

## District 7 Meeting Minutes March 21st 2013

**The meeting opened** at exactly 7:31 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. We went around the room with introductions, and the following persons introduced themselves by their first name. Neil, Gary, Arden, Ron, Carl, Gail, Eric, Cindy, Liz, John, Mary, Toni, Nancy, Bob, Dave, Larry, and Einar,. There were 17 persons in attendance.

**A call went out for additions to the agenda.** The District inventory, and the annual Meet and Greet Pot luck picnic were added to the agenda.

**Concept of the Month-Bob,** Concept 3 was read by Bob B. from the service manual. It was noted that we are more than simple messengers. The right of decision was discussed. It was also discussed that we are held accountable for our right of decision.

**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 there were some limited copies 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. He also pointed to a simple clerical error in the distribution list, a space between characters, that caused Jeff's copy of the minutes and correspondence to fail. This has been remedied. Cindy motioned to approve, Dave seconded the motion and all found favor.

**Treasurers Report- Cindy,** Cindy gave out paper copies of her report, and also a verbal summary. Everything has been handled professionally and the treasury is in good standing. However there was a certain phone bill that Dave asked to review under new business. Liz made a motion to approve the report. Eric seconded it and all found favor with it.

*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;**

**Friday 7:00 PM Life Begins Here Meeting-Einar,** We are still holding at about 20-25 people. It is just a good all around meeting, and a good mix of sobriety.

Also Einar announces a new meeting, and asked a few questions about registering a new group.

### **New Meeting, Saturday 7:00pm LOL Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous @ Lord of Life Church- Lots of Love- Lots of Laughs- We Laugh Out Loud- Lord of Light.**

We are going on out third month now and have had an outstanding turnout averaging 30 people. We have been splitting out group into two or three groups. The church has been really helpful in making this happen. Many of the people that are attending are not regulars

from other local clubs. It is just cool to be a part of it, it must have been needed.  
Einar G.

**Our Common Welfare Group- Larry,** We meet Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM at the Lakes Area Alano Club at 1601 Oak St. Brainerd. We generally have at least 20 in attendance per meeting, and discuss a topic out of conference approved literature. We are a service orientated group that goes to the Focus unit on the 3rd Monday of the month and the Crow Wing County Jail the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We have had a significant increase in newcomers recently, with many returning for subsequent meetings.

**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. Our attendance continues to average 30+ women at each meeting. It is exciting to see our newcomers receiving their 30, 60, and 90 day medallions and to share in their journeys. We have also had visits from several women who haven't been able to attend our meeting for a while, all of them commenting on how much the group has grown, and how warm and welcoming the group is. Members of our group regularly participate in meetings at the Focus Unit and the Crow Wing County Jail. Service work is highly encouraged and there are many opportunities for everyone to participate. We hold a Group Conscience Meeting and potluck on the first Wednesday of every month following the regular meeting. The group is hosting a Retreat for All Women in Recovery at Camp Knutson in Crosslake, MN this weekend, March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. So far we have 29 women signed up for the retreat.

**Practicing the Principles- John,** We have a general open topic meeting depending on who is chairing the meeting. We have a flux in attendance any where from 10 to as many as 20 persons. We also have a good range of sobriety from brand new to 20-30 and even 40 years. I believe that sending me as a GSR is an attempt of this group to be a little bit more mainstream and better organized instead of just winging it. It's a good meeting, come in and join us.

**Mille Lacs Primary Purpose- Toni,** We meet Wed. night at 7:PM at the Living Water Church in Wahkon. Attendance is good at 12-15 persons. We are an open meeting, B. B. 12x12 Topic discussion meeting. All are getting eager for spring! In Service, Toni

**Mille Lacs Area Women's AA** meets at 6:00pm on Sun. Night at Faith Lutheran Church. We are an Open 12x12 Topic meeting. We are a young group in sobriety. This is nice because we are all learning together. Hoping spring will bring back a few more members.  
In Service, Toni

**Isle Big Book-Mary,** We meet on Sat. at 10:00 am. We have been having good discussion and great fellowship. We have 10-12 each Saturday at the Faith Lutheran Church, in Isle. Everyone is Welcome. Bring your Big Book. Mary

**Tuesday Morning New Hope Group-Gail,** The Tuesday Morning New Hope Group meets at the Upfront Club. Our group generally has 12-18 persons in attendance. It is a good meeting with a nice mix of sobriety ages. We are concentrating on the 12 steps and the 12 traditions and topics from approved AA literature.

**Serenity in the Pines- Carl,** Our meeting is going well. We had a pleasant meeting last week as two members celebrated 18 months of sobriety, We are still averaging around 12-15 people each meeting. Our alternate GSR plans on attending the Spring Assembly. We meet Thursdays at 8pm.

**Palisades Group-Arden,** We have lost some attendance thru the winter. There are only 4-5 of us. Palisade meeting covers the Aitkin County Jail. Because I am in attendance this evening the Jail isn't having meetings tonight. We would really appreciate some help bringing meetings into the Aitkin County Jail.

