

## July 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 District 7 Meeting Minutes

### *Greetings!*

The meeting opens with the serenity prayer at 7:00pm.

Everyone introduced themselves and stated their positions. There were 13 persons in attendance.

Neil our DCM opens the proceedings with a proposed **District 7 meeting guidelines** handout, included here for your reading pleasure;

### District 7 Meeting Guidelines

The District will meet monthly to conduct business.

There will be twelve business meetings per year.

There will be one additional meeting in March to cover GSC Agenda items.

There will be one additional meeting in May or June to hear the Delegate's GSC report.

Meeting duration for monthly business will be limited to 1 ½ hours.

DCM and Secretary will be responsible to keep the meeting on track and on schedule.

The meeting will end promptly after 1 ½ hours and any unfinished business will be handled by committee, if applicable, or be carried over to the next monthly meeting.

Sharing sessions are encouraged for topics that require them.

Each attendee will be given the opportunity to speak without interruption or cross-talk.

Speaking time will be limited to 2 minutes (if necessary, timed by DCM or Alternate DCM).

Group conscience is sought and will determine if additional sharing is needed after all who care to have spoken one time on the topic.

***These are guidelines only - group conscience can override any of the above!***

### District 7 Scheduling of Events

1. The District Chairs are responsible to make recommendations on events specific to their position and to seek approval as required from the District.
  - a. Dates should be determined far enough in advance to allow for adequate planning.
  - b. Committees can be formed and are encouraged so responsibilities are shared and we have adequate redundancy should it be necessary.
  - c. Chairs should determine when group conscience is required.
    - i. This is up to the GSRs who represent their groups; the chair should inquire the GSRs.
2. The District should have a working calendar in place. It is recommended this be available to all in the district. As District Chairs determine scheduled events, the events should be added to the calendar. The DCM, Alternate DCM, or Secretary should be responsible to

maintain the calendar of events.

Members of District 7 have held an annual picnic/potluck event. This event is not supported by district funds; instead, it is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, typically from the District Chairs and GSRs whom want to

In the discussion that followed the presentation of the proposed guidelines several modifications were asked for. The 1 minute sharing limitation was asked to be expanded to 2 minutes, Item 3-c was asked to be modified to read “after all those who care to have spoken”, and finally item 2-c was asked to be amended to read “override any of these items”. Several people expressed concern that limiting sharing could be detrimental.

The section titled “District 7 Scheduling of Events was read, and additional discussion wasn’t forthcoming.

Dave Motioned to accept the (Amended?) Guidelines. Eric seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The Motion passes.

A call went out for additional items to add to the meeting agenda.\* None were heard immediately, but part way into the meeting a member asked if we could add “Printing Additional Schedules” to the agenda under new business. \* *See Appendix I for complete agenda.*

**Secretaries Report.** Eric handed out 9 copies of last month’s minutes, one copy of the roster, one copy of the email distribution list. These were reviewed. Bob H. made a motion to accept the Minutes, and this seconded by Carl? Everyone in attendance found favor, and the motion to accept passes.

(Later following the Treasury Report, questions were posed about who should be on the roster and who should be taken off. Questions were also posed about what the purpose of the roster is. Eric fumbled the explanation, and explained he inherited the roster from the previous administration, and farther expounded that if the District would like to cease maintaining the roster that it would lessen his work load and that he was in favor of that. He also explained that at least one member who had recently relapsed had expressed interest in continuing to receive minutes and fliers and contact with the membership, and had asked to remain on the contact list. Neil explained that the roster was a list of interested persons within the District who would like to remain in contact. The subject of District Lists will be added to new business next month. Eric also mentioned that he had created an Action Booklet which he emailed out to everyone, but sadly had forgotten to run off copies for the meeting tonight. The Action Booklet goes back to January of 2012. He also added that he used, with success the Bcc undisclosed recipients feature with the mass email last month.)

**Treasury Report.** Cindy passed out a concise and neat paper report. She read the report to the group. Discussion from one member indicated that the bill from Century Link seemed high. This member will call Century Link to get to the bottom of it. Eric motioned to pass the report. The Motion was seconded by Bob H., and everyone found favor with it. Motion to accept the report

passes.

If you don't have a paper copy of the treasurers Report, and would like one handed off to you or emailed please contact, your GSR, Neil our DCM, or Cindy our treasurer.

### **GSR Reports;**

**Garrison Monday Night AA**– Bob H, Garrison Monday night AA meets at 7:30 pm at Garrison City Hall. We study the Big Book of A.A.. We have 10 to 15 people at each meeting. Come and join us for a meeting. This is an open A.A. Meeting. Bob H. GSR

**Sleepy Hollow**– Bob B. Sleepy Hollow meets every Monday at 8:00 in the Fort Ripley Town Hall. We will be holding a Round Robin on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. There are fliers available. We normally have 10–20 persons in attendance. Each week we have a meeting on either the Big Book, the Traditions, or the Steps.

**New Hope**– Gail, Bob speaks, Gail is sorry she couldn't make it tonight. New Hope meets every Tues Morning at 9:00 am at the Up Front Alano Club.

**Women's Work in Nisswa**– Margie Alternate GSR, Women's Work Meeting is a Big Book Topic, Traditions, and Step meeting. We meet at 5:30 at the Nisswa Fire House. We have about 25 women each week with anywhere from 35 years to 1 day of sobriety.

**Primary Purpose**– Toni, Primary Purpose meets Wed. nights at 7:00pm at the Living Waters Church W. of Wahkon. We are a B.B. 12X12 Discussion meeting. The 5<sup>th</sup> wed of the month is a Pot Luck and Speaker meeting. We had a lot of young outside visitors, and it was awesome. Our next speaker meeting is Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. Our group size is around 12–15. Our meetings have been very eventful. All is going well. Thank-y Toni S. Toni adds that her group finally had a group conscience meeting and it went well, and that they are very interested in the C.P.C. Luncheon as a group.

**Sunday Night Women's Meeting in Isle**, Penny is absent so Toni reads, Sunday Night Women's AA meets at the faith Lutheran Church in Isle at 6:00 pm. We are a fairly small group of about 6 but we have a good show of new comers coming through. We are a B.B. 12X12 tradition and discussion. Thank-y Toni.

**Life begins Here**, Cory, Friday, 7:00 pm at 1601 Oak St. Brainerd. The Meeting is going well with a steady core of 10–20 persons in attendance. We are open to service opportunity. We have a good mix of old timers and new members. We have good solid meetings out the Big Book.

**Serenity in the Pines**– Carl, Our meeting is going well. Attendance has been steady at 12– 15 members weekly. We meet Thursday's at 8:00 pm Come and join us. We have lots of wisdom to share.

## **Action Committees;**

**Literature–Gary,** On 7-13-12 I sold a Big Book, and a Large Print Daily Reflections for a total of 16.75. On 7-16-12 I also sold 5, hard cover 12x12's, and 3 Large Print 12x12's to Sleepy Hollow Group for 60.25 This brought the total sales up to 77.00\$ for the period of June thru July of 2012. Yours in service, Gary S.

**Corrections– Eric L,** Everything is going well. We are always looking for more volunteers to carry the message into correctional facilities. Please contact me if you are interested. I would like to add to new business the topic of holding speaker meetings at the C.W.C. Jail . Is this a commitment that the District wants to make? Or do we want to leave it up to the individual groups? Yours in service, Eric L.

**Grapevine– Sheldon,** Sheldon told some jokes from the GV.

**Treatment–Dave,** Dave was in attendance but has nothing to report.

**Alt DCM– Position is open**

**DCM Report– Neil,** Neil reads his report as follows.

Greetings District 7!

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I've been able to get out to some meetings in our district but still have a lot to get to. It's been hectic with a wedding to plan for, work, etc.—but, I truly love this fellowship and am eternally grateful for this opportunity as your DCM.

I want to thank Bob and everyone else who helped out at the picnic—although I was unable to attend, I heard it was a great success and am very happy to hear it!

