will be available on the Area 36 website at www.area36.org.

Questions from Body:

Mike C, GSR Bridge to Shore, 2218, Minneapolis: I see the net loss of $1,509 plus $300 for fax prep plus $25 for filing fee; technically a net loss of $1,834. On line item 5190, there is $700 for miscellaneous travel. Mary M explained that $600 of $700 amount is for RUSC Canada speaker air fare. Mike C also pointed out that under line 5490 is miscellaneous expense of $526. Mary M explained that $224 is under general expenses for either return address envelopes, checks, and $75 under Archives spent last year so included in this budget. Realistic to assume that this is money spent to be included in the proposed budget.

David K, GSR Third Tradition Group, Northfield – How did you come up with the 4% increase? Mary M explained that she printed out 2013 and 2014 and added that and we took the first 6 months to decipher the percentage change to come up with a 4% increase change estimate.

Bonnie M, Past Delegate, Panel 49: I ask that ASL $400 interpreter be removed because we didn’t ask for it.

Vince F: Wouldn’t travel for the speaker be part of RUSC? Mary M explained that is a line item under RUSC.

Stacy N, GSR Gloria Dei Group: Can you explain $6,000. Mary M explained that it is published quarterly printing and mailing.

Davie B, GSR Self Imposed Crisis Group, Hutchinson: I’m astounded by $36,820 expense for travel. Last year at this time it was $21,000 actual. The year before was $11-12,000 actual. This year we aren’t flying to West Central Regional. Why did it go up so much? Other Area send 2-3 Officers/Committee Chairs. Why do we send 17? Mary M, explained that the WCSC Information is to keep everyone informed to help Districts with ideas on how to Carry the Message to the Suffering Alcoholic.

Curt K, Area 36 Delegate: Point of order – In your role as Area
Chair, I would appreciate it if you would stick to answering the questions based on the numbers and not your opinion about the validity of one piece over another.

Teresa K, DCM District 7: I’m questioning the $400 for ASL - the Accessibility Committee did request that $1,000 be available for ASL Accessibility. The RUSC decided not to build that cost into the Registration. There is interest for deaf participation at the RUSC. Area 36 should cover ASL for the RUSC and include it in our budget. Mary M. explained that there are things that other Committees ask for and didn’t include whole amount due to what was heard from the Groups. I chose $400 as a reasonable amount.

Stacy N, GSR Gloria Del Group: Can you explain where the $13,000 costs in the RUSC are coming from? Mary M. explained for travel, hotel for 3 days, rent for the facility, printing items that cover that same topics to be discussed at General Service Conference that year.

Val P, Group Records Chair: This morning we decided to fund ASL Interpretation at the Delegate’s Workshop/April Assembly, so shouldn’t that be added to the total? Mary M. concurred that we will add $818.15 for ASL Interpreter, so the total actual deficit has changed from $1,509 to $2,652.

James N, GSR Tradition 5 Golden Valley: With respect to the Trusted Servant Leadership Training’s (TSLT) expenses of $2,426, where the expenses for RUSC were a quite a bit more. RUSC receives paid registrations and TSLT does not.

Mary M summarized that in 2015, Total Income was $57,775; Expenses $59,668 for a deficit of $1,893. In 2016, Total Income was $63,083.20; Expenses $54,492 for a surplus of $8,090.20.

2/3 Majority Vote: Proposed 2018 Budget now including a deficit of $2,652.

For 50 and opposed 12. Motion passes.

Minority Opinion:

Kelli M, Accessibility Chair: We cannot pass the proposed Budget when we tabled the ASL funds to next year. What do we do then? Mary M. advised that we can motion to add the funds to the Budget.

Charmaine S motioned to Vote to Revote and Linda Mc seconded.

Simple Majority Vote to Revote: 10 for. No majority. Will not revote. Proposed 2018 Budget now including a deficit of $2,652 passes.

GSR SHARING:

Dave B, GSR Self Imposed Crisis Group, Hutchinson: Our Group decided not to continue to support the Area in light of the new Budget containing $36,000 for travel. We find that is not a prudent use of our funds. We will continue to support our District and GSO.

Jen B, GSR Vision for You, Faribault: We contribute to Pink Can Plan; serve with Jail commitments; supports me in traveling to West Central Regional Forum; and are having substantial attendance at Group Conscience meetings.

Linda Me, GSR FoxHall Chapter 7: Meets at Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie. We provide ASL Interpreter, take meetings to 1800 Chicago, Fairview Riverside and other facilities. We are an Open Mixed meeting. Usually 150-200 people attend.

Rob Y, GSR Thunderbird Groups, Bloomington: Meet at Denny’s Restaurant at Noon every Monday thru Friday and 9am (Big Book) and 10am on Saturday. All meetings are Step meetings. We have Service commitments at Hennepin County Jail, Detox, Fairview Riverside and LifeStyle Treatment Centers. We contribute to Pink Can Plan, InterGroup, District, Area and GSO. At our Group Conscience, a member reported concern over the Lord’s Prayer and we changed the wording in our format to state “if you care to, join us in the Lord’s Prayer.”

Michele M, GSR Hole in the Donut Group: Speaker meeting Tuesday 7pm at Roseville Lutheran Church. We support the ASL Green Can Plan, District 8.

