

District 7 Meeting Minutes for May 2013

The meeting opened at exactly 7:30 PM on the second 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. Neil, Liz, Larry, Nancy, Bob, Dave, Jeff, Gary, Cindy, Gail, Eric, Bob, Todd, Carl, Arden, and Carl . There were 16 persons in attendance.

Addition to Agenda-Neil, Neil asked for additions to the agenda. Dave asked that we add the C.W.C. Transitional Fair, and the need for speakers at Focus to the night's agenda.

Concept 5- Liz, Liz read from the service manual on Concept Five. Several key points are the right of appeal, and the redress of grievance. The minority should be heard and not excluded. We also discussed the right of decision. Bob asked how we handle this at the District level. Neil answered that we always ask the minority if they wish to voice their opinion following a vote.

Tradition 5- Neil, Neil read tradition five. (one primary purpose) Arden asked a question regarding the traditional right of decision. The Members of the District answered the question in masterly detail. Additional discussion issued regarding groups which have other purposes. It was stated that one member hasn't yet seen the AA Police.

Volunteers to take Tradition 6 and Concept 6- Carl volunteered to take Concept 6, and Larry volunteered to take Tradition 6.

Secretaries Report- Eric, Eric gave a short 2 minute 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 one copy of the Action Booklet, The District Roster, and the Distribution List. He asked for corrections, deletions, and additions to those documents. Dave motioned to approve, Gail seconded the motion and all found favor.

Eric also extended an apology to Nancy and the Women's Work meeting for failing to email the minutes in a timely fashion to Nancy, the GSR for that meeting. He fumbled the distribution list and somehow Nancy got cut. He also didn't read his email or he would have seen Nancy's request for a copy before the meeting. The list has been amended and he'll do better at reading his email.

Treasury Report-Cindy, Cindy gave a masterly and detailed report. We have money available for service. Gail motioned to accept the report, and Carl seconded it. 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,

Our Common Welfare- Larry, Our Common Welfare meets Wed. nights at 8:00pm at the Lakes Area Alano Club, at 1601 Oak Street, in Brainerd. We generally have at least 20 in attendance per meeting, and discuss a topic out of conference approved literature. We have been getting a number of new comers. 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.

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 the 12x 12. Our attendance continues to grow with 35 women at the May 8th meeting. It is exciting to see newcomers receiving medallions and coming to meetings. Our group is actively participates 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.

Garrison Monday Night Meeting- Bob, We meet at Garrison City Hall for the present time, at 7:30PM. They are finally going to rebuild City Hall in mid June. We will at that time move two blocks down the road to Alliance Church. Attendance is currently 6-8 persons, and is down as we haven't gotten the summer people back- it should pick up if summer ever comes. We study the Big Book from cover to cover. Bob H GSR

Monday Night Pequot Lakes AA- Jeff, We meet every Monday night at 7:30 PM at St. Alice Church. Attendance is up with some newcomers and snow birds returning. We're averaging 40-50 persons. This should get better with summer finally getting here. Every Thursday we have our 12x12 step study at 7:30PM at the same location. We are averaging 15-20 at that meeting. It is great to have new people coming. We go to Focus the 1st Friday of every month and to Pine River the last Thursday of every month. We have 4 people going to the CPC Luncheon with 3 professionals.

New Hope- Gail, Our meeting is held at 9:00AM at the Up Front Club on fourth street in Brainerd. This month we have really had fun with medallions. We have gone from one year to twenty eight years. It has just been fun. We have two professionals going to the CPC Event. We have between 12 and 20 persons in attendance.

Sleepy Hollow- Bob, We are just south of Brainerd, and we meet on Monday night at 8:00PM. The group ranges in size from 10 to 15 people. There is a lot of sobriety there. We do have a GSR but he didn't make it this evening. Our Group is hosting a celebrate AA Potluck event. It will be held on Saturday June 22nd at 5PM. Sleepy Hollow will provide Beef and pulled pork. Please bring a dish to share. At 7PM we will introduce Brad I our Area Archivist who is an excellent speaker and historian.

Serenity in the Pines- Todd Alt GSR, We meet at 8 PM. There are usually 10- 15 persons in attendance. There is lots of wisdom at our meeting, and sometimes up to 200 or 250 years of sobriety. We usually have a member suggest a topic for the meeting and we

welcome newcomers. It is a really good meeting.

Tamarack, McGregor, Wright, and Palisade- Arden attending member, I still attend Palisade, McGregor, and Tamarack, and Wright. All meetings are going strong.

Action Committee Reports;

C.P.C./P.I.- Liz, The C.P.C. event is this next week. Liz is figuring out the exact numbers of attendees for the event. So far, at the time of the District meeting 12 professionals had committed to attending with their hosts. Liz was hoping for a couple more attendees , and also a group of supporting members, and presenters. The total number will be 30 - 40 persons.

A discussion issued about the District picking up the ticket cost for District members who have found professionals to attend. It was generally agreed that this would be the case. Some dissenting discussion ensued that it should be the groups who bare the cost, not the District.

