

## District 7 Meeting Minutes for Aug. 2013

**The meeting opened** at exactly 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month at the First Congregational Church on the SW corner of 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd MN., with the Serenity Prayer. We went around the room with introductions, and the following persons introduced themselves by their first name and position if they hold one; Neil DCM, Dave Treatment, Arden Corrections, Aaron GSR, Paul GSR, Tim GSR, Galen GSR, Mary Alt GSR, Gail GSR, Eric Secretary, Bob Web Master, John GSR, Carl GSR Carl Member, Sheldon Grape Vine, and Liz CPC/PI. There were 15 persons in attendance.

**Call for additions to the agenda,** The possibility of an oversight committee , the use of expense forms, and the help with the C.W.C Jail were added to the agenda.

**Concept 8 - Tim,** Arden read from the service manual on the section titled Concept 8. No discussion followed the reading.

**Tradition 8 - Carl P. ,** Carl read the short form of the eighth tradition. No Discussion followed the reading

**Secretaries Report- Eric,** Eric gave a short report stating that he had mailed out the Minutes to the members on the distribution list, and that they should have it both on the table in front of them, and in their email boxes. He also handed out a master copy of the distribution list, and the roster for updating, and made paper copies available of the minutes and the roster. He made available several copies of the updated Action Booklet. He also reminded everyone that he is very aware that there is plenty of room for continued growth in his position, and that his abuse of the word "awesome" is an attempt at self depreciating humor and gave examples of areas where the minutes are quite less than awesome. Dave motioned to accept, Arden seconded, and all found favor.

**Treasury Report-Cindy,** Cindy was absent Neil forgot her report accidentally. It will be given next month.

### **GSR Reports-**

**Our Common Welfare- Dave for Larry,** Dave subs for Larry. O.C.W. is a closed meeting which meets Wed. nights at 8:00 PM at 1601 Oak St. in Brainerd. Attendance varies from 15 to 30 persons. It is a Big Book and AA approved literature discussion meeting. We bring a meeting into the Focus Unit at 7:00pm the 3rd Monday of each month and meetings into the echo pod at the C.W.C Jail the 2nd and the 4th Thurs. at 7:00 PM..

**Palisade AA- Arden,** We meet Monday at 7:00 PM at the Lutheran Church. It is a topic meeting. Attendance has been up and down, but Big Sandy has been helping out a lot.

**Saturday Night Candlelight meeting- Aaron,** We meet every Sat. night at 10:00 PM at the Up Front Club in Brainerd MN. This is a candlelight meeting. It is a great meeting. It is a discussion and open topic meeting. Attendance has been around 15-

25 persons.

**Big Sandy Wed. - Paul,** We meet every Wed. evening at 7:00 PM at the BSL Alano Club. It is an open meeting. We chose a topic picked mainly by the person giving the meeting. Attendance has been good with 20-30 persons. We had some discussion about the name of our group. Apparently it was called McGregor AA. We have been discussing a new name for the group. The group is alive and well. We also have a meeting on Sat. at 9:00AM at the Big Sandy Alano Club. It is an open meeting and attendance has been good at 12- 20 persons with a good mix.

**There is a Solution- Tim,** We meet every Thursday at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Wright MN. at 6:30 PM. This is a Open Big Book study meeting. We basically go through the first 164 pg's of the Big Book. Our average attendance is 15- 20 persons. Sponsorship is stressed at our meeting. Every 4th Thursday we have a pot luck dinner and a speaker. This starts at 5:30. This month we have a local home group member speaking.

Tues Night there is also a Big Book Study Group (in Tamarack) from 5-10. The GSR at that meeting is Sarah J. This is a new meeting. No location was given.

**Rimer Reason AA Group- Galen,** We meet Mondays at 7:00 PM at the Bethesda Church on Hwy 47 just S. of Malmo. We are a topic and discussion group. Members volunteer to bring a topic and lead the discussion for the following week's meeting. The first meeting of each month the topic is a Step or a Tradition correlating with that month. We have 15-20 attendees each week, both men and women, and long term sobriety, as well as newcomers. Our group contributes to District 7, Area 35, and the General Service Office. WE hope you will come visit our meeting. You will be made to feel welcome! Our meeting is really doing well. We recently picked up 6 new members. We have a good mix of men and women. Galen is very Grateful to these men and women for saving his life.

**Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work –Mary Alt GSR,** The Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work group meets on Wednesday nights at 5:30 PM at the Nisswa Fire Hall. We cover steps, traditions and topics at our meetings using the Big Book and 12 X 12. We hold a Group Conscience Meeting and potluck on the first Wednesday of every month following the regular meeting. Our group participates in meetings at the Focus Unit and the Crow Wing County Jail each month.

Our attendance at last night's meeting was 37, including some newcomers and several familiar faces that were in the area to hear a speaker at the Lutheran Church of the Cross at 7:00 PM. Several of the women from our group also attended the event.

I believe we will have quite a few women from our group in attendance at the rescheduled District Meet & Greet at Lum Park on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**New Hope- Gail,** New Hope meets on Tuesday 9 AM at the Upfront Club, Brainerd. We do 1 step 1 Tradition, and 2 or 3 topics each month. We continue to grow and have a nice mix of sobriety ages. We have missed a couple of group conscience meetings due to the Secretary and the Treasurer being absent. We will have a long meeting with all in attendance on Tuesday Aug 20th and I am looking forward to it.

**Sleepy Hollow- John,** We meet Mondays at 8:00 PM at Fort Ripley Town Hall. A hot issue is a current 5 week meeting streak of homemade cake and ice cream.

Meeting attendance also up from 8-10 to over 12-15 the last few weeks. We are uncertain if it is the message or the cake. There is a round Robin coming up. Saturday Sept 21st is the date- fellowship 5.00 food 6.00. See flier.

**Serenity in the Pines- Carl,** The meeting is going well. We meet Thursdays at 8 PM . Generally we have a topic meetings. We have about 12-15 members that come regularly. We voted to co-sponsor the Round Robin at Sleepy Hollow in September. We meet across the road from the Eagles Landing Golf Course, the third driveway on your left, behind the garage 100 yards out into the woods. On a sad note we lost a member recently. Carl is grateful for his sobriety and new life.

**Arden asked a question;** If a group isn't registered with GSO can they still be included in the Area Web Site. Bob answers negatively. A group must be registered with GSO to be included in the Area meeting locator.

### **Action Committee Reports-**

**C.P.C./ P. I.-Liz,** Liz resolved half of the unpaid tickets from the C.P.C. Event a few weeks ago. She feels that it would be better to hold only one event per year. This way we regularly schedule them, and can put more energy into them. She was out of town for the C.W.C. Fair, and couldn't attend. She asked for updates to the schedule to be forwarded to herself or Neil.

Dave spoke about the Fair. Mark did the set up and tear down. The Booth was well maintained. Not a lot of literature went out, but an inventory of outgoing literature was taken. Dave mentioned a report for next month.

**Archives- Open,** No report.

**Literature- Gary,** Gary has nothing to report.

**Corrections- Arden,** I did talk with the Aitkin Co. Sheriff about getting people cleared to go into the Jail. He said he would talk to the Jail coordinator about it. So we are waiting to hear back on that. I also attended the Area Meeting in Aitkin. Thank You Arden.

**Treatment- Dave,** There isn't much to report. He will drop off schedules at the various treatment centers.

**Grapevine- Sheldon,** Sheldon tells some GV jokes, and pitched the digital GV. He mentioned that they were operating at a profit. He likes the daily emails from them also. That service is free.

**Webmaster- Bob,** Bob was present but had nothing to report.

**Arden asked a question;** He was wondering where all the volunteers from the east end of the District were for the Phone Help Line. Dave explained the process in brief, and invited his constituents to participate. Arden will canvas his groups for contacts.

**Ait DCM- Open**, No report.

## **DCM Report – District 7, Area 35**

August 2013

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe summer is winding down already – time flies when you're having fun I guess!

I'm grateful for all you do to help carry the AA message to the still-suffering alcoholic. I firmly believe if we can each do something to give back, then our fellowship will be strong and the AA message will be there. I am encouraged by your willingness to serve.

I'd like to thank Mark and all who helped out at the CWC fair this year. I saw the booth and it looked really good. I'm interested to hear how it went and how much literature was given out.

We have rescheduled the Meet & Greet event to August 25<sup>th</sup> from 11-? in Lum Park's Pavilion # 1 – hope to see you there! This is the large pavilion so the event will occur – rain or shine!

We have also scheduled the Fall Workshop – the topic is sponsorship. The event will be at the Aitkin Alano club from on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM until 2 PM. This will be a potluck so bring a dish to share. The Aitkin Alano society approved our request to use the facility and the rent will be \$25.

I attended the Area Committee Meeting in Aitkin on 8/4 and caught up on activities from Area Officers as well as Chairs and DCM's in Northern MN. We have some business to bring to our groups then back to district next month before the Fall Assembly in October. We will cover in New Business.

Reminder about the West Central Regional Forum – this will be in Bloomington on Sept 6-8. This is a multi-state event and a great opportunity to get exposed to since it is in MN. I do have a scheduling conflict so will be unable to attend – I'm hopeful others from our district will be able to take advantage of this and attend.

I hope all your meetings are going well and we are upholding AA's Traditions as we carry AA's message. Please let me know if I can be of service in any way and thank you for all you do.

In service,

Neil F.

#### **Old Business;**

**C.W.C. Fair-** Dave already gave a short report. Some discussion was given to the booth deposit. They tear up the check and don't cash it. Liz expressed she'd be happy to approach the Fair Coordinator about this matter. Neil said he'd talk to Mark who headed the committee. Over all the event was positive and well attended.