This weekend on Saturday is the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop in St. Cloud. It runs from 12:30 to 4:30 PM at Calvary Community Church on Roosevelt Road. I've brought 5 copies of the flyer and agenda—it would be a great event to go to meet AA's in our Area as well as Southern MN (Area 36). Also to learn more about CPC, Corrections, and more on the AA Meeting Locator on the Web.

Our next Area Committee meeting is coming soon—it will be on August 5th in Aitkin. Generally, all

district chairs should attend as there are breakout sessions for each area of service. GSRs are also welcomed to attend—the meeting is a great place to meet and talk to our Area Officers as well as other District Chairs from Northern MN. Did I mention the fantastic lunch served there?

We decided to have an AA info booth for PI at this year's CWC Fair which begins on 7/31. In addition, we decided to have it manned so there are opportunities for volunteers to help out. Please familiarize yourself with speaking to the public and what AA does and does not do before volunteering. This info is all available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) or call me if you have any questions. May you all enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see you soon!

In service,

Neil F.

**Report on Picnic; Bob B.**

Picnic Report July 19, 2012

Dave and I showed up at 9:20 and started cleaning. All tables seats were washed. Set up cooking . We cooked 60 hamburgers and 80 hot dogs. We probably needed another 20 hamburgers. Coffee needs to be put on at 10:00 AM so it is ready when guests arrive.

About 70 people attended the picnic. 3 speakers gave short stories and then an open mike for about 30 minutes. Lots of positive comments. I heard many AA conversations . People socialized, played volley ball, ladder golf, and bean bag toss. We collected \$102.02 to help support the picnic. This picnic was not funded by AA donations. All in all this picnic was success.

Looking forward to next year we should start planning the picnic in January. At this time we need to decide if the current committee is willing to host and support a picnic. If the picnic is being hosted by the district committee and no AA funds are used to support the picnic, group input should not needed. The picnic is the district committee members chance to socialize with the area Aas and keep in touch with our local members. The park does need to be reserved early in the year.

After the fliers are out and the naysayers chant AA does not have picnics give them the raspberries. A good time was had by all and I always walk away from an AA event with more tools in my case to help me stay sober.

Bob B.

After the report Bob asked if as a group we wished to hold on to the excess funds from this event for the same event next year. It was generally agreed that this is indeed what we wished to do. The 102.02 will get set aside for the picnic in 2013.

## Old Business;

**Temporary Website**– Eric makes a motion that we have a temporary District Website as trial. Carl seconded the motion. Motion passes 7-1.

Minority report; One person thought that we already have a nice structure in place for communications, and that it seems unnecessary to place our information out there for the general public on the World Wide Web.

The website, when it goes “up there” will be found with [www.aa central lakes . org](http://www.aacentrallakes.org) or specifically [www.aacentrallakes.org](http://www.aacentrallakes.org). Bob indicated that it will be a couple weeks before it is up. Also it was noted that it is temporary, and a trial. It was noted that if there is a whiff of a problem it will be pulled until the next District meeting. And it was noted that as a District we have had a chance to view what it will look like already at Bob’s personal web address. The reason for the two week delay is that the meeting schedule needs to be updated.

*Bob indicated the website is up as of 7/22--- ed*

**Treatment Literature**– Dave offers some additional suggestions about getting packets of literature into the various treatment centers. It was noted that of the seven centers in our district, two were being covered by individual groups, and one or more might not want our literature in there facilities. Previous discussion had focused on keeping costs down, and recycling GV magazines. The Life Begins Here meeting had expressed interest in being of service with this function. This will be explored. Temporary contacts were being referred from the helpline. Dave recommended that the District supply literature to the treatment centers. He had supplied some cost estimates on cost based on the size of the literature bundle. Packets of the very cheapest pamphlets, Bridging the gap, 44 questions, Newcomer Asks, and Is AA for you were figured to .60 or .70 cents each. He indicated twenty packets for each facility. A rough estimate indicated a cost of 70 dollars for a start with this program. Treasury indicated that the funds are available. Now on the heels of this it was noted that 70x 12 months in the year equals 840. dollars. But another member added that was supposing that all twenty packets per treatment facility actually got handed out. Another person added that if we take this on we should be willing to keep the racks filled. Are we willing to stick to this commitment? We have to be responsible. Dave started with packets of twenty pamphlets, and packets of twelve pamphlets, and now as of this meeting is down to packets of four pamphlets. The Jail needs very little stocking with the pamphlet rack from one month to the next. It was again asked could additional financial information now based on four pamphlets per packet, and a total of twenty packets, being taken into five centers, be given to the District so that we could take this back to our groups for a conscience. Dave indicated that he could email the information to Eric, who could forward it to the distribution list\*. It was agreed to table the discussion until next month where it will appear under new business. Dave will bring a proposal to the table for next month.