Kristina F, GSR Women’s Serenity, Edina: Thursdays 10am. Over 700 years of Sobriety combined. We take meetings to the Wayside Women’s Treatment Center. I will take ASL issue back to the Group to support.

Karina F, GSR Cavalier Club Mainstreeters: We meet every day at noon except for Sundays we meet at 1pm. We rotate thru AA Conference approved literature. Our Group approves my travel expenses to attend Area and District events.

Ed M, GSR Nicotol Family Group: The 2nd oldest group in the state. Authors of the Little Red Book and Stools and Bottles. Our 75th Anniversary party is next April 20, 2018. Tues Speaker Mtg. Friday 8pm is a Big Book study mtg.

Wade M, GSR Lakers Thursday 6:30pm: Step/Tradition Open Mixed. We have a Service Committee to Hastings Detox, and we offer free literature for Newcomers. Had 2nd group conscience meeting and made our 2nd contribution to AA entities.

Daisy G, GSR Gaylord Tues Group: 12x12 reading. We have a Spanish speaking member; so we got Spanish AA literature.

Kip B, GSR Eagan Open Speaker: Wed 6:30pm. We have four 10-minute speakers and once a month a 45-minute speaker.

Monthly steering committee meeting. Contribute to all entities. Cochrane House commitment once a month. AA literature rack at Eagan Wellness Day at Eagan Community Center.

Flow C: I attended Bridging the Gap, one of the Presenters, Hennepin County District Judge, introduced 12 Step opportunity. Fridays, have DWI Court to steer into a solution. 10am Fri. 8th Floor, Hennepin County Govt Center.

Vince P, GSR Basic Twelve, Golden Valley: Tues 7:30pm. Mixed Closed Step and Tradition; also a Big Book study, one night/month open speaker mtg. Will be celebrating 30th Anniversary on Oct 24 w free refreshments and Speaker as well as a Group History Speaker. We have monthly commitments to Mission Detox and answer InterGroup phones, and we contribute to service entities. Business meeting is well attended. Do any other Groups have success/failure getting e-contributions via chip or web service? Mary M. advised that our Technology Chair, Rodney Ray, may be able to help with that.

Charmaine S, GSR Minnetonka Big Book Study, Sunday 9am. We tweaked the format regarding the spiritual experience excerpt by Herbert S. Also ask the members to remain quiet when How It Works is read.

Dennis T, GSR Glencoe Sunday By the Book Group: Open meeting last Sunday/month with Speaker 8pm. 1st Sunday is a 7pm business meeting. New Beginning Treatment Center, Veterans Administration Hospital, St. Cloud, and meetings to the McCloud County Jail.

James N, Alt GSR Tradition 5: Monday 7pm, Valley of the Peace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley (same location as Basic 12). Step/Tradition, ASL interpreted, Child care provided. 12-Step committees at two outside facility state prisons, 1800 Chicago, Fairview Riverside, answer InterGroup phones, and a lot of other commitments carrying the message. Anniversary party every year and holiday party 2nd week of November every year.

Jeannette E, GSR Continuous Action Group: Wed night 12x12 Study Group read paragraph by paragraph and discuss afterwards; we discuss whole Tradition at beginning of the month. 10 home group members. Created some action items after finishing Group Inventory. Created a sub-committee to find service opportunities. We are located in a Spanish speaking community and looking into what services can be provided to the Spanish speaking school next door. Would love to hear from others on how to do this. Looking to modify the format addressing Sponsorship Statement this so there isn’t any exclusion for those that don’t fit into those standard gender binaries.

Mike C, GSR Bridge to Shore, 2218, Minneapolis: Big Book Study. Seven home group members are here participating at Area Assembly today. No formal outside service opportunities. Format modified to read entire chapter out loud in meeting.

Will K, GSR Saturday Morning AA Fellowship (SMAAF): We are a literature meeting and rotate thru four books: Basic Text, Spiritual Awakenings, Came To Believe and the 4th week someone shares out of 12x12. Sat. 10am at Grace Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park. There is a Speaker on the 5th Saturdays. Approaching 4th anniversary in Feb 2018.
Marissa L, GSR Monday Big Book Autonomous Group, Rochester, District 1: Representative of deaf community. This is my first Area Assembly. Not feeling very welcome. Hopefully, in the future, open minds will welcome.

Brett A, GSR Queer Ideas of Fun, Eden Prairie: Fri 7pm, Open Speaker night. Recited his Group’s letter concerning opposition to AAWS’s request of TRO to prevent manuscript from being sold at auction over ownership rights.

AA MEETING LOCATOR REPORT

Dennis B, Ad Hoc AA Meeting Locator Committee. The AA Meeting Locator was created as a joint effort between Area 35 and Area 36. As we moved along, we gave Area 35 sole possession of the operation of the AA Meeting Locator and just shared hosting costs. Notified last week that Area 35 voted a couple of weeks ago to end the AA Meeting Locator because Area 35 voted to use the WordPress plug-in which means the old AAMeetinglocator.org will go away; and there is currently a redirect to their test site. Meeting on Oct 28th with Area 35 to get info so we can either actively participate in the transition and understand how and if we need to go in another direction. Area 35 will do the redirect once their test is done. www.aaminnesota.com vs. www/aaminnesota.org.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 3 Jan B DCM: Updating meeting directory. Changed the format. Not able to go to the West Central Regional Forum. District has been growing. Have meetings every day of the week.