**Meet your District Event-** Neil says this will be a rain or shine event. It is 8/25 in Lum Park, not to be confused with other alternate locations. Bob asked for volunteers to show up at 9 AM. [He also said that everyone who volunteered to bring dishes previously will be expected to show up and fill their commitments on 8/25.](#) Liz volunteered to show early. Some small shuffling of supplies and attendance was discussed.

**Meeting Schedules-** Neil [asked to forward changes to himself, Liz or Tom.](#) He will drop off the schedules to Liz tomorrow.

#### **New Business;**

**Fall Workshop-** This will be held on 10/26 in Aitkin from 11AM to 2PM. Carl had the list committee members. [The committee has 2 1/2 months to prepare.](#) The topic will be sponsorship. Bob asked for a flier and agenda by the 20th of the next month. Neil asked Carl if he'd like help with the flier. Carl said ok.

**District Elections-** [If you are willing to stand please ask to have someone nominate you.](#) Several people have expressed willingness to stand for various positions. This is appreciated. Please canvas the community for additional volunteers.

**West Central Regional Forum-** This will be held at the Double Tree in Bloomington, Sept 6-8th. Fliers went around the room. The deadline for motel rooms at the facility already passed, but they hotel might still honor them. The District has funds available to send it's members.

**Business for Fall Assembly in October-** At the fall assembly the Area Web site will be voted on. GSR's are expected to familiarize themselves with these materials. Informational packets are available on the back table. [Voting will include financial support for the site, maintenance, and details about the web master position. Everything you need for an informed group decision is in the packet.](#) You may also contact Neil, or Bob with additional concerns. One of these persons may be able to make additional copies of the Packet available to you.

**Delegate resumes-** Sheldon brings up the Delegate resumes in the Northern Lights. Neil speaks about this and everyone turned to the various pages in the Northern Lights Newsletter. [Arden asked who can vote at the Fall assembly. Neil answers, DCM's and GSR's may vote.](#) However during a straw vote anyone may vote. It was added that Area Chairs may vote? Neil read from the manual about the third legacy procedure. It is an honor system. Historically there is no mandatory registration or proof of position during voting. It is expected that each District gets one vote, and each group is also allowed one vote no more.

**Discussion then went to District voting and positions.** [We need to, as a District take an Action on this so it appears in the Action Booklet.](#) However as it stands currently If you are willing to stand for a position, and are qualified, you then have someone nominate you to that position. That nomination is a motion which needs to be seconded. Historically we have voted with a show of hands. Voting members are

all District officers, and all GSR's. A bus load of friends isn't part of the voting body. Secret written ballots are needed when there are two or more persons standing for the same office. If you are newly elected you still have to wait until the beginning of your term before you can vote (January for most). Eric mentioned he will be at sea during the period when the voting occurs, and someone will have to step up to act as Secretary to count the votes. Dave volunteered to cover for him. Eric is not willing to stand for DCM. He is willing to stand in any other capacity that is required of him. Archives was mentioned. Carl, GSR for Serenity in the Pines, threw his hat into the ring for DCM. Thanks Carl!

**Financial Oversight, and expense forms- Neil,** Currently we have neither. The only audit happens during the transitions of positions during rotation. This is every two years. The Area policy was discussed. Gail asked to stand for Treasurer, and she also favors both the expense forms and the audit. Several people expressed that it would make the Treasurer's job easier to have expense form. We expressed willingness to vote on this matter. [Arden made a motion That the District will implement an expense form for all reimbursements, and members should provide receipts whenever possible. Carl seconded the motion, and all found favor. This will go into effect immediately.](#)

Next we confronted the Financial Oversight committee. Discussion centered on how often this would happen and who would be involved in the process. Who are the signers on the account. The DCM and the Treasure are both signers. It was thought that signers shouldn't be on the oversight committee. It was also thought it should happen bi-annually. [Dave made a motion that the oversight of the District finances would be conducted by the Alt DCM and the Secretary, and that this would occur twice a year and would be reported to the District body. Liz seconded the motion and all found favor with it.](#) Details will be ironed out later.

**Crow Wing County Jail Meetings** - Currently O.C.W. brings a meeting to the Echo Pod at the Jail twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. They thought that there was a need to hold the meeting every week, and need help doing so. They are reaching out to the District, and to the other groups in the District for help with this.

Neil speaks, this isn't District Business but [Our Common Welfare Group is reaching out and asking other groups for help with this.](#) He also mentioned Arden's efforts with the Aitkin County Jail. Neil also mentioned that Arden should be included in this. O.C.W. should be working with Arden as he is our Corrections Chair.

Meeting Adjourned with the Serenity Prayer at 8:31

*OK, that is a wrap! I may have missed an item, misspelled a name, misquoted a member, or otherwise made a terrible mess of this document. That being the case please except my apology in advance. If the offense is serious enough to require a second draft please contact me via email ASAP so that we don't have to waste time struggling with it at the next District meeting.*

*It is a pleasure to be of service, eric      [gemminer\\_n\\_cutter@yahoo.com](mailto:gemminer_n_cutter@yahoo.com)*