A lot of discussion went into planning and house keeping. Larry will help with signs, Dave will come early, and Nancy will staff the registration table. The contract is for 40 but more can be added or subtracted. Name tags or no name tags got some discussion. Brad needs lots of tables. The event will be mic'd and held at the Lake Center. Checks can be made out to Liz. Liz can work out the money and be reimbursed at a later date.

Archives- Open, no report.

Literature- Gary, Only 3 books sold this month for a total of 24.00 \$. Thank you Nancy from the Wednesday Women's Work Group in Nisswa for your purchase! I also filled an order called in by Dave for I.P.'s to be put into packets for the C.P.C. Event next week at a cost of \$32.00.

I also did get the 40 hard cover Big Books I ordered for the C.P.C. Event in which I'll be paid for the books which are given away at the event, and what is left over from the event will be returned to inventory.

The new shipping charges will be in affect by the time I place my next order. It raises the minimum order for free shipping from \$250.00 to 500.00, and also the price of shipping went up from 10% for orders up to 250.00 to 19% for orders from \$50 to \$250. and also 16% for orders from \$250.00 to \$500.00, and then free shipping for orders over \$500.00. I can't order \$500.00 at a time. Can anyone can give me ideas in how to deal with this added expense without raising the cost of each book sold to cover the cost of shipping? Also I forgot to mention orders up to \$50.00 has a \$10.00 shipping charge. So the special order of \$32.00 will cost 42.00 at the new rates.

That is all I have for now. Thank you for allowing me to be of service Gary S.

A considerable amount of discussion ensued over the new shipping policy. Generally it was thought that this new policy was outrageous. Some ideas were advanced about how to approach this. The idea which met with the most favor was to co-order through the Area Literature Chair.

Corrections- Arden, Hi I am Arden, and I am the new District 7 chair person for correction. I met with Dave and I believe it was Eric on April 30th. I don't have anything to report yet, but am looking forward to serving. Thank You, Arden A.

Some brief discussion was advanced regarding the Aitkin County Jail.

Grapevine- Sheldon, Sheldon was absent with an injury. No report... However Gary did tell a funny GV joke.

The GV is operating 200k plus in the black....drum roll....because they charge 25% on shipping.

Treatment- Dave, Dave has nothing to report except that he will be following up with treatment professionals to see if any of them wish to attend the C.P.C. event this Thurs.. Also the evening of May 24th there is still an opening for bringing a meeting up to the Focus Treatment Center.

Web site- Bob, Bob has continued to update the web site. He got a calendar loaded, and also the minutes from last month. He is also going to up date the meeting list, and check for accuracy.

Alt DCM- Open, No report.

DCM- Neil,

**DCM Report – District 7, Area 35
May 2013**

Greetings to all AA members in Central MN!

Your district has been active in providing services to ensure the hand of AA is there for the still suffering alcoholic. I would like to thank your group for the financial support which makes it possible to provide meeting schedules, work with correctional facilities and treatment centers, provide information to the public about AA, and partner with professionals in our community to inform them about what AA does and does not do. Please contact me directly to make us aware of any needs in these areas or if there is anything the district can assist you with.

We have been made aware of a need for AA's to put on meetings in the Aitkin County Jail. Please let me know if you can help—there's a need for both men and women.

The district will be hosting a CPC event at Grandview Lodge on Thursday May 16th. Groups are being asked to sponsor professionals to attend. The cost is \$12 per person. We will be discussing what AA does and does not do, a member will share experience, strength, and hope, and we will present on AA history as well. Literature will be available. Hope to see you there!

The 2013 General Service Conference was held April 21-27 in New York. Jim K., Area 35 Delegate, was in attendance representing northern MN and will be giving a report on the conference to our district on Monday, June 3rd from 6:30-8:30 PM. This will be held at the First United Congregational Church on Juniper Street in Brainerd (same location for our district meetings). Please come and hear Jim's report on the conference. This will be a potluck event too so feel free to bring a dish to share!

In service,
Neil F.

Old Business;

District Inventory- GSR sharing, and input was given. Larry from OCW said that his group gave three suggestions- 1 Create and use a District expense form, 2 Fill the Alt DCM position to help Neil with visiting all groups in the District, and look at demographics to see if the district maps are drawn correctly. (This addresses the district 17 and 7 issue) 3 Keep talking about group involvement at District level. Nancy from Women's Work in Nisswa didn't have any suggestions. Bob from Garrison Monday Night said his group indicated that the District should solicit more help from groups on projects and those projects need to be tackled in a more timely manner. Bob gave an interesting observation. The outlying areas are well covered with District participation. It is actually the inner areas, ie, Brainerd which are poorly represented. Brainerd, Crosby/Ironton, and Aitkin have little District representation. An humorous historical story was told about the AA police confiscating copies of the Hazelton 24 hrs was told. Apparently this actually happened about twenty years ago, and could be the original cause of the lack of "inner" District representation based on an old injury, and resentment? Jeff and Gail weren't able to get anything out of their groups on this inventory. Carl from Serenity in the Pines didn't get any feed back either.