District 7 Teresa K DCM: 40+ Groups in Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Excelsior, Shorewood and southern portion of Minnetonka. Our District meets on the 2nd Monday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. At our August meeting, GSRs expressed concern on money that our District was sitting on. District 8 Public Information Chair Joseph P. was working with developing an AA PSA with local KOOL108 (FM 107.9) for 140 30-second GSO PSA spots between 7pm and midnight. Voted to contribute $650 for this year toward that effort. In Sept., we voted to contribute funds to cover ASL costs at today’s Area Assembly. Working on a CPC Workshop on how to approach professionals we already know and have a relationship with. Thanks Brian M and Charles F, CPC Chair, for efforts and Steph M. Literature Chair.

District 13 Stacy Mc DCM: Anoka County and part of NE Mpls. Provided District 13 Archives Display here today. Working on organizing the archives from basement of Alano Club. There are 175 meetings and 6 Alano Clubs in our District. 25 to 30 GSRs attend our District meeting. We had a very well attended Sponsorship Workshop in August. District 13 has been around for 32 years. First Tues/month United Methodist. Group outreach. Do our own Archives Movie night. Old Hope video, My Name is Bill W.

District 15, Nancy T, DCM: Our District consists of all of Washington County but does not include Center City or anything to do with Hazelden. Participated in Washington County 5-day Fair and gave out a lot of literature from 10am to 10pm w 40 volunteers. Working on updating meeting directories we do twice a year. Corrections Service involves Stillwater Minimum, Oak Park Heights Maximum, with three meetings to Washington County Jail (2 men/1 women). Workshop fliers out for Nov 4, Sat 11:30am to 1:30pm Carrying the Message at Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo. PI/CPC projects: Schools inventory and starting Project to do outreach to churches and asking AA Groups total of 112 meetings and 6 Alano Clubs in our District. Goa Area Assembly Meeting.

District 17: Wendell T, Alt DCM District 17: 30 some Groups. Worked with three fairs: Sibley, McLeod and Carver counties. Nov 25 will have a Santa Sober Workshop and explain the open District positions. Dec 12 will have Holiday potluck and Officers’ elections. CPC luncheon earlier Spring/Summer in Gaylord and planning on having one in Carver County, Waconia.

District 25, Jane P, DCM: Gratitude to attend WCRF in Sioux Falls. District covers Richfield/Bloomington with almost 90 meetings. 1,000 meeting directory wallet cards printed. Hotels/Motels in this District; preparing to have AA presence for Super Bowl in February. Literature project to delivery books to police stations and schools. 4 open Chair positions. Recently filled the Secretary slot. Our prior Secretary stepped down because of health and passed away this week. Established a budget (District nearly went dark 3 years ago). District meeting is 2nd Wed/month at Lutheran Church, Richfield. 65-70% of membership is from Alano Clubs.

District 27, Marion or Miriam Alt DCM: Spanish speaking district. Six GSRs from eight existing meetings in Twin Cities. 2nd Tues/month 7:30pm Sherburne Ave. 12-Step AA Phone number 651-363-9035. Hispanic Convention in Minnesota. Flier is available, Nov 10, 11, 12 at the Recovery Church, 253 State Street, St. Paul. 6-10, 8-10, different place Alano Club on Groover and 10th. Convention # Kristina is 651-215-9733. First $25 registration and mail. And Dance. Breakfast on Sunday.

Sample GSR Report presentation provided by Dennis T, GSR Glencoe by the Book AA Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

November 18: Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, Waite Park, MN
December 2: Area Committee Meeting, Mankato City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN
January 19-21: Recovery, Unity & Service Conference, Mankato City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN
Vince F: Northside Bookworms meet at Heathers Manor Assisted Living, 3000 Douglas Drive, Crystal. Read AA Comes of Age, Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers and Pass It On. Wednesdays, 7:30pm
Teresa K: Sponsor Your Professional Workshop on Saturday, Oct 28 at Minnetonka Community Center, 11am to 1pm, lunch provided. ASL Accessible. Jeannette S: Fliers are available to take back to your Groups for the Trusted Servants Leadership Training Committee on Saturday Feb 10, 2018. 9am to 4:30pm. Lunch is on your own. Emily S, District 8: On Oct 28 is a 2 hour Workshop: “Effectively Carrying the Message into Institutions” Steve S, DCM District 14: There is a Committee for Twin City bid on ICYPAA that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tues 8pm at St. Paul Alano Society, 520 Robert Street N, St. Paul. Can send fliers to you if interested.