*\*see Appendix II for editor’s calculations and fuzzy math based on the ample information already contained here.*

## Open Positions;

The open chair positions were read and it was asked if anyone was willing to stand for either P.I., C.P.C., Alt DCM., or Archives.

Carl nominated Cory for C.P.C.. Eric seconded the motion. All were in favor and none stood opposed to Cory for C.P.C.. Congrats Cory.

Women's work meeting immediately expressed interest in helping with the C.P.C. Luncheon directly to our new C.P.C. Chair.

### **New Business;**

**C.W.C. Fair. Booth-** Sheldon created, and passed around a sign up sheet for the Fair Booth Event. A call for volunteers was given. Sheldon will also send out a call for volunteers via Email. And it was asked if he could reveal his telephone number for this purpose. It was agreed that this would be helpful.

**Call Sheldon to help with the C.W.C. Fair Booth at 218-543-6700**

**Archives-** nothing to report

**C.P.C. Luncheon-** It was asked if Cory our new chair person would like to report. This brought laughs as he had just gotten elected to the position minutes ago. He did indeed have a few things to say.

If your group would like to support this event please contact him. Life Begins Here on Friday had expressed interest. He also asked that we set a date for the event. General sharing ensued.

Primary Purpose Group expressed interest in hosting two or more persons at the luncheon. The event historically happens in October. The average cost per professional is 30. to 32.\$. Lots of people are available to attend. Last year we dropped the ball. Women's Work meeting has a lot of people willing to help. The food was terrible last year. Could we eat at the Skillet?

It was generally agreed that as a District we will have the C.P.C. Luncheon again this year.

A committee was formed to advance the event. Cory heads the committee, and is joined by Neil Dave, Sheldon, and Margie has people also.

**Actions Booklet-** Eric spoke on this subject. Several people in attendance actually bothered to open the attachment and read the fledgling booklet. He will make a better attempt to run off some copies next month. He will add to the booklet as the rotation continues. The booklet starts with January of 2012, so it is a rather short booklet. Some of the people who bothered to look at it thought it was ok. Eric had some pleasure creating it, sort of. It would make an interesting job for an archivist to go back through the archive to expand the booklet into past years.

Additional Archives discussion- It was asked if someone could just bring the box down with the

rest of the stuff. Our treasurer offered to place the materials into the box from one month to the next. It was suggested that the secretary should be the archivist in addition to his other, ahem, duties. But the secretary balked. He did say that it probably wouldn't kill him to carry the box down provided someone else reminded him. Then, Finally, a Miracle!

Sheldon cleared his throat and offered to be the GV/ Archivist. This met with applause and cheers. Congrats Sheldon!

**Sobriety Discussion**– It was asked at the last meeting what is sobriety, and what is the definition of sobriety? To place this in context the questions revolve around the suggested lengths of sobriety for various AA service positions. It was agreed to have a sharing session. The various view points in shortened form appear below.

- ♣ Be flexible in regards to sobriety suggestions for service
- ♣ Some are better suited to do a job than others, but we should decide if we are going to follow the guidelines or not.
- ♣ It makes a difference if a person has had previous experience and come back in after being gone for awhile.
- ♣ Quality matters, if a person is deeply involved in AA or just sitting around in a few meetings.
- ♣ Sobriety means freedom from all mind altering substances not just alcohol , A sobriety date gets reset after a weekend marijuana “slip” just as it does if one is swallowing the mouthwash. That definition is applied to self according to a sponsor, and is also applied to others when considering them for a job in AA.
- ♣ We need to adhere to the guidelines as closely as possible. The guidelines have been hammered out on the anvils of experience. We don't need to re-invent the wheel.
- ♣ The two year suggestion is objective, speculation about the quality or commitment of a persons sobriety is subjective. This could lead to all kinds of problems
- ♣ Everyone's sobriety is different . What are they bringing to the table? Not everyone is the same.
- ♣ It is a wonderful thing to be autonomous, and some positions are more critical than others. The guidelines help to guide us.
- ♣ There are important things going undone here at District for lack of filled chair positions. And yet there are people who are willing and eager to be of service who are left out because they can't fully meet the suggested guidelines.
- ♣ We certainly shouldn't go below one year of sobriety. This member feels strongly that we need help at District, and that we should have it.
- ♣ We need to be careful about saying to another “you don't have good enough quality sobriety”, or “ this person does have the necessary quality of sobriety and that one doesn't” Some positions require the full amount of sobriety, for instance the treasury.

**Additional Schedules**– It was generally agreed that Cory would order more schedules on account of the fair, and the fact that we have been ripping through them.

**Closing**– We closed with the Lord’s prayer at 8:30pm , Meeting lasted approximately 1 ½ hours.

***disclaimers;***

*If you like what we are doing come and join us, If you don’t like what is going on come attend and help us make it better.*

*If you or your group would like to be a part of these discussions, or you have something to say personally about the functions of the District 7 we meet every third Thursday at the First Congregational Church at 415 Juniper st., the S.W. Corner of Gregory Park, in Brainerd MN at 7:00 pm. We welcome your participation.*

*The secretary apologizes in advance for misrepresentation, misquotes, discussion printed out of context, or other misunderstandings. The secretary has no wish to be drawn into internal controversy and is simply doing the best job he can with the limited tools at his disposal. If you feel something has been printed in error please send him your revision and he will attempt to amend the document.*

*The next meeting is on Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.*

*If you wish to be dropped or added to the distribution list please contact;*

*Neil F. the DCM at 218-251-0157 [neilfrink@gmail](mailto:neilfrink@gmail.com) or*

*Eric the secretary at [gemminer\\_n\\_cutter@yahoo.com](mailto:gemminer_n_cutter@yahoo.com) or*

*simply hit “reply” and ask to be dropped for the list.*

**Appendix I**

**District 7 Meeting Agenda**

7/19/12 7:00 PM

First Congregational United Church

415 Juniper St

Brainerd, MN 56401

Call meeting to order

Open with moment of silence followed by the *Serenity Prayer*

Roll call (introductions - include service position)

District Meeting Guidelines

Add to agenda items

Secretaries Report

1. Additions or corrections?
2. Motion to approve

Treasurer's Report

1. Additions or corrections?
2. Motion to approve

GSR Reports

Action Committee Reports: PI, CPC, Archives, Literature, Corrections, Grapevine, Treatment

Alternate DCM Report

DCM Report

Report on Picnic

Old Business:

1. District 7 website - vote on temporary website
2. Treatment Literature
3. Open Positions

New Business:

1. County Fair booth
2. Archives position
3. CPC Luncheon
4. Actions booklet for district
5. Sobriety discussion

Calendar of events - District, Area, Region, GSO

***Close with The Lord's Prayer***

**Appendix II :** *While we are waiting for Dave's proposal a little simple math will work out the questions posed during the sharing session. If the packets with 4 pamphlets costs 60- 70 cents each we could round that to .65 cents. We calculate that we would supply twenty of these to five treatment centers.  $20 \times .65 = 13$ , or 13 dollars. Then we propose to repeat this at a total of five centers.  $5 \times 13 = 65$ , or 65 dollars. That is the initial first cost of this proposal. If the centers use all the pamphlets in a month the total cost over a year will be 780. \$ annually. If the racks need to be restocked bimonthly it would be half of that or 390. \$ if the racks need restocked even less often, say every three months, it would cost us 260. \$ and so on.*

*Packet..... .65 cents  
 x 20..... 13.00 dollars  
 x5..... 65.00 dollars*

*65 x 12 780.00 dollars  
 65 x 6 390.00 dollars  
 65x 4 260.00 dollars*