

## District 7 Meeting Minutes for July 2013

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**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, Tim GSR, Paul GSR, Johnny GSR, Aaron GSR, Mary GSR, Toni GSR, Dave Treatment, Cindy Treasurer, Galen GSR, Nancy GSR, Eric Secretary, Bob B. Webmaster, Gail GSR, Carl GSR, Arden Corrections, Sheldon GV, John GSR, and Liz CPC/PI. There were 19 persons in attendance. Neil spoke briefly to the new GSR's about what to expect at District, and what will be asked of them.

**Call for additions to the agenda,** Dave asked that we include getting some assistance from groups to participate in the C.W.C. Jail meetings.

**Concept 7 - Arden,** Arden read from the service manual on the section titled Concept 7. Brief discussion followed the reading.

**Tradition 7 - Paul ,** Paul read the long form of the seventh tradition and commented briefly on what was read. Some discussion followed. Neil gave a short talk about tradition violations. Discussion revolved around AA groups excepting funds from non AA sources, for instance a non AA putting a dollar in the basket at a meeting, and an Alanon club sending a check to GSO, which was excepted and cashed. Also GSO taking money from wills and probate from secondary disbursements (for instance a non AA widow says, "He would have liked it this way"). It was determined that the GSR's share a responsibility in guiding their groups from violating traditions. *We were now 21 minutes into our 1 1/2 hour meeting.*

**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. Eric apologized for a clerical error involving a feature called "Page Break" which turned out to be a Page Break Failure, and if you attempted to print the document it looked like hell. 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. Dave motioned to accept, Liz seconded, and all found favor.

**Treasury Report-Cindy,** Cindy was absent so Neil read her report. We have money available for service. Cindy will write a check for 30. dollars to cover the three extra meetings that we held at the church this year, at a cost of 10. dollars per meeting. Cindy already paid the church for the District Help Line Phone which was 50. dollars. Eric was asked to submit some additional expenses for ink. A considerable amount of discussion went into several treasury items at this time, the use of an expense form in addition to providing receipts for member expenses, and an audit or oversight committee. This originally came out of our District Inventory which was held several months previously. Eric asked that additional discussion be addressed under new business. Carl motioned to accept the report, and Eric seconded it. All found favor with it. *FYI, we were now 37 minutes into the meeting.*

*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.*

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*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-**

**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.

**Big Sandy Wed. - Paul,** We meet every Wed. evening at 7:00 PM at the BSL Alano Club. It is an open meeting. Attendance has been good with 20-30 persons and a good mix of men and women. We have been having a lot of new comers, and several Native Americans. 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.

**Palisade AA- Johnny,** We meet the first Monday of every week at 7:00 PM at the Lutheran Church. (joking) 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. It is a discussion meeting based on readings. Attendance has been around 15- 20 persons.

**Isle Big Book- Mary,** We meet at Faith Lutheran Church in Isle every Saturday morning at 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Our meeting is a discusses the Big Book and topics. Our attendance has been between 10-15 every Saturday. Everyone is Welcome!

**Mille lacs Primary Purpose- Toni,** We meet every Wed. night at 7:00 at the Living Water Church west of Wahkon. We are an Open, B-B, 12x 12 Discussion group with speakers every 5th wed. of the month. We have a pot luck and speaker meeting on 5th Wed of the month. This month we will have Bill from Garrison speaking. The group is gaining a good following the last few meetings. We have been around 20-22. Young people and new faces are awesome to see.

**Mille Lacs Area Women's AA- Toni,** We used to meet Sunday at the Faith Lutheran Church in Isle at 6:00 PM. Toni sadly reports that this meeting has failed. Do we need to remove it from the schedule?

**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.

**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!

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**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 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 for the past month has been 20 to 25 each week and we have enjoyed having several visitors who keep coming back while they are visiting the Lakes Area.

At our Group Conscience Meeting held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group expressed a great deal of interest in attending a Fall Workshop on sponsorship.

**Eye Opener Meeting- John,** We meet every Sat. Morning at 10:00 AM. We average around 12-20 persons in attendance. I am usually there early to make coffee, and this is a good time to visit. We usually have a good topic and many years of sobriety. It is an Open meeting.

**New Hope- Gail,** New Hope meets every Tuesday at 9AM at the Up Front Club in Brainerd. Our meeting covers a topic step or tradition. The attendance has been growing with a large amount of new comers which has been exciting. A good mix of sobriety ages helps keep our meeting interesting.