Bill H, DCM District 2: On Nov 5, Missy and CJ are speaking at Whitewater State Park, 19041 Minnesota 74, Altura MN (near St. Charles). Chili provided. Flier is available on www.area36.org Erika J, Public Information Chair: Super Bowl is in February so preparing to have our AA presence. Take back to Groups that we could use help to get meeting info to hotels. Please contact me at pi@area36.org

Closed with Responsibility Statement.
Southern Minnesota Area Assembly
Of Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 36 Committee Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2017

Serenity Prayer and Introductions

AREA 36 OFFICERS’ REPORTS:
Delegate Panel 67– Curt K: Have attended all Area events including the Joint Workshop; also spoke at the first ever held Spanish AA Conference. Been sharing emails with Delegates around the country and hearing about new elections on opposite rotations. Writing articles for both InterGroups using Principles and talked about Concept 9 on Leadership and Concept 11 with choosing the best possible people to serve AA. As an Area we show our priorities on where we put our money and where we put our time. Every decision we make is showing our priority as a group conscience. Shared with Area a communication received from Greg T announcing that AAWS and the General Service Board voluntarily withdrew the case addressing the manuscript dispute and holding that manuscript in trust - citing that A A still maintains a legal right of ownership to the manuscript but decided not to pursue it because of the distraction of time and energy into it.

Questions from Body:
CJ M, Area Archivist, shared that she has a copy of the letter from Barry L that gave us the property rights to that manuscript.
Alternate Delegate - Missy P: Since August ACM, attended one of the Officers meetings, and was invited to share her story at the Owatonna Park Workshop in District 2.
Chairperson - Mary M: Shared that Tom R from District 23 DCM passed away. Prayer for his friends and family. Attended the Joint Workshop in St. Cloud and will get the Minutes from Area 38 to share with Area 36. Beth W has stepped down as Treasurer. Area Chair appoints an Interim Area Treasurer until a new Treasurer is elected at April 2018 Area Assembly and Greg J, CPC Chair, has agreed to serve as Interim Treasurer until then. Brad E has agreed to serve as Interim CPC Chair.

Questions from Body:
Val P asked if Mary M wanted the Joint Workshop note-takers to provide their notes. Dan R thanked Mary M for visiting District 19 before the last Area Assembly to explain the Budget and Mary M responded that she is willing to visit any District that asks.
Carla N inquired if there was any discussion at the Joint Workshop with Area 35 on changing the date from the last quarter of the year to a different time of the year; and Mary M replied that as a result of the brainstorming sessions, each Area will be taking this discussion back to their respective Areas.
Alternate Chairperson - Jeanne H: Attended all Officers’ meetings, Area Events, as well as the Bridging the Gap Conference instead of the West Central Regional Forum. Flyers are available for the Recovery, Unity and Service Conference. The December Pigeon will have the full event including the main reading and synopses from the readings. Outlets will be available at RUSC. Area Committee Chairs will have tables at the RUSC. Asking DCMs to help get people involved to help man the booths. Deadline for reserving a hotel room for S99/night is Dec 19; after that the rate goes up to S109/night. Deadline to register via EventBrite is Jan 2, 2018; via snail mail is Jan. 2. Electronic payment with a fee can be made at the door thru Square Trade. The lunch buffet menu hasn’t been determined yet – either past or taco bar. Hotel restaurant will not be open in the evening. More ice cream this year for S1 more.

Secretary - Annette W: Will be providing two versions of the Minutes: the Pigeon version will contain last names and the web version will contain initials. Please speak clearly into the microphone so the Chair, Mary M can repeat the names of those making motions and seconding those motions for the digital recordings.

Treasurer – BETH W: Beth W has stepped down and Jeanne H is reporting for Beth. As of November 30, 2017, Group Contributions are up at $51,192 compared to $47,444 last year. As of November 30, 2017, Total Income is up at $67,991 compared to $58,024 last year. As of November 30, 2017, Total Income is over budget by $12,597. As of November 30, 2017, Total Expenses are over budget by $8,869 at $66,864 and reasons for this is the move from Best Western to the Mankato City Center Hotel; Trusted Servant Guidelines printed twice this year; Treatment Temporary Contact Program brochures; Bridging the Gap printing and Area envelopes. Pink Can Plan accounting is switching to digital banking.

Questions from Body:
Robert S asked to explain what “in-kind” was for ASL for RUSC. Jeanne H responded that last year there wasn’t a budget for ASL at RUSC, so a District contributed those funds and is basically offset, so listed as in-kind.
Will W asked what TSLT acronym means and Jeanne H responded, “Trusted Servants Leadership Training.”
Nancy T asked what the BTG printing was for and Laura S explained that there was a mix-up and there is no BTG printing but that S300 was approved at the October 2016 Assembly.
Dennis B advised that line item 5150 for Service contributions listed under Travel should be listed under Operating Expense (Assembly) as it isn’t a travel function in the usual sense. 5110 and 5120 are Travel & Mileage. Not a problem moving it, but it’s under the whole title of Assembly and Meetings and should be under 5400 category as an expense.

AREA 36 DCM SHARING AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
DCM Sharing – Nancy T, District 15 DCM: 14 DCMs present and discussion centered on budgets as well as elections for some of the Districts. Both incoming and departing DCMs were in the room. A main concern is attendance at District meetings and how many groups that have General Service Representatives. Discussed opportunities to get people involved. Fall is a popular time for Workshops. Visits from DCMs often elicit interest from individuals to be a GSR or participate in some way on the District level.
Accessibilities - Kelli M: Reviewed informational ASL FAQ piece that Teresa K put together and we ask that DCMs get it out to the GSRs and their Groups. Will also post on the website. The ASL motion was tabled at the last Area Assembly, but it will be on the Agenda for voting at April 2018 Assembly. Outreach planned to Districts prior to April 2018 Assembly to discuss ASL needs. There is a lot of interest in providing ASL services at RUSC which is now budgeted for $400 but will not support all of the interpretation needs so will solicit District funds to offset. ASL meetings in Area 36 are listed on the Website and in the Pigeon as well as the outer Metro area. Doug M from District 16 introduced some ideas to address ASL similar to the Pink Can Plan contribution efforts in the future if not funded via the Area budget.

