

District 7 Meeting Minutes for February 2016

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM, January 21, 2015 at the First Congregational Church on the SW corner of 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd MN., with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made; Liz DCM, Eric District Web, Pat visitor, Keith visitor Gail Treasurer, Dave Secretary, Carl Archives/Alt GSR, Jim GSR, Jim Visitor, Larry Visitor, Bonita visitor, Kim Alt GSR, Eric GSR, Jason GSR, Mark Visitor, Vickie GSR, Dennis GSR/Literature/Grapevine, Tom GSR, Jeff visitor, Fred GSR, and Clayton CLAA help line.

Call for additions to the agenda: none

Concept 2 – Eric L. read. No discussion

Tradition 2 – Larry read. No discussion

Secretaries Report- Dave: There were no additions or corrections. Gail motioned to accept January meeting minutes, Jim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasury Report-Gail, Gail presented the January financial report. Dave made a motion to accept, Vickie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

GSR Reports-

Our Common Welfare-Eric, OCW is a closed meeting of AA. We meet Wed. nights at 8:00 at First Congregational Church, 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd. We hold quarterly business meetings and Group Conscience meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month. We are an AA approved literature discussion meeting. We carry the message into the Focus Unit the 3rd Monday of each month and C.W.C. Jail the 2nd and the 4th Thursday of each month. We always welcome any newcomers and have plenty of members willing to be sponsors.

Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work-Vickie, The Nisswa Wednesday Women's Work group meets at the Nisswa Fire Hall every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. We are a group of 30-40 women. 1st Wednesday of the month is our speaker meeting followed by a pot luck and a group conscience meeting. 2nd Wednesday is a Step meeting. 3rd Wednesday is a Tradition meeting followed by fellowship. 4th Wednesday is a 12 x 12 meeting. We are active in Focus Treatment and Jail meetings and a strong emphasis in sponsorship. We keep in mind that the most important person in the meeting is the new comer.

Serenity in the Pines-Carl, (sub GSR), We meet at 8:00 Thursday night at a cabin in the woods Located on Co. Rd. 49 across from the Eagles Landing golf course, take the third driveway on the left and park in the yard. Cabin is about a 1 city block walk. We average 7-10 people a week.

Cornerstone of Hope- Dennis, We meet at 7:00 PM on Tues. in the Basement of the St. Francis Church. This is an open meeting. There is a rotating Chair person who picks the topic. We break into smaller groups for discussion and each group is free to leave when they are finished. Attendance is low 20, although this week we had 33 in attendance. Focus Unit patients attend each week and we give them rides to and from. New or first time attendees receive a welcome medallion, call list and meeting schedule.

Sleepy Hollow-Jason, We are a group of men and women who meet every Monday, 8:00 pm. At Fort Ripley Town Hall. We are located 15 miles south of Baxter on Hwy 371 across from Crow Wing Lake. Attendance averages 15- 20. We have a rotating chair and topic coinciding with the week of the month and is always Big Book based. We are responsible for taking a meeting into the Focus Unit the 1st Monday of each month. Our group is very service oriented and always welcome newcomers.

Pine River-Larry (representative) New Beginnings, meets at the DAC Center located on 1.3 miles west on Co. Rd. 2. 8:00 pm Wednesday is an open meeting Big Book discussion with 6-15 in attendance. 8:00 pm Saturday is an open meeting topic discussion format with 6-17 in attendance. Larry P. 218-587-2240

Brown Baggers-Kim-alternate GSR, Meets 12:00 every day at the Brainerd Alano Club located at 615 Maple St. in Brainerd. Strong attendance with a variety of AA meetings available depending on day of the week.

Friday Night Trinity Speaker Meeting-Tom, Meets Friday night, 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd. Average 30-40 people in attendance. Each month we rotate Chairs who are responsible for finding speakers. We usually have out of town speakers. Last Friday of the month is a potluck which starts at 6:00 followed by a speaker meeting.

Trailside Center Pequot-Fred, Two meetings each week. 7:30 Monday is an open meeting, topic discussion. 40-55 people in attendance. We breakout into three groups to make the meeting a little more manageable. 7:30 Thursday is a 12 x 12 with the last Thursday of each month sequencing through the 12 Traditions. 15-20 people in attendance. We carry the message into the Focus Unit the 1st Friday of the month. Plans are in the works for showing the movie version of the Off-Broadway production of "Bill W. and Dr. Bob". Possible dates are April 11th or 13th at the Presbyterian Church in Cross Lake at 7:00 pm. A flyer is being prepared for this event.

Crosslake Group-Jim, Meets 7:00- 8:00 every Tuesday. We rotate topics from open, Step and Traditions. A calendar is passed around for those that wish to volunteer to Chair. During the summer we average 20-25 people, currently we average 15-20 people. We carry the message into the Focus Unit the last Monday of the month.

Primary Purpose-Keith (representative) Meets Friday evenings at Heritage Church. Small core group with many visitors. Child care is provided. Keith also mentioned the new Upfront Alano board is working to get groups more involved in AA and to be a part of.

Action Committee Reports-

C.P.C. / P. I.-Liz, Looking for help to coordinate District CPC/PI functions until a new Chair steps forward. Liz and Jim T. will be attending the Kiwanis event next Monday. Liz will be attending the Area Committee meeting on Feb. 28th. New schedules will be out in March.

Literature/Grapevine-Dennis, Books are available for sale. A big order of literature for Pequot was recently delivered and four Big Books were sold this evening. Dennis received his packet from GSO. He was given a complimentary literature rack along with a literature packet. Dennis told a few Grapevine jokes.

Corrections-Vicki, Crow Wing County Jail is hosting a Transition Fair on April 7. Vickie will coordinate with Pat from Upfront to set up and maintain a booth. I will be carrying the message into the Aitkin County jail next week.

Archives-Carl, Organizing items as they come in.

CLAA Help Line-Clayton, A phone audit was completed and the results were fantastic. There are a few minor glitches, but Clayton will contact Century Link to iron out. As always, we are looking for new volunteers to help man the phone lines, so please carry this message back to your groups.

Webmaster-Eric, Web Guy Greetings,

January 2016 was a very busy and challenging month for me. I started at the beginning of the month visiting with our website's creator Bob B., and familiarizing myself with FTP protocol and the CPanel. My struggles were many. I watched a ton of youtube tutorials, and very carefully clicked around the buttons with great fear that I'd break Bob's wonderful work. Also tasked with writing a slick newcomer friendly website in Wordpress I started studying this on You Tube . After some very short deliberation I determined to do the Wordpress experiment on a separate site to reduce the certainty of crashing our current and functional site that is in daily use. This is done, and the experiment continues with mixed results at brainerdlakesaa.org. I am supposed to create a site that looks a lot like the Minneapolis Intergroup site. My projection for completion is six months, give or take my entire rotation as the Webguy.....lol..... But I am having fun with that part of my job, though it is VERY challenging! I don't worry so much about breaking it because it is my baby, and a prototype- an experiment.

After a serious struggle with some FTP issues, (a user name and password demystification) I did send the January Minutes, and Newsletter to the centrallakesaa.org Directory. Whew! Following that I had to create a sub menu for 2016, and a drop down hover menu for Jan 2016 within the sub menu, and make it so if you click it the newsletter would appear. Bob's advice was to "Stare, and Compare". That I interpreted to mean stare at the source code. I found a helpful bit of software called "Firebug" thanks to you tube which allowed me to experiment with code changes on my screen without actual changes to the website in real time. I could see if I got it right....This gave me the confidence to finally insert my little snippet of code into Bob's lovey source. And success, it worked!

Each month should show improvement on my skill level and time required to execute. I have since made a couple other small edits to the site using html editor on the Cpanel. For instance the Help Line phone number is now displayed on the home page- previously it wasn't. A few small changes were made to the group meeting list. And I did a backup of the files to my home PC. There is A LOT more to learn but I am willing and eager to do so.

I also created a newsletter for January 2016, and sent it Dave for Distribution, and currently just finished the Feb. edition. Folks, this effort goes completely to waste if you don't print them and post them on your group bulletin board. I'd like to think that copies are being circulated on AA meeting tables around our District. Please help grow our Distribution List.....

My apologies for such a long report, but I wanted to share my early struggles, and successes with you and it takes what it takes.

Yours in Service,

eric

Treatment-Toni, Toni was absent

Alt DCM-Carl, I am looking forward to helping District 7 where needed. I plan to attend the WRAASC and Spring Assembly. I will obtain reservations for the District picnic before next meeting. I assisted Clayton in the help line audit. I would encourage people to come forward and volunteer for District Cahir positions and for those currently holding positions to attend the Area Committee meetings.

DCM Report-Liz, DCM REPORT FOR JANUARY 2016

Welcome to 2016! I'm looking forward to the adventures and challenges as well as the rewards of serving as your new District Committee Member (aka DCM.) We kicked off the New Year by attending the Area 35 Service Workshop in St. Cloud on the 3 Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service as they relate to the 12 Steps/12 Traditions/12 Concepts including a presentation by our very own Carl, Carl, Eric and Toni (thank you!!) on welcoming the newcomers. It was brutally cold outside, but the rooms of AA are always warm and inviting.

Welcome also to all of you in new service roles within the District and in your groups! The commitment you've made to be of service is crucial to keeping the program alive and well. We look forward to having you join us at the District Meetings the third Thursday of every month at First Congregational UCC (415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, MN 56401) from 7-8:30 pm.

Upcoming events in the District/Area/Region include:

- Feb. 18th - February District Meeting - 7-8:30 pm - First Congregational UCC
- Feb. 28th - Area 35 Committee Meeting – 9 am-3 pm – Aitkin Alano Club
- March 4-6 – West Central Regional AA Service Conference – Bismarck, ND

I hope you will join us for meetings, fellowship and fun!

Yours in service,

Liz L. - DCM District 7

Old Business

1. Open positions: Secretary, no volunteer. Treasurer, no volunteer. CPC/PI no volunteer.
2. Agenda Items Hard copy and CD's will be available 2/28/16. Liz announced the log in to get Agenda items is " gso.area35.org ", password " BlueSky2106 "A motion was made by Carl to hold an additional March meeting, seconded by Dave and carried by group. This meeting will take place on 3/24/16 7:00 at 1 Congregational Church.
3. CLAA help line: See comments above.

New Business/Old Business carried forward

1. CPC opportunity: Jim T. & Liz will attend Kiwanis event
2. District picnic: Carl is working on securing reservation/deposit
3. CWC Fair: No action

4. Liz discussed the Self Support Pamphlet. There are copies on the table in front for those that would like one.

Calendar of Events

1. Area 35 Committee meeting Feb. 28 in Aitkin
2. WCRSC in Bismarck, ND. March 4-6
3. Area 35 Spring Assembly April 2-3 in Crookston

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:39