**Neil answers questions brought up by GSR's,** Einar had asked if they should wait to register the new group. Bob was also consulted, and generally it was agreed that they should register their group as soon as possible to get the full benefits of the Area services.

Questions brought up by Arden were discussed by several people. Arden gave a historical overview of Jail service spanning ten years by the Palisades Group. The need is overwhelming, and the dates and times are flexible. Arden is willing to coordinate the function. Meetings are actually required at the jail. Also there is a need to get meetings into the women's side of the Jail. Often Arden is there at the facility for hours taking meetings into all the different sections of the jail, including the women's side. He really needs help. Aitkin and Crosby hasn't been supportive with the Jail effort. A security clearance is required, but the guy who does the clearances is currently a problem. He sits on the applications. But they are talking to the sheriff, and it looks like things will get easier soon. Previously it was the belief of the District that Aitkin County Jail didn't allow AA meetings. **Arden's disclosure and plea for help was enlightening. District 7 will get behind this effort and make it a priority. Arden gave out his phone number as part of his effort to raise volunteers. His number is 218-845-2192.**

### **Action Committee Reports;**

**C.P.C./ P.I.- Liz,** Liz has been working on the larger concerns surrounding the C.P.C. Event. She is currently tightening up a location. She has been in communication with Grandview, Maddens, and Craigen's. She is looking for the lowest pricing, and the best quality services. One of the firms offered the lowest price, the use of mic and speaker and a 15 dollar discount on Golf following our Event. Neil has offered to M.C. the Event. Questions remain about pricing, and the creation of a budget. Liz would like to charge 10 in advance and 12 at the door. **Most of the volunteers are present, she would like to schedule an additional Event Committee meeting.** Brad I. from the Area offered to attend with an Archive display. Liz asked for the mass distribution list. The date was set for 5/16 (Thursday) from 4-6 PM somewhere on Gull Lake.

We did vote to change the date of the regular District meeting at the Agenda Item Meeting. **The regular District meeting will be held on the 9th at the usual location.** The reason for this change is to avoid a schedule conflict with the C.P.C. Event.

P.I.- Tom did print 2500 meeting schedules. Liz has been in communication with Tom. **If there are changes to the schedule please contact either Tom or Liz.** Liz will retain the extra copies for distribution as needed. Several bundles of schedules were sent out to various clubs and meetings as requested.

**Archives- Open,** No Report.

**Literature-Gary,** District 7 Literature Chair Report for Feb-March 2013. We only had sales of eleven books to two separate groups for a total sales of 85.50. There was a request from our Corrections Chair for 100 copies of the pamphlet " Problems other than Alcohol". I did not get these ordered yet, but I am placing an order this weekend, and will have them at the next District meeting. If anyone else would like additional items to be added to this special order please let me know by this weekend. Yours in Service, Gary S.

**Corrections-Dave,** We have had four contacts given to us by Jeff from Area, two women and two men that will be released into our District. We have had volunteers step up to fill the positions of being temporary contacts for these people.

**Grapevine-Sheldon,** Absent with an injury. Neil fills in for him telling a joke from the GV which includes District participation. There was good laughter.

**Treatment-Dave,** Dave will be visiting the various treatment centers with the newly printed schedules and also sitting down with them to talk to them about their needs. He will have more to report next month.

**Alt DCM Position- Open, No Report.**

### **DCM Report – District 7, Area 35**

March 2013

Greetings District 7!

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our special GSC Agenda item meeting held on 3/7. I was very impressed with the participation and discussion and how quickly the GSRs were able to respond to the tight timeline. We were fortunate to have Jim K., Area 35 Delegate, join us and he added a lot of value to the discussions. I'm prepared to bring our district conscience on the items to the Spring Assembly next month in Grand Rapids. I hope everyone plans on attending as the assembly is very important for our area to ensure we are represented well and collectively carrying our conscience to the delegate. I'd also like to thank everyone who participated in our district inventory held last month including Mark N., who volunteered to facilitate for us. There was good and honest sharing and it is my hope we can take away some areas of improvement to focus on, keeping in mind our primary purpose for being here.

This district will host a Meet and Greet event on July 14th in Lum Park. Special thanks to Bob B. for coordinating with the Brainerd Parks & Recreation Department. This event is not supported by district funds but instead by voluntary contributions by those who are hosting it (i.e. us).

I have completed the District Calendar of Events and provided to Bob to post it on the web site(s) when he is able to. The calendar does not include the delegate's report back to the district and a fall workshop – both events still need to be scheduled.

Just a reminder to everyone that May's district meeting is on May 9th instead of the 16th due to the CPC luncheon we have scheduled instead on the 16th.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and for all you do.

In service,  
Neil F.

**Arden Volunteers for a Service Position,** Eric suggests that we add "Arden for Corrections" under new business. It was added.

**Old Business;**

**C.P.C. Event-Liz,** Liz already covered this in masterly detail with her C.P.C. Chair report. No further discussion was necessary

**New Business;**

**Meeting Schedules-Neil,** Neil reviewed material already covered under the P.I. Report that we have 2500 new schedules, and that **updates to this document should be brought to the attention of Liz, Tom, or Neil.** Please help distribute them where needed.