Aitkin County Jail- Arden has been away for awhile. The District is requesting more information. [Arden indicated that he will meet with the program coordinator from the jail and get more information.](#)

C.W.C. Fair, and other fairs- Neil started the discussion reading back the general conscience of the groups from the last meeting. The last meeting was poorly attended because of very bad weather, and it was decided at that time to carry this item to the following month to hopefully get a more through conscience of the District. Carl P. indicated that there were booths available for free if we shared space with the C.S.N. Mental Health program. This idea was stopped cold because of Tradition violations. We must pay our own way and be self supporting.

Cindy indicated that the deadline for the deposit had already passed. It was generally thought that this wasn't an issue because the fair administrator really likes money from whatever and whenever the source. She indicated that she won't be able to handle the registration or logistics as she has too much on her plate.

Larry from O.C.W. indicated that his group favors participation at all fairs, and also contacting adjacent Districts to share the cost and set up. The booth should be unmanned. Nancy from Women's Work indicated that her group supported the C.W.C. fair but not other county fairs, and they supported an unmanned booth.

Bob from Garrison said his group supports the C.W.C. fair and supports a monitored booth just in case someone needs additional information or is looking for help.

Jeff from Pequot Monday Night said his group supports the C.W.C. Fair but not the other Fairs. They also support a manned Booth.

Gail from New hope says they support the C.W.C. event and that it should be manned. The other Fairs they don't care about.

Carl says his group was in favor of having the booth, and that it should be manned.

Neil summarized the discussion saying none were opposed to the C.W.C. Fair, and that the disagreement would center around the manned or unmanned issue just as last year. The event is held 7/30- 8/3. Last year Sheldon handled the event single handedly without the help of other volunteers. Somebody will need to head a committee to see this through. Liz is happy to help with the event but will be away during the actual event.

[Neil makes a motion that we support the C.W.C. Fair, by having a booth at the event, and](#)

that the booth will be partially manned, or staffed within the guidelines of the Fair regulations. Dave seconded it and it passed with one person opposed.

The opposed person gave a minority report stating that the District covers three different counties, and we should include them with our support of their various Fairs.

The Cass county fair is 6/30 and would leave precious little time for planning.

Facility Use Contribution- Neil outlined the issue, and Eric read from the previous month's minutes. The issue is do we pay rent for the evenings that we use the Church's facilities to hold additional meetings, ie, the Delegates report, the Agenda items meeting, et-cetera. It was previously agreed that we should do this. This dollar amount is ten dollars a meeting.

Eric made a motion that we would pay rent for the extra meetings at the same cost as our regular meetings, and that the payment would be bi-annual. Carl seconded the motion. All found favor.

New Business;

Meeting Schedules- Neil speaks briefly that he is expecting the new schedules in time for the C.P.C. Event. He asked that any changes to the schedule be forwarded to Tom, Liz, or himself.

Meet Your District Event on 7/14 at Lum Park- Bob speaks on this subject. The park is reserved for us on the day of 7/14. We will do Hotdogs and Hamburgers again. It will also be a Potluck Event. We have funds left over from last year to partially fund the event. At the June meeting Bob will have a sign up list for additional tasks, and things to bring.

Treasury Protocol- Neil speaks. He has forms which could be used for treasury reports for District officers. This met with general approval, but will go under old business next month.

Transitional Fair- Neil, Arden and Dave speak on this matter. Dave gave a historical perspective from last year's event. It will be held on 6/20 at the C.W.C. Jail. Arden needs literature. Dave said various people helped last year. We need literature for this event as well as the County Fair. Time is short. Volunteers need to be Jail Certified. Cindy indicated that last year her first and last name were published and sent out on an email regarding this event by the event coordinator at the Jail. She urges caution if this is a problem.

Eric made a motion for an extension of 10 minutes for the meeting as we were already 4 minutes over. It was seconded, and agreed, but not voted yea or nay.

Arden is willing to serve. It starts at 9am and goes until 3pm. We do have a few pamphlets to set up a display.

Neil indicated that due to the short notice we will have to practice our communication skills outside of this meeting. He also indicated that he will reach out to Skip our Area Corrections officer and ask for help.

Bob reiterated that in order to attend the volunteers will have to be jail certified.

Dave indicated that we need to make a commitment to participate ASAP.

Volunteers to take a Meeting to the Focus Unit- May 24th there is a need for a group or individuals to take a meeting up to the focus unit. Please call Dave, or call John Breen

directly to schedule. John's number is 218-828-7541.

Should the District Sponsor Professionals at the C.P.C. Event?- The cost is 12 dollars per professional. District members might ask a professional to attend the event. If that was the case would the District pay for their attendance.

Dave made a motion that the District would pay for the attendance of professionals who are brought to the event by a District member. Eric seconded this motion. 6 persons approved and 3 persons disapproved.

Minority report for the three who voted nay included the concern that there are groups who are supposed to get involved in this function. There are better ways to fund this event.

District members who bring a professional are members of groups. Those groups should be asked to support this. We are taking away from the groups a chance to participate.

Neil asked if anyone wished to change their vote. One by one various members decided to change their votes.

A re vote was called and the motion failed.

Meeting closed at approximately 8:45 with the Serenity 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 and others. 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