

Dec. 20th 2012 District 7 Meeting

Minutes

Greetings

The meeting opened at exactly 7:30 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. There were 13 persons in attendance. We went around the room with introductions, and the following persons introduced themselves by their first name and service position; Neil- DCM, Dave-Treatment, Larry-GSR, Gary- Literature, Mary-observer, Eric- Corrections, Jeff -GSR, Eric-Secretary, Bob-Area/District Webmaster, Toni-GSR, Cindy-Treasurer, Carl-GSR, Sheldon-GV..

A call for changes to the agenda went out. None were heard.

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 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 copies of the Action Booklet, and the Distribution List. He asked for corrections, deletions, and additions to those documents. A question was raised about adding Brad the Area Archivist to the Distribution List. *It was generally agreed that hence forth we would, as a District, forward a copy of our minutes to the Area Archivist. This constitutes an " Action " and should appear in the Action Booklet.* Brad had requested a monthly copy of the document. Dave made a motion to accept the minutes, it was seconded by Toni, and passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report- Cindy, Cindy passed out copies of her report to the group. One question was raised about expenses for the Archives Event which was canceled due to weather. The room for Brad was non refundable, as was the lecture hall. However the conditions that day were terrible, and it couldn't be avoided. Eric made a motion to accept the report, this was seconded by Carl, and passed unanimously.

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 Group meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM at the Lakes Area Alano Club, 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 been getting a lot of new people lately and this is very encouraging.

Primary Purpose Group- Toni, We meet Wed at 7:00 PM at the Living Water Church west of Wahkon. We are a Big Book, 12 x 12, Open discussion meeting. Attendance is good at 12- 15 persons. The 5th Wed we have a pot luck and a speaker meeting. It will be on January 31st at 6:00 PM. At 7:00pm we will introduce the speaker. Hope to see some of you there. We would also like to get on the web site. We have been gaining in attendance with persons coming down from other towns like Garrison. Contact 320-495-3701. In Service Toni.

Isle Big Book, We meet at the Faith Lutheran Church in Isle at 10:00 AM Sat. Mornings. The discussion of the Big Book is going well. There is a lot of expression about life, and thought being dealt with. Attendance has dropped a little this fall, but still have about 8 regulars. Contact 320-495-3700.

Mille Lacs Area Women's Group meets at 6:00 PM on Sunday Night, in the Faith Lutheran Church of Isle. We had a lot of summer visitors, but attendance is backing off a little. We are a Big Book, 12x 12 Open discussion meeting. We are still a young group, but we are persistent. Contact Toni at 320-495-3701.

Pequot Lakes Group- Jeff, We meet every Monday at the St. Alice Church, at 7:30 PM. We have great Meetings. The average attendance has been for 25- 30 persons. The treatment center called the Four Winds has been attending. We also go to the Focus Unit to speak the 1st Friday of each month , and additionally to the Pine River Treatment Center the last Thursday of each month.

Serenity in the Pines- Carl, Our meeting at Serenity in the pines is going well. We meet at 8pm on Thursdays. The wood stove has been working very well. Come join us. We love new people. We usually have 10-12 persons in attendance.

Action Committee reports:

Literature-Gary, District 7 Literature Chair Notes for 12/20/12; For the period for November thru December 2012 we had sold 41 books to 5 separate groups, and individual members for a total sales of \$274.00. I just sent off an order to G.S.O. for \$403.00 which should be in by the end of this month. Thank You for supporting District 7 Literature through out this year. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Yours in Service , Gary S.

Corrections-Eric L., Corrections Report 12/20/12; Things are going great with corrections. I have been busy answering letters, and stocking the literature rack at the Crow Wing County Jail. Thanks for allowing me to serve as corrections chair. I look forward to working with whomever takes my place. Eric L..

Eric was asked several questions following his report regarding the function and results of the program "Bridging the Gap". These questions were pertinent in regard to programs which are being implemented at the Area level.

Grapevine- Sheldon, Sheldon told some jokes out of the Grapevine Magazine. He got some good laughs.

Treatment- Dave, Dave was present but had nothing to report.

DCM Report- Neil,

DCM Report – District 7, Area 35

DEC 2012

Greetings District 7! As you may know we decided to cancel the Archives Workshop scheduled for Saturday December 15th. We received reports and advisories about unsafe travel. I spoke to Brad who was scheduled to drive up from the St. Cloud area and he was concerned about the conditions. I hope the decision on the day of the event did not create hardship for anyone. I also want to thank Bob B. for driving down to the facility and posting a notice of cancellation. Also thanks to all of you who helped get the word out; I do hope we got it to everyone in time.

I attended the Area 35 Committee Meeting on Dec. 2 in Aitkin and gave a report on District 7. If we need literature, we can order with Area 35 – if we do, the next order is due 1/2/13. Online ordering will be available soon, and when it is, the \$500 minimum order for free shipping will go into effect. The cost for inserting 600 flyers into the Northern Lite is \$75 – something to keep in mind should we ever decide to take advantage of that wide of a distribution channel. Big Books are needed in SC prison so I added it as a New Business item for us to discuss. Also, at the Area level, we are looking to combine efforts with Area 36 which makes perfect sense – the goal is to be consistent and ensure services for corrections are effective statewide. A recommendation was made to create a non-rotating position for corrections to handle temporary contacts for prison inmates. No actions were taken at the meeting but we should have groups weigh in on it. It may come to vote at our spring assembly.

Roger, Area 35 CPC chair, put together some packets of brochures for clergy, healthcare, and corrections. I received some and will get to our next CPC chair which I hope is filled soon. I also met with Dave and Liz and we discussed a CPC luncheon hosted by District 7 in 2013. A report s/b given tonight. Special thanks to Dave for hosting the meeting and serving up some great coffee and treats that he made!

The Financial Oversight Committee ensures Area finances are properly accounted for. In 2013, they will not be meeting at the spring and fall assemblies as they have done in the past. Instead, they will meet only at the ACMs in Aitkin. This will save the Area \$ (less travel and expenses) yet still ensure our finances are in order.

Bob B. requested Area to purchase a projector and screen – a motion was made and passed 21-4. The Area will be able to use this at our assemblies and meetings and Bob has been authorized to purchase. There was some concern that this needed to be brought to the groups but that did not sway the vote.

There was talk at the Fall Assembly in INTL Falls about District 14 being absorbed by District 8 – instead, District 14 is attempting to revitalize and there seems to be commitment and support

up there to succeed.

I submitted my expenses to Cindy for the 4 Area meetings this year; requesting reimbursement at \$45.

I hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas filled with love and joy and let's remember the alcoholics and their families still suffering.

In service,

Neil F.

It should be noted here at this juncture that there are several Action Committee Chair positions open. These include C.P.C., P.I., Alt. DCM, and Archives. Several current positions are going to be vacated soon, including Corrections, and Literature. If you or someone your know is interested in general service, and is qualified to step into these positions please have them contact a committee member, or attend our District meeting and express their willingness to be of service.

Old Business:

District 7 Web site- Feedback, enhancements- Bob, Bob feels like he is in limbo as to the District conscience regarding the web site. Do we want to pursue this venture? Should he invest even more energy into it if we don't want it?

The GSR's shared. O.C.W. (Our Common Welfare) is in favor of continuing the venture. Primary Purpose is in favor of continuing. Pequot Lakes wasn't properly informed to make a decision but Jeff thought it wouldn't be a problem. No dissection was heard. It wasn't put to a vote but [it was generally agreed that we should continue until the final review period a year from it's inception.](#)

Bob said that being the case he would go whole hog on the site and put up all the additional information, and search functions. Thank you for your time and service Bob!

CLAA Phone Line- Verification of members/ numbers needed- Dave, Dave gave a report on the verification process. Everyone got back to him after being called on the hotline. Quite a few persons didn't pick up at the time of the call , but returned the call. Dave thought the number of persons who didn't answer directly to be around 75%.

Bob had a work around using Google phone number, which shows as a Google number, and goes to a separate message box which could be used to say "you have reached Central Lakes AA Help line...." Bob also said the same thing could be done with Magic Jack for 20. \$ a month.

Eric expressed concern about not picking up the phone when it rings on your shift, screening calls, and basically dropping the ball with the person reaching out for help. He expressed that it could put people off, if their plea for help goes to an answering machine.

Bob also had an issue with someone calling the help line and being referred to his wife. This

person was given his wife's number. His wife wasn't alerted to this or asked permission to give out her number, so the call came in unexpected and cold. Bob contacted yet another person who lived closer to the caller who attempted to be of service. Sadly, there was additional drama surrounding this caller, and it turned out that the caller simply wanted to get out of her house before the police came to haul her off. So he emphatically expressed concern about giving out personal information about each other, namely phone numbers.

Dave is maintaining the phone contact schedule and everyone is current and accounted for. **The District asked Dave if he would prepare some recommendations and guidelines for the AA Help line. This could include another training session, with pizza.**

Dave asked that GSR's would go back to their groups and ask for volunteers and for help with this. Thank You for your time and service Dave!

Combine PI/C.P.C., and GV with Lit.? Larry from Our Common Welfare (OCW) said that his group is in favor of combining positions if the work overlaps, and the needs of the District favor such an action. Tony from Primary Purpose said her group is ok with combining. This was Jeff's first district meeting and he hadn't yet gotten his group's conscience on this matter. Carl disagreed with such an action saying it would take away opportunities for service. Bob thought that we were actually doing pretty good picking up the slack by spreading the work load over all available persons, and that the work was getting done. Neil ends up being the catch all for all our unfinished business. At Area it was generally thought that we were doing a really excellent job here at the District level.

Gary is offering to stay on for one more year as Literature. Dave offered to act as an interim fill in Corrections person for Eric L. who is stepping down as of January 2013.

A motion was made by Eric L. that Dave would act as the interim (act as a fill in) corrections chair but would remain the Treatment chair until someone could step forward to take the position. This was seconded by Gary, and everyone found favor with it.

The discussion about combining positions will be tabled until next month. GSR's should come prepared with their group's conscience.

C.P.C. Luncheon , Cindy fills in for Liz. An Action Committee Meeting yielded some discussion about the event. Questions remain over the proposed date and if it should be held as a Saturday Brunch or a Thursday happy hour. The Saturday dates are May 4th or 18th, and the Thursday dates are May 9th or 16th. **GSR's need to go back to their groups and ask if they would support this.** We have 4 months to put this together. Bob asked if this could be put into writing so it is easier to understand.

District Inventory, Should we do it? It is for this District which rotates at the end of next year. Time is of the essence if we are to facilitate change. January or February is indicated. Anyone would be welcome to attend. Carl felt strongly that this is a vital part of our recovery. **With a show of hands it was indicated that we desired to have an inventory. None were opposed to it. Neil will schedule and facilitate this event.**

C.W.C. Fair Deposit- Sheldon, Sheldon didn't make any calls to chase it down. **He will get on this ASAP.**

Old Business:

Meeting Schedules- Changes communicated for the next printing, If there is a

change with the schedule please contact either Neil or Tom who has his number listed on the back of the schedule. We currently don't have a P.I. Chair.

Meeting Visits, Did anyone get out to neighboring meetings? It was previously decided that this was important enough that the District would pay for travel expenses for District Chairs visiting outlying meetings. Turn expenses into Cindy.

2013 Scheduling- Next District Meeting will be on 1/17/2013- Should we try rotating the meeting location? Neil will hand out the 2013 schedule at the next District Meeting.

Bob speaks to the function of rotating meetings. The Districts who do this are pressured to do by the groups in the outlying communities. They are asked to come out, and not the other way around. The District doesn't force themselves on the outlying community, and make them play the host. Make it part of the inventory? Neil would look for a committee and some recommendations from the committee.

Big Books for the St. Cloud Prison, The St Cloud Prison is short on Big books. Carl knows a couple a persons who go there to help. He will inquire with them to look into it. But **GSR's Please inquire with your groups, Do you want District funds to go toward supplying books to the St Cloud Prison?** A question was raised, "what is the status of books in our own local Jail?"

Do we want to keep supporting AA locator? Bob speaks to this. Last summer certain broken functions in the Area 36 "Meeting Locator", which figures prominently on the Area 35 web site, were pointed out at a workshop. Now it is December and nothing has changed. The Locator is still dysfunctional. There has been no attempt to fix this. It is not being supported. Do WE want to continue to support this? Bob asked the committee DCMs to ask their groups, "Should we continue to support AAmeetinglocator.org?" An Area 35 and Area 36 add-hoc committee will be meeting to discuss AAmeetinglocator.. He says there is hope, and it can change for the better. But currently it is an eye sore and embarrassment for AA and Minnesota. Should we continue to support this? He says he will stand before the Area Assembly at the next meeting to address this. **But he asks the GSR's and the District 7, Do you want to continue to support this broken function. Neil Speaks, GSR's please familiarize yourselves and your groups with this issue, and bring me a clear group conscience on this matter before the Assembly so that I can vote for you concerning this issue. And He also encourages GSR's to attend as they also have an additional vote.** Spring Assembly is in Grand Rapids in April.

Be sure to Attend the Winter Workshop in Walker January 19th and 20th, **GSR's your group should support your attendance to this event.** District chairs are also encouraged to attend and the district supports them.

Rescheduling the Archives Workshop, This item got deferred until next month as we went over our time limit.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer, We closed 10 minutes late at 8:40 after previously making a motion to go over the allowed time by 10 minutes. This motion was made by Eric and seconded by Toni, and all found favor with it.

For your convenance 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 expect 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