

District 7 Meeting Minutes for March 2014

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM, March 20, 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, Mike visitor, Gail Treasurer, Lori GSR, Neil, Carl Archives, Liz CPC/PI, Tim GSR, Dennis GSR, Pam GSR, Tom visitor, Anne GSR, Paul GSR, Mary Alt GSR, John GSR, Mark Literature/Grapevine, Tom Schedules, Todd GSR, Merl visitor and Larry visitor.

Call for additions to the agenda: None

Concept 3 – Gail read Concept 3. No discussion followed.

Tradition 23 – Mark read the short form of Tradition 3

Secretaries Report- Dave: Motion was made by Liz to accept the February meeting minutes, seconded by Eric and carried by the group.

Treasury Report-Gail, Gail presented financials for February with hard copies. Motion to approve made by Eric, seconded by Dave and carried by group.

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 – Mary, The Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work group meets at the Nisswa Fire Hall every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. We cover steps, traditions, and topics at our meetings using the Big Book and 12 X 12. On the first Wednesday of each month we have a speaker meeting, followed by a potluck and Group Conscience Meeting. Attendance remains strong, averaging between 25 and 30 women each week.

The group is trying something new! We are getting together for food, fellowship and fun at local eateries and coffee shops following the meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. This is a great opportunity for members and newcomers to get to know each other and feel a sense of belonging.

Our group participates in meetings at the Crow Wing County Jail and the Focus Unit every month, and members of our group frequently provide transportation for women in the Focus Unit to attend our meeting.

Cornerstone of Hope-Dennis, Meets 7:00 pm Tuesday in the basement of St. Francis Church. We average about 40 people with about half alcoholics and the rest split between addicts and addicts/alcoholics. We have people from the Focus Unit just about every meeting. We give them rides to and from in the winter. We give them a medallion for first time visitors, a contact list and a District 7 schedule of meetings. We have a volunteer

chair each week who picks a topic for discussion. We usually break up into groups of 5-6 for further discussion. Carl, Archives visited On Feb.25 and both Carl's Archives and DCM attended our meeting on March 4.

There is a solution-Tim, Thursday night Big Book Study in Wright, MN. Smaller attendance with extreme cold temp's. Looking forward to a spring resurgence. We still bring meetings into Mish Kashin Treatment Center and Haven out-patient treatment.

Friday Morning Women's Renewal-Gail, We currently have 12-20 women in attendance and read from the Big book with discussion following. We have a wide range of sobriety ages. We are a fairly new group and off to a great start.

Life Begins Here-Pam, Our group has adjusted well to the new location on Maple Street. We had approximately 20-25 people attending from a variety of age groups and time in sobriety. It is a topic meeting, generally chosen from readings in the Big Book. Discussion around the table follows with good participation. Our group conscience is scheduled for the 1st Fri. of each month, however; due to a lack of regulars able to attend this month there was no meeting. I will be bringing the Spring Assembly topics of discussion to our meeting tomorrow, March 21st, to ensure the group has an opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions or voice concerns. After the meeting we continue our fellowship at Caribou.

Pine River-Anne and Lori, We meet 8:00 pm on Wednesday and Saturday at DAC in Pine River. Open meeting with topic format. Attendance is usually 20-25. We are working on setting up service work to Crow Wind County jail for women inmates. Also, we are setting up group conscience/business meetings to be held monthly.

Big Sandy Lake-Paul, Wednesday 7:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am Open meeting with 15-20 in attendance. Getting involved with Sandstone Prison for a monthly meeting. We hope to make 2 monthly meetings

Serenity in the Pines-Todd, Meets at 8:00 Thursday across from the Eagles Landing golf course. 10-15 members strong. All are welcome to join us. It is my favorite meeting because there is always at least 200 years of sobriety.

Sleepy Hollow-John, Meeting attendance on the uptick for past month. Business meeting committed o GSO, Area and District \$120.00 annually. GSR WCRSC. We our hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, 3/22, 9-12 am.

Action Committee Reports-

C.P.C. / P. I.-Liz, CPC event will be held at Grandview Lodge, May 15, 2014 4-6 pm. Brad I. will be presenting along with Jim and Sarah Kath. Hoping to have new schedules out by Spring Assembly. There were lots of changes.

Archives-Carl, Talked about setting up a founders day event for June 14th, 21st or 28th. He has speakers lined up and id looking for a group to host the event. Please get back to Carl if you are interested.

Corrections- Arden, Tim standing in for Arden gave this report: CWC jail transition fair is coming up this spring. Aitken jail is now open for Tuesday meetings and Sandstone Prison is open as well. Interested groups should contact Arden.

Grapevine/Literature- Mark, Check out the March 2014 edition of the GV, It's all in the family, stories of the many ways alcohol and AA touch our lives.

Did you know Grapevine is on line aagrapevine.org? You can get more of everything Grapevine on line at the touch of a mouse. Look up archival material from the very beginning to now.

