

District 7 Meeting Minutes for Oct. 2013

The meeting opened at exactly 7:00 PM, October 17, 2013 at the First Congregational Church on the SW corner of 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd MN., with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions were made; Neil DCM, Dave Treatment, Arden Corrections, Cindy Treasurer, Paul GSR, Tim GSR, Gail GSR, Bob Web Master, Todd Alt GSR, John GSR, Carl GSR Carl Member, Nancy GSR, and Liz CPC/PI.

Call for additions to the agenda: CWC Jail Echo Pod and concerns about AA help line.

Concept 10 – Neil read Concept 10. No discussion followed.

Tradition 9 – Carl read the long form of the Tenth Tradition. Long discussion followed regarding people with problems other than alcohol using AA to get well, Open AA meetings, Treatment Facilities, Open seminars and educational events. This is a concern for all AA members and a difficult problem to solve.

Secretaries Report- Dave: A motion was made by Carl to accept the September Secretary's report, seconded by Liz and passed unanimously.

Treasury Report-Cindy, Cindy presented financials and provided copies for all present. Gail motioned made, seconded by Arden and passed unanimously.

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.

Palisade AA- Arden, We meet Monday at 7:00 PM at the Lutheran Church. It is a topic meeting. The meeting is struggling but still doing good

Big Sandy/McGregor Wed. - Paul, We meet every Wed. evening at 7:00 PM at the BSL Alano Club. It is an open mixed meeting. The last three meetings we had visitors from Arkansas. They added a special flavor to our meetings by sharing their AA life with us. Our Saturday morning meeting starts at 9:00AM and once again was well attended with attendance at both meetings at 20+.

There is a Solution- Tim, Big Book study. We meet at 6:30 PM every Thursday at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Wright MN with 10-15 in attendance. We are sponsoring a meeting Wednesday at Mish Kaw Shen Treatment Center in Sawyer. Speaker meeting every 4th Thursday with a pot luck dinner. We have made a commitment for an AA meeting at DeHare Treatment Center.

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. Beginning October 2, 2013, we began having a speaker meeting followed by a potluck and Group Conscience Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

The speakers are women from our group, sharing their stories of experience, strength, and hope. The group feels that this will strengthen the group and help all members of our group, especially the newcomers, to feel a sense of belonging and to know that they are not alone. The first speaker meeting was well received by the members of the group.

Our group regularly participates in meetings at the Crow Wing County Jail and the Focus Unit each month.

We have begun planning our annual Christmas potluck and speaker meeting, to be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. The group plans to invite a guest speaker for this event. In addition to a great speaker and fabulous food, we will have fun games and prizes, and we will be giving away centerpieces crafted by members of the group. Flyers will be distributed by our members to other groups in our area inviting the ladies to join us for this fun event.

Sleepy Hollow-John, We meet Mondays at 8:00 PM at Fort Ripley Town Hall. Good month in September. Average attendance is 12-15. We had a real nice format for our Sept. round-up. 65 people attended. The speakers were excellent. The AA speaker from Chicago, Dan, was entertaining and educational. This last week Rick from Barrows received his 49 year medallion.

Serenity in the Pines- Carl, Meeting is going very well. We meet at Serenity at the Pines every Thursdays at 8 PM. We are still averaging 10-12 people. Last Month we celebrated a 35 yr and a 32 yr along with a couple of two year birthdays. We had quite a few visitors also. We are a topic or Big Book group.

New Hope Group-Gail, Meets on Tuesday 9:00am at Up Front Alano in Brainerd. Our group covers topics, Steps and Traditions. We have 12-20 in attendance. Nice mix of sobriety ages. This is my last month as GSR and I have been very busy encouraging members to fill this position. We as a group have had some struggles and are working them out. Patti D. has agreed to take on the treasurer's position for the group.

Action Committee Reports-

C.P.C. / P. I.-Liz reported she attended the Fall Assembly and enjoyed it very much and found it educational as well. She announced that new schedules are out and available.

Archives- Open- No report.

Literature- Gary, Neil reported that Gary sold two Big Books.

Corrections- Arden- Attended Fall Assembly and the corrections breakout session. He discovered that individuals can get their own background checks done and at no cost. He discussed the Big Book shortage at St. Cloud prison. He said the Pink Can is being used in Area 36 and asked if Area 35 could help. He also discussed the possibility of having one

individual assigned to collecting funds and buying literature for this purpose. Discussion followed about the Area 35's past experience with this issue. Books have been donated but this issue remains unresolved.

Grapevine- Sheldon- Sheldon was absent but Neil reported the Grapevine was in the black and that was due primarily to a reduction in overhead expenses. He also shared a joke.

Treatment- Dave- I distribute meeting schedules and event flyers as they become available. Our common Welfare group donates a Grapevine Subscription to The Focus Unit, Pinnacle Recovery Services and the Crow Wing County jail Echo pod. I or others deliver these each month.