**Serenity in the Pines- Carl,** Everything is going well at the Serenity in the Pines. We meet Thursdays at 8 PM . Generally we have a topic from the Big Book or Steps. 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.

**Sleepy Hollow- Bob B fills in for John,** We meet Mondays at 8:00 PM. We will be holding a round Robin on Saturday September the 21st at the Fort Ripley Town Hall. Fellowship starts at 5:00 PM and the pot luck at 6:00 PM. See the Fliers.

*Time check- we are now at 54 minutes into our hour and a half meeting.*

## **Action Committee Reports-**

**C.P.C./ P. I.-Liz,** There are still two outstanding unpaid tickets from the C.P.C. event. We need to discuss the future events. Do we want to hold an additional event this fall? We will need additional schedules to be printed because of the C.W.C. Fair. We currently can cover what we need for the Fair but will need to print extras to stock up the clubs and treatment centers. Revisions need to be forwarded to Tom. The supply of schedules will be handed off to Mark for the Fair. Tom will be given the go ahead to print. We need to sign up

to help with the Fair. Liz will be out of the country during the Fair. Mark is heading the Fair Booth Committee.

**Archives- Open,** No report.

**Literature- Gary,** Gary bought a semi and is on the road. He provided a verbal report to Neil stating there have been no sales of Literature.

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**Corrections- Arden,** It has been a quiet month. Tim and I did go to MSOP (Moose Lake) for an open house. We are still having trouble getting people cleared to go into the Aitken Co. Jail. Arden would like to talk to some other C.W.C. Jail participants.

**Treatment- Dave,** I did personally invite several individuals from the five treatment facilities to attend the C.P.C. Event. I had no takers. However 3 persons invited from the C.W.C. Jail did attend. I dropped off Picnic Fliers to the treatment centers, and a few recycled Grapevine Issues. All centers have schedules.

**Grapevine- Sheldon,** Sheldon tells some GV jokes.

**Webmaster- Bob,** Bob has been working on updating the minutes to the web site. He has been very busy with the MN meeting locator. It will roll out this weekend. [aaminnesota.org](http://aaminnesota.org) is the name of the site.

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

DCM Report – District 7, Area 35

July 2013

Greetings to all AA members in Central MN!

We have a lot of events coming up to make sure everyone's aware of. The district approved having a PI booth at this year's Crow Wing County Fair. I'd like to thank Mark N. for stepping up and taking ownership to make sure the booth is set up, stocked, and kept up. I believe Mark has Bob H. set to help out as well. What we hope to accomplish by being at the fair is letting people know that AA is alive and well in our communities, and we hope to be helpful by providing information about alcoholism and AA. Please reach out to Mark to see if he needs anything and if you're able to help out with stocking and periodically checking on the booth, I'm sure we could use your help.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Meet & Greet event at Lum Park on Sunday 7/14 due to the weather. It was a tough call and even tougher to get the word out to everyone in time but we did the best we could. A few of us hung around and Bob B. had some coffee for us to enjoy with folks that showed up. Of course some brought treats they had made so we did indulge in some of those as well! We'll have to discuss the possibility of a reschedule but it may be very difficult to do.

We will be having a Fall Workshop – we are looking to have this hosted by the Cuyuna Alano but we need to confirm that. I will talk to them and see if we can make arrangements; I think having it in Ironton is a great idea.

This Saturday there's a Joint Workshop with Areas 35 and 36 participating. It's in St. Cloud from 12:30 – 5:00 PM at the Calvary Community Church (on Roosevelt). This is a great opportunity to learn more about service work and meet a lot of people with experience and knowledge – I would encourage folks to try to make it. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend.

Also coming up is our next Area Committee Meeting in Aitkin on 8/4. The committees meet at 9 and the entire body at 10:30 AM. All district chairs should attend their respective committee meetings to give reports on what is being done in our district, hear from other district chairs, discuss issues and opportunities, etc.

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I encourage everyone to attend; we are blessed really with these meetings being so close to our communities.

Mark your calendars for 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 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.

*Time check - we were now at 1 hour 8 minutes with 22 minutes remaining.*

#### **Old Business;**

**C.W.C. Fair-** Nothing new to report. Neil has been in communication with Mark who is heading the Fair Committee. Mark is on top of it. Nancy has a volunteer who will contact Mark at 218-330-3844. Other volunteers are encouraged to do the same.