Grapevine publishes more than the monthly magazine, there are compilations of articles in book form and a variety of other stuff. You can find it at aagrapevine.org

Literature chair Report, I will be bringing my full inventory of stuff to each district meeting for you perusal.

I am out of 12 and 12s and big book hard covers.

I have not sold anything this last month.

Check out the book titles, Experience, strength and hope published by AA World services Inc.

It's the stories that were removed from the 3 first big books and won't be found in the fourth edition. Each time a Big Book is reprinted they remove certain stories to make way for newer modern and up to date stories so the book can remain pertinent to the times. This book is a collection of the stories that did not make the newer editions. It's a good read. Check it out.

Thanks

Yours in service

Mark N.

Treatment-Sheldon, No report this month.

Webmaster-Nancy, Nancy resigned her position.

Alt DCM- Eric, Greetings, The last thirty days have been very busy for me. I have attended a ton of meetings driving a newly sober person to 90/90. I have also acted as the driver for several other persons who are taking advantage of the chance to get rides in to meetings with my newly sober friend. We have had up to five persons in the van. However, I haven't gotten out to any new meetings. I have instead become a regular at Pequot Monday, Crosslake Tuesday, and the balance of the week down in Crosby/Ironton. Several persons from these meetings have shown an interest in the Agenda Items and General Service.

I did put 12 or more hours into trying to develop a Newsletter for District 7. I tried to do it with my word processor program, with my photo editor program, and by stealing one off Goggle images and changing the text. All attempts ended up deleted as junk, and I got quite frustrated. I didn't even know what kind of program to search for. My newly sober friend suggested Word Publisher. I don't pay for software, but the suggestion yielded the search term "Desktop

Publisher". I found an open source desktop publisher called Scribus which also goes hand in hand with my Image Editor, GIMP. Finally I was making some progress. The fix still wasn't in as I don't have weeks to find all the buttons in the program, but a search on You Tube for "Scribus Tutorial" turned the trick. A nice fellow from Australia who must have written the software walked me through it. Thank God.

Anyway I finally created a keeper. It is rough I know. Issue 2 will be worlds better than this first newsletter. But I am excited. This new skill set will increase my value as a human being, as a office worker and a web designer in the future. The program is fun and intuitive. Once I figured out the basic functions it opened up lots of possibilities. I am very excited to publish a newsletter monthly for District 7. This software is a powerful tool.

Anyway, that is my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Yours in Service,
Eric

DCM Report – Carl, Greetings everyone on this first day of Spring. Thank you all for sending me to the WRAASC in St. Louis Park, MN. Next year the conference is in Nebraska. There were about four hundred people there from the West Region. There was lots of good sharing and the future of AA looks good as good people keep stepping up to insure that it will be there for our children and their children.

I had the opportunity to attend three meetings in Brainerd last week. I was welcomed by all. I enjoyed the experience and look forward to visiting many more over the coming weeks. Many changes were made as two meetings places in Brainerd moved to Maple St.

Next week we have our GSO Agenda meeting at 6 p.m. with a pot luck before we begin. I encourage all to attend as we need your help deciding our district conscience. I invited Sarah and Jim Kath to participate, hopefully, one or both will be able to attend. They both have agreed to participate in our CPC Event May 15.

The Spring Assembly will be Duluth on April 5-6. I encourage you all to attend. I look forward to attending and bringing our group conscience there.

Lastly, I have some ideas for our district to think about changing. Other districts do things a little bit different and I would like us to consider some changes, of course, it will be up to you if we decide to make any changes.

Copy of Carl's WCRSC report follows:

WCRAASC

We arrived Friday around 2:00 p.m. in St Louis Park, MN. for the 2-28 to 3-2 WCRAASC Conference. We attended an early bird meeting where we had a meeting on spirituality. It was a great meeting. We had lunch and reconvened at 7 p.m.

The regular conference started at 7 p.m. The topic of why do we need a conference was discussed. "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics, who in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth that brought us back to life." This is from 1954 from Bernard Smith, who was then chairperson of our board of trustees.

He went on to say. "We need it because we are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade AA. We need it to ensure changes come only as a response to the needs and wants of all AA and not of any few."

Area 63 from South Dakota put on a presentation on "Recovery, Unity, and Service- Our Responsibility". Bill Wilson and Bob Smith knew that communication between AA members was going to be essential for AA to remain constant. Out of this, the service conference and the twelve steps were incorporated into AA. What can I do for the alcoholic who still suffers? At this point, it is no longer about what AA can do for me, but; what can I do for the alcoholic who still suffers? A few people shared about how service work has helped their own recovery. There were two microphones to get up and share on. As with the rest of conference, you had only two minutes to share.

We had a short break followed by learning the names of our eight delegates representing the eight areas in the WCRAASC. They each had two minutes to speak about what was happening in their areas.

We discussed the GSO agenda items until 10p.m. We adjourned for the day.