**Web site Chair-Neil,** should we create a new Chair position called web site chair to insure continuity? It would be a regular chair position running in conjunction with the other positions and would be a rotating two year commitment. Bob is willing to stand. Neil made a motion, " That the District create a new Chair position called Web site Chair that will be an elected two year commitment, and run in conjunction with the other regular chair positions starting in 2014." Eric seconded the motion. Discussion followed. It was generally agreed that we can do this. It was generally agreed that it will be needed. It was generally agreed that it would be a loss of resources to not support the effort that has gone into the creation of the web site. Discussion about who will be eligible to handle this task followed. It was generally agreed that as with any other position either you are qualified to do the job or you aren't, and if you can't do the job you shouldn't stand for it. A description of the position will be also created and added to the other chair positions. One person suggested that the position be combined with the phone line. The motion was restated without amendments, and went to vote. It passed unanimously.

**C.W.C. Fair-Neil,** It is scheduled for July 30- Aug 3rd. The District has historically participated. Last year it was a contentious topic without clear unanimity. Last year the total cost to the District was 300. hundred dollars. Normally this cost is 200. hundred dollars, but our deposit was seized because our booth was taken down a few minutes before the end of the event. The Fair Managers are sticklers about this rule which they enforce. The opposition to this function questioned the effectiveness of our participation, the amount of literature going out, and if the booth needed to be manned or unmanned. The Managers allowed us to maintain an unmanned booth, bending their rules, if it was kept neat, and clean. We opted for a hybrid blend of manned and unmanned. It had previously been discovered that more literature goes out if the booth is unmanned. Both Area 35, and 36 team up to participate by maintaining a booth at the State Fair. This effort is supported by AA here in Minnesota. The purpose of our participation is to provide public information.

Aitkin County also has a fair, and also Cass County has a fair. Dates were discussed. It was emphatically expressed that we should get a committee together to head this up. **The question this year to present to your groups is "Should we participate in the C.W.C. Fair by maintaining an information booth?" and "Should we participate in additional fairs, Cass County and Aitkin County, and one more, "Should the booth be manned or unmanned?"**

**Delegates Report to District-Neil,** Neil discussed the scheduling of our Delegates report. He asked the District for help with this scheduling. We did agree to hold 12 regular District meetings a year, hence we cannot do it on a regular third Thursday meeting night. Everybody had a different night of the week that suited them best. Finally it was decided that a Monday evening in early June would be the best time. We will coordinate with Jim our Delegate, and also with the Church for use of the building. It will be a Pot Luck Event. **Please plan on clearing your calendar, bring a dish to pass, and an AA friend.**

**Meet and Greet Event At Lum Park-Bob,** This event, paid out of District members pockets, will be held July 14th 11-4. Bob secured the Park. We have left over funds from last year to go toward the hamburgers or park rental. **Again, clear your calendar, bring a dish to pass and a friend.**

**AA Central Lakes Phone Line Long distance-Dave,** It was discovered that volunteers

with long distance numbers weren't getting the calls from the Help Line. During our CLAA Training Session it was decided that we would go ahead and get the long distance. The total cost to the District is 4.99 a month, and 7 cents a minute. Carl discovered this fault. Thank you Carl! It was generally agreed that we trust the decision making ability of the committee, and Cindy already paid the bill.

**District Policy for Removing Persons from the Roster, or the Mass Distribution List-Neil,** When somebody has some trouble do we cross them off the list? If a person asks to be removed we certainly would comply with their wishes. If a person is no longer a member of the District should they be removed from our correspondence? We currently have many persons who receive correspondence who are not members of our District who wish to receive such materials. If a person drinks or goes to jail do we automatically cross them off the list? This seems to be the current unspoken policy.

The Roster is a list of past and present District members and committee volunteers. The mass distribution list is an email list of persons who receive electronic correspondence from District. Neither list is used for 12 step work. The roster is an expanded contact list showing addresses, full names, and phone numbers. It is used for additional methods of contacting District members for District business.

The secretary currently removes Daemon Failures, persons who ask to be removed, and persons who are crossed off when the list circulates at the monthly District meeting. In the same fashion persons are added, and also by verbal or written request. For instance there are a couple people in St Cloud, past delegates, who strongly expressed interest in continued correspondence.

**GSR's and others please meditate on this until next month.**

**Arden for Corrections-Neil,** Neil asked Arden if he was willing to stand for Corrections Chair. Arden answered "yes I am willing" Neil then Nominated him. Carl seconded the motion. All found favor, and gave him a round of applause. We are all very pleased to have a contact for the Aitkin County Jail in this position.

**Joint Corrections Committee Area 35/36- Neil,** Neil tried to squeeze a complicated and contentious Area issue into a 30 second slot before the bottom of the hour. He finally asked if we would give him the Right of Decision on this matter. A unanimous "yes" and sigh of relief went up all around the table. Amidst much laughter we prepared to close the meeting.

**Meeting Closes-** The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30pm following the guidelines, as set at the beginning of the rotation.

*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*

