

## January 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 15 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, Gary- literature, Sheldon-GV, Carl- GSR , Carl- Alt GSR, Cindy-Treasurer, Eric- Secretary, Liz- soon to be elected C.P.C./P.I., Jeff-GSR, Nancy-GSR, Mary- Alt GSR, Larry- GSR, Einer- GSR, Toni-GSR, and Mary- GSR.

**A call for changes to the agenda** went out. None were heard.

**Secretaries Report- Eric**, Eric gave a very 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 stated that it was self explanatory. He also handed out copies of the Action Booklet, and the Distribution List. He asked for corrections, deletions, and additions to those documents. Cindy motioned to accept the minutes, and it was seconded by Carl and Sheldon, and all found favor with it.

Eric was reminded that the copy that is mailed out to the Area should be sent after approval by the District the following month. Example, Brad I the Archivist, should be sent his copy of January's minutes in February

**Treasurers Report- Cindy**, Cindy passed out copies of her report to the group. Eric made a motion to accept the report, this was seconded by Sheldon, and passed unanimously. She also passed out a year's end report for 2012. This copy displayed all expenses and inventoried them by category and service position. This report was verbally recapped, and met with approval and gratitude.

*Again, Please note that we don't publish the District financial's. 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 financial's published far and wide, feel free to introduce a motion to do so, at the committee meeting, we'd love to have you.*

*This subject was revisited on 9/20/2012 and the District and GSR's in attendance agreed that the District financial's shouldn't be publicly published. See updated Action Booklet.*

### **GSR Reports;**

**Serenity in the Pines- Carl**, Our meeting is going well. We meet Thursday at 8pm. We have plenty of wood for the wood stove. Come in and join us we love to welcome visitors and guests. We average around 12-15 people a week.

**Isle Big Book Meeting- Mary**, Our meeting is held at the Faith Lutheran Church at 10:00 am Sat. morning. A discussion of the Big Book is going well. We have about 8-10 regulars.

**Primary Purpose AA- Toni**, We are an open meeting. We meet on Wed. at 7:00 PM at the Living Water Church near Wahkon. We are a 12x12, Discussion and Topics meeting. There is an Open Speaker Meeting on the 5th Wed. of the month. This month we have a

speaker on Wed. Jan. 30th 2013. The group size has been good at 12-15 persons. Toni.

**Isle Women's AA- Toni,** We meet on Sunday night at 6:00 PM at the Faith Lutheran Church. We are a B.B. 12x12, Topic, and Discussion meeting. We have gained 3 new young girls. This makes learning very \* interesting, and having new people\* is nice. Toni.  
\*ed

**Monday Pequot Lakes- Jeff,** We meet Monday nights at 7:30pm at St. Alice Church. That is Two blocks east of the stop light. We have 25-30 people. Christmas was a little slow. We only had 6 on Christmas, New years was a better meeting. We also have a Thursday night 12x12 study meeting. It's a great meeting, everyone is welcome, and we always have great discussions.

**Women's Work Meeting- Nancy,** We hold our meetings every Wednesday night at 5:30 at the fire hall in Nisswa. It is a 12x12, B.B. and topic meeting. We have 20 -25 women in attendance. We have a pot luck and group conscience every 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Our Common Welfare Group- Larry,** We meet every Wed. night at 8:00pm at the lakes Area Alano Club at 1601 Oak St., in Brainerd Minnesota. We usually have at least 20 persons in attendance, and we discuss topics out of AA approve literature. We are a service oriented group, and we go to the focus treatment center every third Monday, and the Crow Wing county Jail every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. We are getting 2 or 3 newcomers at every meeting and some of them are coming back. We also will have at least four members attending the Workshop this weekend.

**Life Begins here meeting- Einer,** We meet at Oak street at 7:00 every Friday. The attendance varies from 10 to 30 persons. Some come and go and some stay.

### **Action Committee Reports;**

**C.P.C.** Liz expresses an interest in the C.P.C. Chair. Neil nominates Liz to be our C.P.C. Chair person with the understanding that the position may be combined with P.I.. She describes herself and her background as it qualifies her for this position. She is willing to stand, and also assume the P.I. responsibilities if that becomes part of the position.

Eric makes a motion to have Liz stand as C.P.C. Chair, This was seconded by Toni. All members found favor with this, and it passed with applause.

**Liz gives her first report-** We are looking at either a Thursday afternoon or a Saturday brunch type of gathering for the C.P.C. event. We need group input on this event. The dates suggested so far are Thursdays, 4:00-6:00pm May 9th, or 16th. And Saturdays, 8:00-10:00 am May 4th, or 18th. **It is essential to have group and GSR participation in this event. As GSR's you need to discuss these dates with your groups. We need to have a four month lead to plan this instead of one month. We also need to have input on formats, and speakers, and we need support with the invitation of professionals. The groups will sponsor these professionals and some give away a Big Book. Also we need additional new ideas about this event.** We will also need to form a committee to organize the event. We welcome ideas. Opening fishing is a bad day to try it.

**P.I. - open,** Tom is still coordinating the printing of the schedules. Thank you ever so much Tom! The last printing was back in late Oct., and now we are starting to get low. They are available on the back table for your meeting or club. Please alert Neil or Tom via email if there are changes to the schedule. Tom's contact information is on the back side of

the schedule. Tom keeps the master list.

**Archives-open**, no report.

**Literature- Gary, District 7 Literature Chair Report for Jan 2013**

For the period Dec. 2012 thru Jan. 2013 there were no sales. I have a good inventory at this time so please, if you need literature call me. I also have price list with my phone number on them if anyone is interested. Also the minimum order with free shipping from GSO has been raised to 500. dollars. Consequently if you or your group needs a special order shipping charges may be included.

Here is a re-cap of last years sales; We had a total sales of 242 books and other literature for a total sales of \$ 1739.40.

I would like to thank all of you for getting so much literature out there.

Yours in service, Gary

**Treatment / Corrections- Dave**, No report, Not present.

**Grapevine- Sheldon**, Sheldon tells a few jokes from the grapevine and gets some laughs and well needed comic relief.

**Alt DCM- Open**, no report

**DCM- Neil**,

**DCM Report – District 7, Area 35**

JAN 2013

Greetings District 7!

I hope everyone is doing well! It's hard to believe our rotation is ½ way through already but it is. As usual, there are a lot of events going on and we'll have a very busy start to our year. First of all, I'd really like to encourage everyone to head up to Walker this Saturday for the Area 35 Service Workshop. These workshops are open to all AA members and provide a great opportunity to see what services are being provided by our Area to carry the AA message. If you're a GSR, your group should reimburse you for expenses to attend and district chairs should be reimbursed by the district for attending. All attendees should provide a report on the event to either the group or district. I do plan on attending and hope to see you there!

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, a Zonal Forum is scheduled in Grand Rapids. Zonal Forums provide a great opportunity to meet Area officers, ask questions about AA service, and have fellowship and sharing with other AA's. All are welcome to attend but newcomers to service especially should attend.

I have completed a proposed schedule for the first semester of 2013. I would like to propose we conduct a district inventory after a shortened district meeting next month. This would be on 2/21. We would conclude district business at 8 instead of 8:30 with the inventory

promptly starting at 8 and going until approximately 9 or 9:30.

In addition, the CLAA committee proposed a training workshop. I'd like to propose we schedule that for Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12 – 2 PM and make it a potluck event. We all agree the CLAA line is important and therefore I believe scheduling this workshop just for it is prudent.

Please check out the other events on the calendar – most notable coming soon would be a recommendation for a district discussion on the 2013 GSC. This should occur after the WCRAASC but before the SA scheduled for April 6-7 in Grand Rapids.

In closing, I'd like to thank each of you for your service and continued dedication to AA.

In service,

Neil F.

### **Old Business;**

**Web site- Neil** Neil speaks to this as Bob isn't present. Bob is up in Walker setting up for the winter workshop. **Neil reminds everyone to be sure to check out our Area web site as there have been several changes for the better. He also asks that GSR's and others additionally take a look at our District web site. Bob, the web master, the Area, and the District need feedback on these projects.** Neil also adds that we will be asking Bob to load our calendar of events (subject to District approval) and we can also load a reminder notice for up-coming District events, and flyers. This spoke directly to a question Sheldon brought up moments previous about a reminder email with topics or agenda enclosed.

**CLAA Phone line- Neil,** Neil speaks to this also as Dave is absent. The committee met on the 8th to discuss the CLAA phone line. Neil, David and Eric I. were in attendance. We agreed that we need additional training. We felt it was necessary to answer the phone when it rings. There are challenges in this that many people screen their calls. It was felt that we should check in with Dave, who is the coordinator. It was also felt that a call log should be maintained. Lastly it was agreed that a position should be formed called CLA coordinator, and that someone needs to head this project.

The training session was discussed. **It was thought that there should be mandatory attendance,** a pot luck format, **a flyer notification open to all members,** and a date was chosen which is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Combining C.P.C. with P.I., and G.V. with Literature- Neil,** Neil heads the discussion and the GSR's came prepared to give group consciences. To summarize, Our Common Welfare asks "What are the needs of their district and more importantly the needs of our primary purpose?" "If it is needed then we should combine." Monday Pequot (Jeff) thought it would be fine either way. The Primary Purpose Group thought that if we need to combine then we should do so,

but otherwise leave it alone. Serenity in the Pines thought we should leave it alone. Other representatives had no opinion, or deferred. The issue went to vote. The question was asked who is in favor of combining P.I. with C.P.C.. 5 persons voted for combining and 3 voted against. We will combine the positions. If at a later time we would like to separate these positions

Several persons in the room expressed interest different positions. Carl P. showed interest in perhaps filling the CLAA phone coordinator position, Sheldon had expressed interest the previous month in the Literature position (Gary is on his 3rd year), but Sheldon is on year 2 with GV.

Liz will be asked to shoulder the P.I. responsibilities in addition to C.P.C.. Thank you Liz! Tom is going to continue to coordinate the printing of our meeting schedules. Thank you Tom- you are a life saver.

It went to vote to combine GV with Literature. This failed 0 for and 4 against. Those positions remain the same.

**District Inventory- Neil**, Neil leads the discussion. His recommendation was to take inventory following the regular meeting next month. We will close the regular District meeting a half hour early and then conduct our inventory. The inventory will run until approximately 9:30 PM. We will follow the set format provided by GSO, and have a moderator. Carl made a motion to take an inventory as described above. Sheldon seconded the motion. All found favor with it.

GSR's are asked to ask their groups to give them feedback regarding District 7. They should attend the inventory next month, and bring their group's conscience regarding District 7 with them. This will be an opportunity to look closely at problems and dysfunction with in the District, and to address issues. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

It would be nice to have a Flyer.

Based on performance last year it was agreed that we should hold 12 regular District meetings per year regardless of other activities so this will be held in addition to our regular Meeting.

Neil will email out the inventory questions.

**C.W.C. Fair Deposit- Sheldon**, Sheldon speaks to this subject. He called the people concerned and discovered that the deposit will not be returned because we took down the booth before the very end of the fair, (fifteen minutes early). He didn't attempt to raise a stink over this action and try to force a return of the funds. It was apparently a condition within the contract that the booth would be maintained until the very last minute of the event (fine print). This information was met with incredulous disbelief that the coordinators of the county fair could be so exacting, and demanding. Additionally Sheldon was helping with clean up in the 4h building at this time. It was thought that this information would weigh heavily against continued participation this next year. Our participation at the C.W.C. Fair, then, costs a total of three hundred dollars for last year.

**C.P.C. Luncheon- Neil**, Neil heads this discussion. Should we have a C.P.C. Luncheon. Primary Purpose thought is should be a one on one approach, and this is based on the poor

performance of previous events. Women's Work is fully and completely IN support of the continued C.P.C. event. Liz speaks personally against a one on one approach, and prefers a group luncheon setting. Our Common Welfare is in favor of a one on one approach to the professionals, and this is based on lackluster performance of past luncheon events. Carl speaks how pastors in the Little falls area have approached him about attending this event. He was also approached by some lawyers. Isle Big Book thinks that it should be a one on one approach rather than a luncheon supporting what was spoken from the Primary Purpose Group. Sheldon lays the responsibility back on the groups for making this a success. He gives a strong pitch for having the event. He believes that this year we can do better job as we have 4 months to plan it.

We put it to a vote. In spite of the comments preceding support for the event was overwhelming 7-1. District 7 will host a C.P.C. Luncheon, and Liz, our Chair person, will coordinate the event.

Liz said it would be good to make the [District Chairs also responsible for finding attendees.](#) [The dates and times were Thursday May 9th, and 16th, or Sat. May 4th, 18th.](#) [We need to pick a date and time. We are open to ideas.](#) Nothing is carved in stone. Liz would like interested parties to contact her. Flyers will be created closer to the event.

**Support Meeting Locator?-Neil,** Neil asks the District if he should vote yea or nay on this contentious topic at the Area level. He called for a vote. He needs a District conscience. Our Common Welfare is opposed to supporting this and feels it should be taken down immediately until it is fixed. Our Common Welfare also submitted an Agenda Item\* to GSO asking that GSO would create and maintain an online national meeting locator. OCW received conformation from GSO and it may appear on this year's Agenda.

The current locator at the Area Site has been "fixed" since the complaints last month. This information weighed heavily when a vote was called.

Should we continue to support the joint effort between Area 35 and 35 called "The Meeting Locator"? 7 persons support continuing, and 3 persons vote to discontinue supporting. Neil has a District Conscience on this matter.

*\* See Appendix 1 for a copy of the proposed Agenda Item correspondence submitted to GSO by Our Common Welfare Group of Brainerd MN.*

**Giving Books to the S.C. Prison- Neil,** Neil heads the discussion. The S.C. Prison was/is in need of soft cover Big Books. It should be noted that this facility is not in our District. However one group in our District has already purchased a case of books for the prison. What is the status of books in our own local jail? Gary indicated that our jail is well stocked. Books cost 7.60 each. A case of books is cheaper. OCW does support giving books. District 13 is asking for our help we need to step up to the plate. . We do have the funds to support this. We shouldn't defer this as it is an immediate need.

[Eric made a motion to send the needy persons one case of Big Books. This was seconded by Cindy and all found favor- Motion passed.](#)

**Time extension-Neil,** Eric made a motion to extend the meeting by 3 minutes, it was quickly

seconded by Cindy and all found favor.

### **New Business;**

**Meeting Schedules-Neil,** Neil speaks, Please email any changes to either Tom or himself.

**2013 Scheduling- Neil,** Neil asks for approval for an extra meeting on March 7th to discuss the Agenda Items. This met with approval. Neil will get the Agenda out on the 24th of Feb. He is putting together a schedule for 2013.

Liz- Will we create a flyers for the District Inventory, with questions, The CLAA potluck training event, and one for the extra Agenda Meeting. (Three flyers) Neil will send out the District Inventory Flyer. The CLAA committee will create the Potluck Flyer. Who is creating and sending the Extra Agenda Meeting Flyer?

**Meeting Closed-** Meeting closed shortly after 8:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

*For your convenience I used a red font for the directives given to GSR's, and I used a blue font for actions, and directives given to District Chairs. This will hopefully make it easier for you to navigate the document, and make your service duties clear. However I may have missed an item, misspelled a name, misquoted a member, or otherwise made a terrible mess of this document, a regular hash of it. 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*

### **Appendix 1:**

Our Common Welfare proposes that the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous develop, implement, and maintain a nationwide online, searchable meeting list and locator (with a map function). Justification for this service is as follows:

- 1) Need
  - a) There is a demonstrable need for this service:
    - i) The most basic service provided by the AA group, and our primary purpose, can only be fulfilled if alcoholics are able to locate meetings.
    - ii) Most hits on the Area 35 website visits are to the meeting locator. We can only assume that other Areas experience the same demand for this information.
    - iii) We know alcoholics visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) in search of meetings as there is a main toolbar link devoted to finding meetings.
    - iv) The most frequent question posed to our local phone "help" lines is for meeting locations and times.
- 2) Ability
  - a) It is difficult and inconvenient for individual areas to provide this service for the following reasons:
    - i) Local technical expertise is difficult to find.
    - ii) Maintaining consistency and oversight is challenging (particularly since most webmasters are

- volunteers with rotating service positions).
- 3) Clarity
    - a) For the newcomer to AA, it would be advantageous to have a single State by State search engine on one website rather than multiple links to various websites of varied quality and usability.
      - i) Finding a meeting can become needlessly complex with the various Area websites.
      - ii) It would be in keeping with our common welfare, and the spirit of attraction rather than promotion, to make meeting locators more appealing and user-friendly.
  - 4) Finances
    - a) Because of the costly technical expertise that is required to develop and maintain online meeting locators, it is more prudent and realistic for the General Service Office to provide the funding for creation and ongoing maintenance of the meeting locator database than it is for individual Areas to continue footing these bills.
    - b) Expenses to AA as a whole could be reduced if GSO took over this service.
      - i) Costs for online meeting list creation and maintenance are duplicated as each area needs to have its own meeting locator.
      - ii) With GSO maintaining one meeting locator, AA members would realize economies of scale with the elimination of unnecessary redundancies.
    - c) It is possible that GSO could realize additional financial savings as fewer hard copies of local directories would need to be printed and distributed if a meeting locator could be maintained on the AAWS website.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Our Common Welfare Group

Area 35, District 7

Brainerd, MN 56401