Saturday morning was begun with an early bird meeting at 7:30 a.m. The regular session started at 8:45 a.m. with a welcome message from Terry L from area 36, southern Minnesota, who were sponsoring this conference. At 9:00 a.m. Bill O. from area 41, Nebraska put on a presentation about "Passing it on through Sponsorship".

I attended a DCM sharing session at 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. We had five questions to talk about. 1. How do we get everyone involved? Some districts have GSRs sit on different committees and have short break out sessions before regular district meetings. Some districts have set budgets for each committee.

2. How do we keep track of what committee members are doing? DCMs are to act as leaders, not bosses. We need to ask people to help, not tell them what to do.

3. Why don't DCMs get together? DCM sharing sessions have begun like the one we had at the winter workshop in Moorhead. District meetings minutes are now being emailed to all DCMs in the area. E-mail addresses are being shared to make this possible.

4. Do past DCMs all retire from service work? Is this common? Some past DCMs move on to other positions in the district or area. Some take a smaller role at their home group.

5. What is the main job of the DCMs? DCMs should go to each meeting in the district to ask how they can be of service. DCMs can go to other district meetings in their area to see how they run their meetings.

We broke for lunch and afterwards I attended a breakout session on self-support moderated by area 63 from South Dakota. We answered three questions or topics.

- 1. What is a good prudent reserve? How should groups spend their money? It was generally agreed that a reserve should cover expenses for a period of 3-12 months. Some groups give a third to district, to area, and GSO. Others do it differently.**
- 2. Birthday plans. Generally a dollar is given for each year of sobriety. Groups vary as to where the money goes.**
- 3. Ideas to improve ways to donate. Put group numbers on checks. One million dollars was spent by GSO verifying where money came from. The Minnesota Locator will show your group's service number.**

Area 76 from Wyoming put on a presentation about "Participating in our common welfare through contributions. They used the same theme district 7 used at the winter workshop that being time, talent, and treasury.

The agenda items were discussed from 3-4:40 p.m. Bob B from area35 gave a demonstration of the MN Meeting locator until 5p.m.

I attended a breakout session on delegates and trustees from 5- 5:45 p.m. Two topics were discussed.

- 1. How is trust promoted between AA and trustees? Better communication is the key to developing trust. We must think we, not I thinking. We must have transparency.**
- 2. Perceived mistrust of class B alcoholic trustees. There is a misunderstanding of what they do. They are actually well qualified and they are recovering alcoholics like the rest of us. It is believed they are not listening to the rest of AA. Some questions seem to go unanswered by them which leads to mistrust.**

We broke for dinner and reconvened again at 7:30 p.m. Our trustee at large Bob W. talked about his recovery and his introduction to service work and how he became a trustee at large and how that job takes him all over the world. He did a great job.

At 915-11:00 p.m. we discussed the agenda items with a short break in there for an ice cream social.

Sunday morning started with an early bird meeting at 7 a.m. The regular session started at 8:45 a.m. with a presentation by area 35 about "Inventory- a guiding tool for our future". They did a great job of

presenting. Our regional trustee Andrew W. gave a regional trustee report. At 10:30 a.m. we broke and the conference was over.

Yours in service, Carl DCM District 7

Old Business

1. CPC luncheon early discussion. See above.
2. CWC jail. Both the Cross Lake Group and Backus Group have expressed interest. Contact Arden for more information. Eric will follow up for Cross Lake.

New Business/Old Business carried forward

1. Webmaster position. Neil is gracefully willing and able to stand for this position. Carl Nominated Neil, all approved.
2. Literature. We discussed forming a committee to organize and account District literature. Carl (DCM) Eric, Gail, Mark and Dave will comprise the committee. Recommendations will be brought back to the group for approval.
3. Summer picnic. A date is required to secure a location. Lum Park Saturday's July 12th or 19th or Sunday's July 13th or 20th and August 10th. Kiwanis Park is open all of July right now. Carl made a motion to hold the picnic on Sunday July 13th, Dave seconded and all approved. Other locations/Cities was discussed. Bob B. had explored other sites last year with Lum Park being the best option.
4. Archives. Carl said there is discussion about setting up Northern and Southern old timers meetings to gather information about our local history. The Ely are has already scheduled their event. Carl is looking for a Southern (Area 35) group to host. Contact Carl (320-630-6017) if you are interested.
5. School meetings. Tom brought to the group the idea of reviving bringing meetings into the local high schools. It was suggested a committee be formed to explore this further. Tom, Carl and John volunteered.
6. Liz stated that Grand View Lodge has expressed an interest in having AA present to their employees. Liz will follow up and report back.
7. Motion by Liz and seconded by Eric to extend this meeting by 10 minutes was approved.
8. A motion was made by Carl and seconded by Eric to allow Gail the right to purchase literature at the Spring Assembly per District needs was unanimously approved.

At 8:40 we closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.