**Facility Use Contribution-** Cindy already wrote the check to the church while we were meeting. The issue is handled.

**Reschedule Meet and Greet Event?-** Bob called Lum Park and it is booked for the summer. However the Kiwanis Park is open every Sunday in August. Kiwanis Park is 65 dollars to book it. Nancy has people asking if we will reschedule already. Neil proposed that we discuss booking the park for August 25th at 11:00 AM and that we put it to vote. All found favor with doing so.

Bob reminded us that we fund this out of our own pockets, not from District Funds. Hence we all have to support this effort with donations and various food and supplies. Bob will put the new flier together.

Some discussion about a past District Event which was an AA camp out and picnic out near McGregor. The event was held at Federal Dam and was an awesome location, and enjoyed by all the attendees. The rent was 35 dollars.

Bob asked a few questions about the camp out. The event was held 20 some years ago so the specifics about funding and logistics are lost in the mists of time. To be an AA event it has to have AA functions such as meetings or speakers.

Eric said it sounded like something that we could look at for next year.

It was also expressed that it would be good to hold some kind of District event out on the east end of our District. This would be good for McGregor, Wright, Palisade, Aitkin et cetera.

**Meeting Schedules-** Are the meeting schedules making it on the web? Bob needs a printout in Word or some kind of a document that he can work with. He needs this to be updated and current. It is very time consuming and labor intensive as it stands now. Neil will contact Tom and the printer to get the latest list to Bob to display on the web.

**New Business;**

**Fall workshop-** We will have a workshop on Sponsorship in Oct. We haven't nailed down a date. It will be two hours. We have a committee together. Neil will contact Ironton to see if it is possible. We will re- address this in Aug. Bob suggested the Aitkin Club as an alternative location that would help to get involvement from the community around Aitkin. This met with favorable response. The facility is certainly large enough. We selected a date. October 26th was selected from 11- 2 PM. It will be a potluck event.

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**District Elections for 2014- 2015-** Neil gives the pitch for continuing in service. He hopes that the experience of the GSR's has been positive and that they would consider continuing in service at the District level. Several members just started their rotation so they will wish to continue in their chair positions, Liz would like to continue serving as C.P.C./ P. I.. Arden just started as Corrections and would like to continue. Carl P. is showing interest in Archives, and Gail would like to stand for Treasurer. Dave expressed interest in doing the Secretary position. Eric expressed interest (tentatively) in Alt DCM. Carl (GSR of Serenity in the Pines) expressed interest in a Chair position. Amongst much laughter about the railroad it was stated that we will review the voting requirements in September, and in October we will vote. Attention all AA's in District 7, GSR's, and Groups. If you or someone you know is qualified to stand for a District position, and has an interest in service at the District level, this October we will elect the officers to stand for the various positions. You are encouraged to participate. This is your District. You make it what you want it to be. Neil closed this discussion by stating that if you are willing to stand be sure you are also committed to actually doing the job.

**Area 35/36 Joint Workshop-** Neil pitched the Area 35/36 joint workshop being held in St. Cloud 7/20 12:30 to 5 PM. Who is attending? Bob is attending. He will car pool.

**Area Committee Meeting-** Sunday 8/4 from 9am to 3PM at the Aitkin Alanon Club the Area will be meeting. Be sure to attend.

**WC Regional Forum-** A question was asked if as a District we will be sending anyone to the West Central Regional Forum. Another question was asked about the Fall Assembly and persons who will be going to that event. Cindy expressed concern that it will tax the treasury if a lot of people are going to be going to Detroit Lakes, and Bloomington. If money is available for service than the policy is that the District will support attendance of District Committee members. Neil and a couple other people expressed interest in attending the Regional Forum. Lodging is the primary expense.

**Eric makes a motion to extend the meeting past the closing time by several minutes- Motion seconded and passed unanimously.**

**C.P.C. Event for the fall-** Cindy said there is a lot on the docket, Liz will be out of the country for a time, and we could stick with what works. (the spring event) Eric agreed with this. General agreement was heard around the room. Liz can work on a specific proposal for Nov. and bring it to the District for consideration.

**Help with C.W.C. Jail Meetings-** Deferred until next month

**Financial oversight/ expense forms-** Deferred until next month

**Meeting Adjourned-** Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM with the Lord's Prayer

*OK, that is a wrap! There is no colored font this month, sorry. I am low on red and blue ink-lol. Actually I just didn't get to it. So you'll have to read carefully to see any directives for GSR's or others. 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*