Questions from Body:
Val P asked how we can utilize the ASL FAQ and Kelly M. explained that it can be used as an information piece similar to CPC pamphlets.
Carla N asked if there could be a footnote could be added with date, author and Area 36 information as it may be seen and used by other Areas.
Archives - William W: 4 participants including CJ M, Brian, District 20, and Bill, District 16. Brian, new District 20 Archives Chair shared ideas for Projects; District 22 will have an Archives AA history Movie night on March 10 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm at the Serenity Church in Crystal. CJ’ M’s focus is to organize the Archives Repository in West St. Paul. Discussed upcoming 2018 Gopher State and Founders Day Archives. Asked to organize an Archives Workshop, possibly at a public library near the Archives Repository on South Robert Street. Contact CJ to see new Repository. Reviewed budget to understand it.

Communication with the Professional Community (CPC) - Greg
J: Presentations at Districts 1, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 22. Attended WCRF, Area Assembly and Joint Workshop. Opportunity that has been previosuly with the DCMs, as an alternative to full-time treatment, with Behavioral Health Partners, where professionals are helping front line alcoholics. This could be a state-wide effort with Area 35 as far as bridging the gap. Talked about what we can do to get District Chairs more involved.

Corrections - Laura S: Spoke at Sept 9 Lino Lakes Offender Treatment Program; Co-Chaired Sept 8-10 Bridging the Gap Conference; manned table at Sept 21 Red Wing Transition Fair; Wade M and Rob manned table at Oct 18 Stillwater Transition Fair; attended District 8 Oct 28 Corrections Workshop titled "Effectively Carrying the Message to Facilities": attended Nov 4 District 15 Workshop and met with Joe S, District Corrections Chair; Attended Nov 10-12, first Annual National Correction Conference (not with Area funds); attended Nov 18 Joint Area Workshop. At this morning’s meeting, several District Corrections Chairs: Gayle - District 16, Richard - District 3, Craig - District 7, Joe S - District 15, Wade M - District 24, Mitch - District 23, and Gayle from Minneapolis InterGroup. Talked about National Corrections Conference 400 people; two Class B Trustees, Bill N, Carol B and two Class A Trustees, one was a retired DWI District Court Judge, and one was a Probation Superintendent for a prison in Missouri spoke. Talking about a project with probation officers and DWI Court Judges from Hennepin, Ramsey. Discussed Corrections Contact Program with short term inmates. Offenders and Inmates have access to JPay tablets which provides email communications. The Bridging the Gap Conference Report is available for the asking.

Pink Can Plan - Sam St. P: 2017 Year to Date Total Contributions $38,806 with a 2016 carryover totaling $45,613.75. Literature requests $39,587.26 leaving an available funds balance of $6,026.49. So far this year, 161 Groups have contributed (up 27 Groups since August). Pink Can funds literature has been provided to 24 Corrections Facilities, Grapevine and LaVina subscriptions to 19 facilities, 5,300 pieces of literature, including 1,050 Big Books; 1,120 Daily Reflections, and 410 12x12s.

Finance - Jeanne H: Started working on December Finance Letter; asking that Committee reports offer future projects so they can be included in the Finance Letter. Districts 7, 8 and 18 have available funds so finding ways to spend their money. District 7 has a month long PSA on KOOL 108 FM. Unanimous decision to postpone discussion on Assistant Treasurer position until we understand what the Treasurer needs of the Treasurer will be. The website online reimbursement form is still pending. Square Trade debit card will be available at RUSC Conference. Rodney R will talk about Area 36 taking online payments. Should we vote on having online payment access?

Questions from Body:

Teresa K encouraged the Finance Committee not to table the Assistant Treasurer position as the workload of the Treasurer’s accounting functions is heavy.

Grapevine - Lori N: Will personally contact District Committee Chairs to attend the ACMs and willing to set up meetings at the Districts to share Grapevine information. Will have a table at the TSALT, Delegate/Assembly and WCRC. Social media has been discussed at length. Majority against FB page citing anonymity and Tradition 7.

went to Sat session at Sunlight of the Spirit in Fairmont – impressed by Speakers. Will have a Grapevine table at Gopher State with info on subscriptions and books you can order and buy.

Group Records - Val P: We have new name badges that are made to stick to clothing. 4 Districts represented at the meeting today: R, District 3, Tyler, District 7, Beth, District 18 and Amy, District 23. Area 36 Directory is finished – sent out day of Joint Workshop. Password is Area36. It will be on website shortly. Will attempt to do monthly electronic updates. At the Jr. Workshop and Ad Hoc Committee is was determined that Area 36 should also have access to AAMinnesota.org WordPress so we can make minor updates to meetings. Data on the web page is what is feeding the app on your phone. Getting 10-12 emails/week from that website. Emails from the website is going to both Area Group Records.

At the next Rotation, Area 36 will be maintaining the AA Meeting Locator. Having the Joint Workshop in November isn’t helpful. If the date doesn’t change to earlier in the year, then we need to have an Ad Hoc Committee.

Questions from Body:

Rob Y asked how meeting changes are received and Val P advised that updates are received directly via the new online form located on www.area36.org. Denny B added that Area 35 and 36 are only going to use GSO registered groups and clarified that the Meeting Guide is not Area 36; it is a collection of groups from the InterGroups combined with information from the GSO database.

Jane P, DCM District 25, asked who was going to be able to access the Directory and Val responded that any AA member can utilize it and it is to be used only for AA business. Mailing addresses are not to be used for marketing or other outside interests and we need to protect people’s anonymity. Free to share the password with AA members.

Rob Y brought up that the recommendation that a meeting be live 6 months before it gets registered to confirm its survival and Val added that to be listed on the Directory or Meeting Guide, you must be an active group and have a viable person with mailing address as a contact and that person does not need to be a GSR.

Jeanne H asked that Val P explain what it means to be registered with Alcoholics Anonymous and Val P responded that a Group needs to go through Area Group Records (Val) or through GSO to get registered; not through any of the InterGroups.

Val P added that printed versions of the Meeting Directories are $10.

Literature -Sue M: attended the Bridging the Gap Conference and the Joint Area Workshop and met with the Area 35 Literature Chair. The Area 35 Literature Chair’s job is a little different than Area 36’s. Steve from District 3 and Steph M from District 7 attended this morning’s meeting. Steve provides literature for Groups in his Area and also sells books to a Treatment Center. Steph is focused on putting racks in prisons, libraries, hospitals and treatment centers. She actively searches Groups to fund this service work. Sue introduced a pending proposal on the 11th Traditions Illustrated pamphlet.

Newsletter - Peter B: Attended Joint Area Workshop and had a conversation with Area 35 Newsletter Chair. Everything is due on Dec 6 for the Pigeon.

Questions from Body:

Rob Y asked if there was any way to track how many of the newsletters are left over so we can control the cost, and Peter advised that the count varies from 80 to 150 left over. Looking for a group conscience on that.

Public Information (PI) - Erica J: Attended all Area events, manned a booth at Founders Day, attended Joint Area Workshop, Districts 18 and 20 attended the meeting this morning. Discussed PI projects at the Super Bowl 2018. Trying to get together a PI packet and PSA for HeartRadio PSA. We’re thinking KFAN FM 100.3 for a PI PSA as Super Bowl is sports based. Estimate cost is $2,500 3 week 7pm and midnight on KFAN with Eric twice during that time. An email is out and phone contact with Twin Cities metro for rail or bus information package. Sent out Super Bowl Volunteer Coordinator for InterGroup phone numbers and meeting locations for her Volunteers. This is a District level Ad Hoc Committee effort. We each have our own Districts where we can get hotels, restaurants, bulletin boards and ask that Districts combine with information from the GSO database. Mentions of Groups combined with information from the GSO database. We each have our own Districts where we can get hotels, restaurants, bulletin boards and ask that Districts combine with information from the GSO database. Mentions of Groups combined with information from the GSO database.

Questions from Body:

Riki S, DCM District 18 advised that District 18 doesn’t have a PI Chair so there is money her District can contribute to PI. I Heart Radio gave a verbal cost estimate.

Structure - Missy P: Representatives from Districts 3, 7, 15, 18, 22,
and 23 in attendance this morning. Robert S acted as Secretary. Our Sub-committee working on the Bylaws and Trusted Servant Guidelines gave a report. We have a Proposal to be discussed this afternoon. In February we will review this outcome of the sub-committee work further and have also asked Dennis B, Past Delegate, Panel 41, to help with Bylaws background information since he helped write them.

Treatment: Jim V: No people attended – As a result of the Bridging the Gap Conference, we received invitation from Hazelden to present an overview of the Treatment Temporary Contact Program to Hazelden employees. Will be visiting the Hazelden outpatient facilities in Maple Grove on Dec 12 and in Chaska on Dec 13. Currently working a request made from Willing to Work for Recovery, a new Treatment Facility in Minneapolis, to provide 20 copies of the Big Book (for free). Vince Froehlich, Treatment Temporary Contact Coordinator, has been working on updates to the volunteer database and has been filling in on phone commitments when coverage is needed; and continuing to update the monthly phone volunteer's calendar and distributing to the team.

Questions from Body:
Val P asked for the record in Jim V's absence, what the policy is on providing Big Books to For-Profit organizations.

Technology - Rodney R: Attended Joint Workshop and made presentations at Districts 15, 17 and 23. Majority of talk around finances and costs to have a website. Area 36 website was down during the Joint Workshop due to late payment; it is now paid for five years. Discussed online contributions and how other non-profit's process on-line transactions.

Met with Treatment Chair, Jim V, on updating the Treatment Temporary Contact database and getting online for easier access to the phone volunteers. The Area Expense Reimbursement online form is not editable form yet.

NEW BUSINESS:
Mary M. Area 36 Chairperson
I. Structure Committee – Missy P: Bylaws reconciliation with Trusted Servant Guidelines

Article II.A.
Current Language
A. Number and method of selection. Each District Committee of the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly within the geographical area may elect one person to serve on the Area Committee. The Area Chairperson shall appoint, with the approval of the Area Assembly, a chairperson for each Standing Committee.

Proposed Change
A. Number and method of selection. Each District Committee of the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly within the geographical area may elect one person to serve on the Area Committee. In collaboration with the Area Officers, the Area Chairperson selects Standing Committee Chairs and other trusted servants. Committee Chairpersons and other trusted servants are subject to a two-thirds approval by Area Officers.

Missy P clarified that the proposed change is only to the first two sentences of the paragraph and not to the entire paragraph.

Discussion:
Rob Y, GSR, Thunderbird Groups: asked if this proposal will go through Assembly for GSRs to vote on and Missy P responded that the Bylaws are incorporated with the Area Committee body and that the Area Committee body has been doing it this way for around 20 years. Rob further asked that if this Proposal doesn't pass, does that mean we have to follow what the current Bylaws say and take nominations to Area Assembly to be voted on and Missy replied that it will, because the By-Laws are registered with State of Minnesota.

Merv W, DCM District 24: Wondering if Structure looked at the entire whole of the Bylaws because if we make a change to one area, it will affect other areas of the Bylaws.

Riki S, DCM District 18: On page 10, #7 of the Trusted Servant Guidelines, it states: “In collaboration with the Area Officers, the Area Chair selects Standing Committee Chairs. Committee Chairpersons are subject to a two-thirds approval by Area Officers.” Riki S moved to strike the word, “other,” before “Area Officers in the Proposal.

Jeff T seconded. Motion to Amend removing the word “other” in the last sentence.

Vote to accept proposed change to Bylaws: Passed

2. Literature – Sue M: The 11th Tradition wording in Twelve Traditions Illustration pamphlet proposed came from The Vision for You Group, District 3, Owatonna.

FINAL PROPOSAL: “The Vision For You Group in Owatonna, MN from District 3 in Area 36 Southern Minnesota had some concerns about anonymity on social media.

The group brought this to their District meeting and the District unanimously agreed to take it to the Area. This idea was then brought to the Area Literature Committee which chose the following wording to be added to the pages regarding the Eleventh Tradition in the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

To quote Bill W’s writing on page 15 from The Language of the Heart: “... it should be the privilege, even the right, of each individual or group to handle anonymity as they wish.” When dealing with social media, personal anonymity as well as the Group’s anonymity may be easily compromised. We must be careful when using social media to not use full names and/or photos of AA members in a way that would identify them as AA members.

Discussion:
Nancy T, DCM District 15, asked if we decided not to vote at the Area Assembly, could the Group go directly to GSO with the Proposal and Denny B, Past Delegate Panel 41, explained that even if we voted on today, it wouldn’t be on next General Service Conference Agenda so maybe think about rushing this.

Rob Y asked if The Vision for You Group would still be included in all of this correspondence and Mary M advised that it would.

Missy P, Alternate Delegate, reminded the body that we have to be careful about making decisions at this ACM body.

Dan R commented on one GSR’s confusion that thought we were changing the 11th Tradition and Dan explained that it was to the Traditions Illustrated pamphlet itself.

Riki S: I don’t want to see us approve this today. I would prefer to look at this Proposal at the June 2018 Assembly with explanation and more information since we already have a full April Assembly Agenda, including the Agenda Items to discuss. Mary explained that we can decide at February ACM whether to put on Assembly Agenda.

Ed M, GSR, Nicollet Group commented that GSO already has specific guidelines for Social Media. Curt K, Delegate, explained that it was one of the Delegate’s Impact Items and overall revision is still in play.

Bill H, DCM District 2, commented that he doesn’t understand the Proposal and believes it should go back to the Groups.

Teresa K, DCM District 7, gave an example of the Accessibilities Workbook where we made several suggestions and made them to the Accessibilities Committee because we knew they were under review which the combined with other Areas’ suggestions. Whatever we submit, we are never going to ultimately decide what is chosen.

Roy E, DCM District 22 asked for clarification. We have had a lot of conversation with people thinking we are making too many decisions at ACM and prefers we send it back to District 3 or Vision for You to send it in. Mary M explained that the proposal came out of the Literature Committee and we were to decide now whether to forward to Groups. If so, we will discuss at the February Committee Meeting and from there we will decide which Area Assembly Agenda it will be on, so we need to vote on this Motion to forward from Area 36 Committee to General Service Office to include as possible Agenda Item.
Denny B advised that the Proposal doesn’t have any specific direction and is open for process.

Dan R, DCM District 19 Motioned to have the Literature Committee proposal sent back to the Groups for consideration to be on Assembly Agenda. Erica J seconded.

Discussion:

Discussion regarding background, history and intent of this item from the Literature Committee and action taken so far this year.

Vote on motion: 17 for, 5 against.

Minority opinion:

Merv W: This is a statement. They’re not asking for anything.

Jane P, DCM District 25, believes that this is something from the Vision For You group asking what Committee thinks all the Committee needs to do is thank the Group for providing us to look at this; suggests that it be sent to the GSO by the Group.

Bonnie Mc: Would like to thank Sue and her Committee for all of her work on this.

Val P moves to Vote to Revote: Erica J seconded.

All in favor of revoting: 7 For. No majority. Will not be revoted.

Go back to the Groups and then to Assembly.

Teresa K: Can the Literature Committee put this together with history and background material.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Motion to Adjourn.

Responsibility Statement:

I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.
These Twin City Metro AA Meetings provide An American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter.

Monday, 7:30pm  Service # 138577 Tradition 5 (Closed /Step & Tradition) Valley of Peace Lutheran Church 4735 Bassett Creek Dr Golden Valley, MN 55422

Tuesday, 7:00pm  Service # 631981 Common Solution [Closed Women’s Big Book Study] Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church 7600 Harlow Ave Golden Valley, MN 55427

Wednesday, 7:00pm  Service # 144534 Outright Mental Defectives (Open Big Book Study and Call-up) Dunning Recreation Center 1221 Marshall Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104

Thursday, 7:30pm  Service # 176775 Foxhall, Chapter 7 (Open Speaker Meeting) Woodside Church (Entrance #5) 6630 Shady Oak Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Friday, 7:30pm  Service # 127839 Three Legacies (Open Speaker Meeting) Cross of Glory Baptist Church 4600 Shady Oak Road Hopkins, MN 55343

Saturday, Noon Service # 652680 Mainstreeters Plymouth Il Alano 620 Hopkins Greenway Minneapolis, MN 55305

Sunday, 7:30pm  Service # 178827 SLPSNAAG (St. Louis Park Sunday Night AA Group) Union Congregational Church 3700 Alabama Ave S St Louis Park, MN 55416

Inclement Weather Procedure for Area 36 Events

1. In the event of potential inclement weather, the Area Chair will monitor the weather the night before an Area Event (any event listed on the official Area Calendar).
2. The Area Chair may also contact other Area Committee members such as Area Officers, Standing Area Committee Chairs, and DCM to ask for local weather reports.
3. The Area Chair makes the determination based on DOT report, national weather service; any information gathered from Area Committee Members based on local weather reports, individual safety being paramount, no later than 5am on the day of the Area Event.
4. Area Chair will ensure the Area Committee members are notified by phone by 6:00am as soon as determination is made to cancel the Area Event and may enlist the assistance of the Area Officers to contact all Standing Committee Chairs, DCMs, and Past Delegates notifying them of the cancellation.
5. The Area Chair will work to reschedule the event the next available Saturday if possible and upon the ability to reschedule the event, will work with Area Officer’s to contact Area Committee Members (ACM) by phone to inform (ACM) date/time of the rescheduled event.
6. The Area Chair will contact Web Chair to post cancellation and reschedule information.
Trusted Servant Leadership Training

Saturday February 10th, 2018
9am – 4:30pm

Dakota County Tech College
1300 145th Street East
Rosemount, MN 55068

Is this general service training event for me?

WHO should come? General Service Representative (GSRs & A&GSRs), District Committee Members (DCAM & A&DCAMs), Committee Chairs and Committee members, as well as AAs wanting to serve on district and area committees or projects that carry our AA Message

○ Other Trusted Servants at the group level such as Intergroup Reps, Grapevine Reps, members doing outreach to treatment centers or correctional facilities. AAs interested in becoming a GSR, etc. who are interested in the day’s topics and meeting other AAs dedicated to service.

○ Already involved in service? Bring a friend, a new home group member, and anyone else who might want to be more involved in AA.

All are welcome! If you’re an AA member interested in getting more involved in General service...please come! Whether you’re a long-time member or entirely new to general service we are welcome!

WHAT we’ll be doing:

○ Learning about the Practical Responsibilities of Trusted Servants and practicing Our Spiritual Principles

○ Through Presentations, Training Sessions, and Small Group Discussions

○ Learning about What we are a part of: General Service, Communication, and Action in AA

○ Carrying the message - between groups and committees and AA as a whole

○ Carrying the message - into the broader community through our committees and projects

○ Becoming better leaders and members of AA as a whole

NEW YEAR’S EVE 2017
PASS IT ON MARATHON
SUNDAY, DEC. 31

Sponsored by Greater Minnesota AA Intergroup
Alcoholics Anonymous, and other friends welcome

RING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!

De La Salle High School
2430 W. 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55114

8:00 p.m. AA Speaker Willy B., Mpls., MN.

ASL interpreter provided for speakers

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets $7 in advance - $10 at the door

Free parking for the first 175 vehicles. Additional metered parking available (very crowded)

Free coffee and popcorn provided by Intergroup

Cancelled food to purchase starting at 7:00 p.m.

Advance Tickets Available

IC Representative - Ticket Committee - Intergroup Office
(320) 322-4449 (ext. 202) - selling through the end of January

No longer interested in having the Pigeon delivered to you, or you need to make an address change?

Send an e-mail to newsletter@area36.org and grouprecords@area36.org requesting the change
News from the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly

December 2017

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA AREA ASSEMBLY
P.O. Box 2812
Minneapolis, MN 55402

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED