

November 15th 2012 District 7

Meeting Minutes

Greetings!

The meeting opened at exactly 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month at the First Congregational Church on the SW corner of 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd MN., as is the regularly scheduled time and location, with the Serenity Prayer. There were 13 persons in attendance. We went around the room with introductions, and the following persons introduced themselves by their first name and service position; Neil- DCM, Dave-Treatment, Kelly-Area Chair, Larry-GSR, Liz-GSR, Mary-observer, Nancy-observer, John-GSR, Eric-Secretary, Bob-Area/District Webmaster, Tony-GSR, Cindy-Treasurer, Sheldon-GV..

A call for changes to the agenda went out. Dave asked discussion for a District 7 inventory to be added.

Secretary Report- Eric thanked Carl for filling in for him while he was on vacation the previous two months. He expressed eagerness to resume his duties, and hoped to have the minutes out by Monday the following week. He also expressed desire to update the actions booklet, and asked for help from committee members in doing a historical review of the actions in the previous two months. A call went out to approve the minutes which were submitted for Oct.. Cindy expressed that the dollar amount available for service given in the previous months minutes was inaccurate and offered the correct figures. She also added that it was the District's policy not to publish the financial's in the minutes as it is posted on the Internet. Neil made a motion that the returned Secretary would rewrite the minutes to strike the financials and distribute the revised minutes in the usual fashion before next month. No second was heard. The secretary asked several logistical questions about the document, and it's delivery. Offers of help went out to clarify those questions. It was noted that the previous treasury report did pass the committee, and was approved. Amid much laughter someone said welcome back Eric.

See appendix A for the revised minutes from Oct.

Treasurers Report- Cindy passed out paper copies of the report and gave an oral account of the contents. All monies are accounted for and the accounts are in balance. There is however a question about the refundable deposit made to C.W.C. for the Fair Booth. C.W.C. had cashed the check, and in years past the check had always been returned following the event. Sheldon generously offered to look into the matter. Dave made a motion to except the report, which was seconded by Liz, and the entire committee found favor with passing the motion to accept.

Again, Please note that we don't publish the District financials. Neither is it a secret. District members may contact Cindy or Neil for a copy, or better yet, your group could send you, or your GSR (General Service Representative) to our monthly District Meeting at the afore mentioned address to participate in service. If you wish to have the financials published far and wide, feel free to introduce a motion to do so, at the committee meeting, we'd love to have you. ed.

GSR

Reports:

Our Common Welfare- Larry, I just got elected to the position of GSR at our last home

group business meeting. I have been studying the materials, and that is about it.

Women's Work Meeting- Liz, Meets every Wed. at 5:30 PM at the Fire Hall in Nisswa. It is an Open, Topic, Big Book, and Tradition Meeting. We're around 30+ strong, including many newcomers, and women with many years of sobriety. The 1st Wed. of each month we have a Group Conscience Meeting with a pot luck following the meeting. We also sponsor a Focus Meeting every 2nd Wed. of the month at 7:00PM, and various meetings at the C.W.C. Jail. We will have a Holiday Party on 12/5, with meal and fellowship at 5:30, and a speaker at 6:30 at the Nisswa Community Center. This event is for women only.

Practicing Principles Group- John, We meet every Sunday at 10:00 AM in the Upfront Alano Club on 4th ST. Brainerd. We have 15 guys and three women in attendance.

Primary Purpose Group- Tony, We meet Wed at 7:00 PM at the Living Water Church west of Wahkon. We are a Big Book, 12 x 12, Open discussion meeting. Attendance is good at 12- 15 persons. The 5th Wed we have a pot luck and a speaker meeting. In Dec. it will be on Wed. Dec.31st at 6:00 PM. At 7:00pm we will introduce the speaker. The speaker this month will be Jim. S. from the Primary Purpose group. Hope to see some of you there. Contact 320-495-3701. In Service Tony.

Isle Big Book, We meet at the Faith Lutheran Church in Isle at 10:00 AM Sat. Mornings. The discussion of the Big Book is going well. There is a lot of expression about life, and thought being dealt with. Attendance has dropped a little this fall, but still have about 8 regulars. Contact 320-495-3700.

Mille Lacs Area Women's Group meets at 6:00 PM on Sunday Night, in the Faith Lutheran Church of Isle. We had a lot of summer visitors, but attendance is backing off a little. We are a Big Book, 12x 12 Open discussion meeting. We are still a young group, but we are persistent. Contact Toni at 320-495-3701.

Action

Committee reports:

Neil, We have several positions open so the reports will be short this month. The open positions include P.I., C.P.C., and Archives.

Literature-Gary, Gary called Neil who verbally gave his report. We didn't sell any books last month. However he did ask that a plug be put in for the Attitude and Gratitude Dinner which will be held at the Trailside Center in Pequot Lakes on the evening of November 17th, starting at 6:00 PM.

I attended the event and have to add that it was awesome, and if you missed it this year, be sure to pencil it into your busy schedule next year. -ed

Corrections-Eric L., (not present but read by Neil) Things are going great with corrections, we can always use more volunteers to carry the message into correctional facilities, please let me know if you are interested. My term as Chair will be up at the end of this year, it has been a great opportunity to learn, and grow. If needed I would be willing to continue to act as a contact person for the jails, and for the Correspondence Program, but I believe in the spirit of rotation, and that the position should remain open to allow someone else the opportunity, but I will leave this up to the District. I would be happy to work with whoever takes my place. thanks again for allowing me to serve. Eric L.

Grapevine- Sheldon, Reads jokes from the GV. " I don't know if there is a heaven or hell, but if there is, I am sure that there will be AA meetings in both places. The only difference is that in Hell I'm sure that there will be advice giving and cross talk. LOL

Treatment-Dave, I don't have a lot to report. I will be dropping off some schedules to the local centers. The director of Teen Challenge hasn't gotten back to me about the possibility of an in house meeting. We will talk more about this under new business.

Alt DCM-open

DCM Report- Neil, DCM Report – District 7, Area 35 , Nov 2012

Greetings District 7!

It's hard to believe November is here already, it seems in sobriety the time has sped up. Maybe the transformation from a mundane life of frustration and futility to one of serenity and usefulness has something to do with it? Plus, we get busy—in a good way— when we sober up.

Traditionally then, November is the month of **gratitude**. As I reflect, it becomes apparent to me that the focus of things I am grateful for has evolved. It used to be things like waking up without a hangover, keeping the plug in the jug, and staying out of jail. Of course I am still grateful for those things! But now I notice things like the joy I get in watching my grandson grow up and all his shenanigans, doing better in all my relationships, and being more honest. I am grateful for these things and for the serenity which has been granted me. I know I am and must continue to be happy about my sobriety and to insist upon enjoying life. I am truly grateful for the AA program which has given me access to a Power that I find more and more wondrous as time passes on.

As we near the end of this rotation's first year, I feel pretty good about our accomplishments and am grateful to those who provide their time and talents to the fellowship and to reach those yet to come. Please let us know what we can do to serve you better and please know all are welcomed and encouraged to participate. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Checks out the district's web site at www.aacentrallakes.org— you'll find useful information and links there. We want your input and feedback on the site and welcome ideas on how to make it better. Our aim is for the site to be a useful tool.

In service, Neil F.

Old Business:

District 7 web site- Bob, There wasn't a lot of usage of the District's web site. Bob got lost looking for Serenity in the Pines the other night, and using his smart phone he used the map feature on the web site to find exactly where he needed to be. The price of the web site per year will be about 110. dollars a year. When will we make a decision yea, or nay on having a web site? (Currently it is a trial) We need feedback from the groups and from GSR's. The domain name AAcentrallakes.org is locked in for another two years.

The District registry, and address sheet went around the table. He also created a draft of a Committee members list or pamphlet. Several mistakes were noted and slated for revision.

We are not listed at AA.org. This site could be an excellent P.I. venture and we would get a lot of exposure. Our web site and phone number isn't listed there. It is free, and we could utilize it.

Central Lakes AA Phone- We would like to verify the list of persons who staff the phone and are contacts are still willing to participate. Dave generously offered to contact everyone, verify, update, and distribute. Kelly asked where we advertise. Neil answered that question stating that we are listed in our schedules, on the two web sites, in the phone book, and on our newsletters amongst other locations. Dave offered to report next month.

Can we have an annual dinner or pot luck for training new recruits and sharing experiences? It was generally agreed to do this. January or February was indicated as a good time to hold the training session. questions arose about who would pay for the food. Research showed that the district bought pizza the last year when we held the training session. History shows that groups generally don't support district funds being used for these types of events. So who will fund it? What do we do? Do we need to have pizza to attract new recruits? Let's think this over some more. Go0 back to groups and get their conscience on this matter. No flier next month....We did spend 41 dollars on this last year of district funds.

C.P.C. Luncheon- Neil describes what a C.P.C. luncheon is for the benefit of the newer members. The Committee hasn't met yet, but will do so very soon and report to the District. The District doesn't financially support this generally, the groups sponsor, or host, a professional to attend and bear the cost of the luncheon.. Sheldon offered to join with the C.P.C. Committee. The Committee is composed of Neil, Carl P., Liz, Dave, and Sheldon.

New Business:

P.I. and Meeting Schedules- The new meeting schedules are here. Neil worked with Tom to expedite these. Please take some with you. We are currently mailing them out in patches of 150 to the following locations; Lakes Area Alano, Upfront Alano, Laurel Street Alano, Ironton Alano, Aitkin Alano, Pine River Alano, Focus Treatment, and Avalon Treatment. Tom hasn't submitted his bill for postage? Discussion ensued about being self supporting. Tom needs to submit his postage bill? Additional discussion ensued about hand delivery. Bob said we could hand deliver quite a few of these alanos. Liz offered to hand deliver certain numbers of these schedules. Dave offered to hand deliver. It is open for discussion How do you feel about mailing the schedules? For one thing it is regular and dependable. Is there a problem with the expense? Certainly the outlying centers will benefit from regular mailing, ie, Pine River, Aitkin, and even Ironton as we don't see a GSR from these areas regularly attending the District meeting where they could pick up the packet of schedules by hand. Mary feels that this mailing is very important, and she uses the schedules a lot. Are we trying to fix something that isn't broken? If you see a need for a change in a schedule you should contact either Neil or Tom who is listed as a contact on the back of the schedule. Certain changes to the document were indicated, listing the new District Web site and the AA help line name change. Kelly asked what we pay for these schedules? Cindy responded with 8 cents each. Kelly remarked on what a screaming deal we were getting.

Workshop- Bob, Bob printed the fliers for the archives workshop in Sleepy Hollow on Sat. Dec. 15th where Brad I. will be presenting. Brad is a wonderful speaker, and his presentations are incredibly informative and interesting. There will be a pot luck dinner. Sleepy hollow will provide coffee and service. Bob paid for the fliers

and the room out his own pocket and will need reimbursement. We will not have another chance to discuss this before the event. Eric offered to bring a huge salad. We need to get these fliers out and pitch this event at every AA venue. Please come to the workshop. Come early and stay late. Sleepy hollow will be there early to make the coffee. Brad will need travel expenses. No motion is needed for reimbursing Bob. A verbal receipt is sufficient. Bob will put it on the web. Fliers will find their way down to Little Falls ASAP

Visiting Meetings-Neil, Has anyone gotten out to different meetings around the District? Neil needs help visiting communities farther out from our center city Brainerd. Neil reached out to these communities in the Newsletter. We need help here at District. We would like to see GSR's from every group in the District. Call Neil to find out if he has already visited one of these outlying groups. Go prepared with a group change form and a GSR pamphlet or packet, and a newsletter. Bring them something. Ask for participation and help at District.

2013 Schedule- Neil will put together a schedule of events for the next year. We will adhere to guidelines. We already know that we will have 12 monthly meetings on the third Thurs. of every month. He will have it ready by next month.

Talk ensued about rotating the meeting location to other outlying communities, and allowing them to host our monthly District meeting. The pros and cons of such a maneuver were weighed in. Time was short and it was agreed to table this discussion until next month. Will it get added to Old Business? Do the groups want this? Go back to your groups and please get a group conscience regarding this matter.

Combining Chair Positions-Neil, Should we combine certain chair positions because we are short handed? For instance P.I., and C.P.C. could be combined, and G.V. is often combined with Literature. We need help with service at the District level. We are short handed and several positions have gone chronically unfilled, and at the same time other people continue to sicken and die of alcoholism in our community. these services are important. We need help. We don't need to act on this tonight, but we should consider it over the next month. Go back to your groups about it. There are pros and cons to consider on both sides of the issue.

Go to the Area 35 Committee Meeting at 9 AM in Aitkin at the Alano Club-Neil, If you are a District Chair you should attend this event and sit in on the breakout session for the service position that you currently hold. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

District Inventory- Neil quickly pitches the possibility of the District taking an inventory of itself. Eric says he favors this action, however it should be added to Old Business for next month's meeting because we have run out of time tonight.

We closed slightly after 8:30PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Appendix A

I ran spell check, spaced and generally cleaned up the document. I also redacted the financials. Thank you Carl P. for stepping in to help while I was on vacation! You are awesome and we missed you last week! I hope you don't mind my messin with your document. Love you Man!

The document follows- ed

District 7

minutes Oct 2012

Happy holidays !

The meeting opened at 7pm with the serenity prayer , followed by introduction 8 people in attendance.

Sec. report Looking to have archive workshop in Dec hosting to have it at sleepy hollow or at the church. Neil got paid to attend area35.im looking for information for sponsorship work shop for spring. thank you for letting me to seat in for Eric Carl P..

Serenity in the Pines

The meeting is going good. We meet on Thurs at 8pm we have the wood stove going you wont be cold. Thank you Carl P..

New hope group meets at the up front Alano club at 4th ave.ne.

Brainerd at 9am Business meeting is the 4th Tuesday of the month. Thank you Gail B..

District7 literature report we sold 1 hard cover and 1 large print 16.25 please call to order your big books thank you Gary S..

Corrections report Eric L. Still waiting to hear from the Crow Wing County Jail on Fall Transition Fair. I will let everyone know when I get the news. If anyone is interested in service work with correction please contact me. My term is coming up.

Treasurers Report The Committee found favor and passed the treasurer's report.