Teen Challenge has separated in-patient from out-patient services. The out-patient program has been renamed Life Renewal and is located in the same business complex as Giovanni's. The new receptionist is an AA member and greatly appreciated the schedules. Cynthia from Avalon indicated a need for additional pamphlets. I called her and left a message indicating we may be able to assist her but I have not heard back.

Webmaster- Bob- Bob talked about his position at Area and the need for a new District Web Master. He said the need is not immediate as he still has programming to finish. He indicated the District position does not require a person with extensive programming expertise but a good working knowledge of software required to keep the site current.

Alt DCM- Open, No report.

DCM Report – Neil provided the following written report

DCM Report – District 7, Area 35

October 2013

Greetings!

I would like to update everyone on the Fall Assembly held on October 5-6th in Detroit Lakes. Key business conducted included a review of the statewide meeting locator. Bob B. (current Area 35 webmaster) presented an overview of the site and laid out several recommendations to the Area. The recommendation that was passed was for the Area to create a non-voting 2-year temporary position specifically for continued development and support for the meeting locator. This was passed and Bob will serve Area 35 in this newly-created position. Support for the meeting locator was overwhelming with much positive feedback on what has been developed so far. Clearly Bob was in top form, interjecting some fun and enthusiasm by appearing as Cookie Monster and passing out delicious cookies to the Assembly! 😊

Concerns about the increased shipping costs for AA literature were discussed at length. It was agreed the Area would draft a letter expressing these concerns to AA. AA districts, groups, and individuals are encouraged to do the same; this will help ensure GSO fully understands how the fellowship feels about the increased costs.

Elections were conducted on Sunday and the next rotation of Area 35 officers will be:

Michael (Jake) J., Delegate

Kelly D., Alternate Delegate

Sarah K., Chair

Randy A., Treasurer

Roger R., Secretary

I can assure you the fellowship will be well-served by these individuals who have clearly shown their love and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was great to see several of you from our district in attendance at the Assembly and I really enjoyed travelling with John from Up Front and getting to know him better. I am very excited about the work we've been able to do together in the district and about the next rotation which I feel very confident in.

Reminder of the sponsorship workshop to be held on Oct. 26th at the Aitkin Alano – bring a dish and a fellow AA with too!

Thank you for supporting me to attend the Fall Assembly in Detroit Lakes and for all you do to help carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In service,

Neil F.

Old Business;

1. Fall Workshop: 10/26 2013 to be held in Aitkin. 11:00-2:00 Potluck with sponsorship being the topic. There is to be a panel of two men and women. Material is being assembled and Neil will have facility ready to go.

2. GSR School Thursday 12/12/13. 6:00 potluck with a chili and sides theme. Jim K. our Area Delegate will give a report on the service structure of AA. Discussion followed on what should be provided. Some Service manuals will be available and it was noted that a Service Manual is provided to newly registered GSR's in the Kit. We also discussed an abbreviated District GSR informational booklet to hand out. Ice Cream social will conclude event.

New Business/Old Business carried forward

1. Crow Wing County Jail Echo pod. We are still looking for another group to participate.

2. Shipping costs were discussed in length. It was widely felt that the new rates are imposing a hardship on the rural and smaller clubs. Dave made a motion to have District 7 draft a letter to GSO expressing our concerns. Arden seconded and all approved the motion. Neil will draft a letter. Bob indicated that we all could draft our own letters as well. It was noted that Area 35 will also be drafting a letter.

3. Sarah K. was elected Area 35 Chair at the Fall Assembly. She will be appointing Area Action Committee Chairs and is looking for input on candidates.

4. Winter workshop to be held in Moorhead, January of 2014.

5. Spring Assembly 2014 will held at the Holiday Inn in Duluth, MN.

6. Bob B. has witnessed some website activity indicating some weakness in out AA helpline. Specifically, an organization called "an" AA phone line looking for a certain meeting locale. They had lost their contact information and were looking for assistance. They were informed that no help was available for the information requested. Dave indicated that he will contact

all volunteers in an effort to prevent any future problems. Neil will work up a procedure for tracking changes in our records.

District Rotation Nominations/Voting

Neil had available a list of positions and respective responsibilities.

DCM Neil nominated Carl P. There were no other nominations. Carl was unanimously approved.

Alt. DCM Carl nominated Eric K. There were no other nominations. Eric was unanimously approved.

Secretary Gail nominated Dave. There were no other nominations. Dave was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Dave nominated Gail. There were no other nominations. Gail was unanimously approved.

Literature Carl nominated Mark. There were no other nominations. Mark was unanimously approved.

Grapevine Was tabled until a future date.

PI/CPC Cindy nominated Liz. There were no other nominations. Liz was unanimously approved.

Corrections Dave nominated Arden. There were no other nominations. Arden was unanimously approved.

Treatment Arden nominated Tim. After some discussion, it was decided to defer this vote until next District meeting.

Archives Dave nominated Carl. There were no other nominations. Carl was unanimously approved.

Webmaster Bob agreed to stay on another year until another individual can be found.

Following the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm