

District 7 Meeting Minutes for Jan. 2014

The meeting opened at exactly 7:00 PM, January 16, 2014 at the First Congregational Church on the SW corner of 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd MN., with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made; Carl DCM, Eric Alt. DCM, Dave Secretary, Arden Corrections, Gail Treasurer, Paul GSR, Todd GSR, Nancy Web Master/GSR, John GSR, Carl GSR Carl Archives, Mark Literature/Grapevine, Dennis GSR, and Sheldon Treatment.

Call for additions to the agenda: Brain storming, CPC Luncheon, CLAA Help Line, CWC Jail Men & Women and Weather policy.

Concept 1 – Eric read Concept 1. No discussion followed.

Tradition 1 – Gail read the long form of Tradition 1. There was some general discussion following the reading.

Secretaries Report- Dave: None. There was no December meeting to review.

Treasury Report-Gail, Gail presented financials for November and December with hard copies for all present. Motioned made by to approve November report, seconded by Carl and passed unanimously. Motion made by Dave to approve December report, seconded by Eric. Motion passed. Gail Thanked Cindy for all her hard work and the great job she did turning over this position.

GSR Reports-

Our Common Welfare- Dave subbed 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.

Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work – Nancy, 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 have a speaker meeting followed by a potluck and Group Conscience Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

Attendance has remained strong during the past couple of months, averaging approximately 25+ at each meeting, even during the busy holiday schedules and winter weather. It warms the heart to hear both newcomers and those we haven't seen for a while share how welcome they feel, and how much they enjoy and learn from attending our meetings.

Our group regularly participates in meetings at the Crow Wing County Jail and the Focus Unit each month.

Sleepy Hollow-John, Quiet through December, a few visitors. Continue monthly focus group meeting. Attendance 10-14 average.

Serenity in the Pines- Todd, I have not been attending regularly, too busy at work. My Home Group has lots of sobriety, 250 to 300 years on any given night. 10-15 members. It is an awesome Group and I'm very fortunate to be a part of this Group.

Cornerstone of Hope-Dennis, Meets 7:00 pm Tuesday's and St. Francis. Different leader each week who chooses the topic for the meeting. After the readings and chair discusses topic, we break up into small groups for discussion. Average 35-45 people. Focus patients attend this meeting.

Brown Baggers Noon-Paul, We meet Sunday through Saturday at the Lakes Area Alano Club, 1601 Oak Str. Brainerd. Attendance averages 15-30 per day. Subject varies depending on the group. Some are Big Book, others Steps and Traditions and some are open discussion. Business meetings are held the second Monday's at 1:15. These have been well attended and can be quite lively. Our group I currently looking to fill a librarian position. Someone to maintain inventory of Big Books, 12 Step and Tradition books and other reading material.

Action Committee Reports-

C.P.C. / P. I.-Liz, is out ill. Our meeting schedule supply is good for now.

Archives-Carl, I've been picking up items from various groups for archives. He announced a Courage to Change 12 annual round robin 5:00 pm greet and meet, 5:30 pot luck with speakers starting at 6:45. Saturday, February 1, 2014 at Initiative Foundation, 405 1st Ave. Se.

Corrections- Arden, a lot has happened since our last meeting. I did miss the GSR workshop due to equipment breakdown at work. I think maybe Paul and Tim explained what happened. I have gone into the Aitkin jail a couple of times but no changes yet in getting people cleared for visits. I put in another call to Sandstone Prison and I guess persistence pays off. After two years we are able to get back in. Four of us are going for a refresher course in February to get things started and hopefully, it will get back to how it was.

Grapevine/Literature- Mark, I just got books yesterday so no report until next month. He also shared a joke. There was some discussion on obtaining new literature and shipping issues.

Treatment- Sheldon, Sheldon talked about a new treatment facility in town called Northern Pines. Dave and Sheldon will meet after this meeting to turn over the treatment materials and review the position.

Webmaster- Nancy, Nancy and Bob have not yet met to turn over this position. She is looking forward to working with Bob.

Alt DCM- Eric, Greetings,

As your newly elected Alt. DCM I am eagerly looking forward to serving you in this next rotation. Dave and I will need to get together to transfer the management duties of the Central Lakes Help Line. This is the one task in this position that I find particularly daunting, however I am up

to the challenge. It is possible that at the time of this reading he and I may have already exchanged the account passwords, and protocol, or will do so after the District meeting, or this weekend during the Winter Workshop.

I did procure a room with a double bed for Friday and Saturday in Moorhead. Sheldon, our Treatment Chair was also planning to attend the event and I offered the extra bed to him. If anyone else wishes to attend and needs a warm place to sleep, I could give up my bed to them, and take up a spot on the floor with my bedroll- not a problem. I am; looking forward to this event and a chance to get out of town for a few days.

My father passed away at the family homestead. Handling his body and helping make arrangements has left me in a state of low grade depression. The break away from this work will be welcome. Our family was prepared for this and we are handling it professionally. His death came after a long battle with Lyme's and Parkinson's. As a family we are actually relieved that his suffering was cut short. However it is still a momentous event for me personally. There is no need to extend condolences or offer help. My duties this weekend will be enough of a welcome distraction.

Our District is presenting on the topic of "Time, Treasury, and Talent" Saturday in Moorhead. Three of us were tasked with preparing speeches to this topic. All of us have done so. I sent the typed copy of my topic "talent" to Dave and Carl for a review. If anyone else would like to critique it I'd be happy to provide a copy. It is three pages long and takes almost exactly 10 minutes to read if I breathe in between sentences. I enjoyed the practice typing and the trip down memory lane that it took to write it. Thank you.

I haven't yet started canvassing new meetings as a representative of our District. I would like very much to have a small stack of Group Change forms, and maybe a GSR packet or two to get started. I already have meeting schedules, and I was thinking a contact list for District Chairs would be nice too. When I go to a meeting I would like to come bearing gifts. I would like to make a very short and humble announcement during the announcement period, and ask to talk to interested persons following the meeting. This would be less obtrusive than a long flowery speech during the meeting time. Afterwards I can try to get a group change / information form filled out. If it would be all right with everyone I would like to canvas the regions to the north and east of our District, Pine River, Baucus, Crosby, Aitkin, McGregor, Tamarack, Big Sandy, Wright, and Palisade. This is actually something I am looking forward to doing, but all subject to your approval of course.

Thank You for allowing me to serve,
Eric

DCM Report – Carl, Hello everyone. I'd like to welcome all of you to this meeting. Most of us are learning new positions. I hope the learning curve is not too great. I pray we are all up to the challenge. I am looking forward to the next two years, as well, I hope you are too. It'll probably be like my job, once I think I know what's going on, things change and I have to relearn. I'd like to thank all who put on the GSR school. I thought it was very well presented. We have the Area workshop this weekend in Moorhead. Eric, Dave, myself and whoever else we recruit will be discussing how our contributions help the general welfare. Upcoming events include

West Regional Service Conference February 28- March 2nd in St. Louis Park, MN. The Spring Assembly will be on April 5th & 6th in Duluth. I am looking forward to attending these vents. I am looking forward, along with Eric, to getting to all the meetings in our District over the next two years. It will be a challenge going to women's meeting though. I'll have to get a wig. Thanks for all of you who came out on this snowy, windy night. Hope your travels home goes well. For all those who chose to stay home, you have shown us just how much wisdom and common sense you have. Stay warm my friends.

Old Business

1. Area workshop this weekend. Talked a bit about our presentation on Time, Treasury and Talent.
2. CWC jail. OCW is looking for other groups to pick up 7:00 meetings for the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each Month. Discussion followed about the jail make up and different pods. We discussed the women meetings which are held each Thursday. It was suggested that all take this back to their respective groups.

New Business/Old Business carried forward

1. Crow Wing County Jail Echo pod. See above.
2. CPC luncheon. A committee of volunteers consisting of Gail, Nancy, Carl, Dave and Arden was formed to get a jump on organizing this event. They will meet at a unspecified future date and place.
3. Add CLAA Help line to our website. Discussion followed on what should and should not be put there. All agreed that the volunteer list should not be published. This was tabled until next month.
4. Weather: Carl will have the meeting cancelled notice out by 4:00pmday of the meeting.
5. Brian storming: Mark brought up the idea of canvassing groups by possibly using all members getting involved with this effort. Visit each group and give a 30 second spiel about District 7 and also update the group contact info. Bring phone/ addresses and email list to pass out at the meetings.

At 8:30 we closed the meeting with the Lords Prayer.