



District 7 Apr. 2016 Newsletter



DCM REPORT FOR APRIL 2016

April has arrived, and with it came the Spring Assembly in Crookston, MN. It was remarkable to me that we had 11 people in attendance at the event, in spite of freezing rain and icy roads on the way there. Kelly, our Area 35 Delegate led us through the Agenda Items and was able to collect our Area's conscience on those items that may have come up for discussion at the GSO Conference.

We look forward to her report back.

We are still looking for a Secretary and Treasurer for the District, so please encourage sponsees and friends in the fellowship to join us for the April District Meeting if they have any interest! We'll gladly provide assistance with getting up and running on these positions. Being of service is such a vital part of keeping the program strong and the doors open.

We always 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:

May 19th – May Dist. 7 Mtg. – 7-8:30 pm – FCUCC, Brainerd, MN

June 5th – Area 35 Committee Meeting – 9am-3pm – Aitkin Alano Club

June 16th – June Dist. 7 Mtg. – 7-8:30 pm – FCUCC, Brainerd, MN

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

Yours in service,

Liz L. - DCM District 7



Important Announcement!!!

Aitkin County Jail

We need volunteers, especially women, to bring meetings into the jail

Call Vickie at 218-820-4928

Would you like to be added to the distribution list for District publications? Email Liz at dcm7@area35.org or eric at gemminer_n_cutter@yahoo.com you may also call Liz at 218-820-9558 or Carl at 320-360-8094

The 3rd Thurs. of every month we hold District Meetings at the 1st Congregational Church in Brainerd. We Need Warm Bodies! Be There- Be Square!

Open District Service positions are available. This is YOUR District. You make it what you, and your groups, want it to be.

A special Thank You to Dave E.

Dave, Thank you for your service above and beyond the regular call of duty for District 7.

Your effort put forth setting up the AA help line has probably saved many liny lives and certainly reduced the suffering of many persons. You were a tireless servent during your term as District Secretary, and cheerfully continued to work even beyond your term when nobody would volunteer to replace you. You will be missed here in District 7. because you are moving out of our area. Our gratitude, hopes and prayers will go with you! Thank You For your Service!

A special story of Recovery and Hope on Page 2-3

When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous some 19 years ago I was not made aware of general service in the beginning. I had a definite spiritual experience at my first meeting and new from day one that I would do what ever was asked of me to get what the people in that first meeting had. I knew what ever it was, had to be better than what I was experiencing at the time. I focused on the 12 steps and the inventory taking and the work that that entailed with making amends and practicing these principles in all my affairs a large undertaking needless to say but I stuck with it and felt I had made a complete turn around by year five. The meetings that I went to back in them days did not do the General service routine. I ended up moving to another state and went to a lot of great meetings but there again I was not put in touch with general service, I did make the coffee and lead the meetings and all the other things, working with alcoholics and 12 step work, so I wasn't a complete slacker but I pretty much remained in the dark concerning the goings on at the District/ Area/ General Service Conference and related entities. It just wasn't shown to me, I do remember a friend mentioning going to an assembly type event in Wisconsin but never did it nor felt compelled, I suppose if he had roped me like a calf and hauled me in I might have got there but no go there. So you see a person can exist in AA and really have no clue as to the General service structure and its importance to their sobriety/serenity. I am exhibit number one. So what happened? I moved back to my hometown and joined a new home group that had a past Delegate as a long time member and numerous people in the group who were involved at the District and Area level. It did not take long in that meeting for them to rope me like a calf and haul me into a District meeting, just kidding I did what was suggested to me and

went to a District meeting just to observe ha hah. I observed for two meetings and became secretary at the second meeting imagine that. Then a DCM and so on, it has been a great experience and a humbling one with a lot of personal growth. So what does all this have to do with anything anyway?

I will attempt to explain, I went to the Winter Workshop in Saint Cloud this past January, it was my first time back to Area in 4 years, do to employment issues so I am relearning things that I had forgotten about. I was listening to Brook the past Delegate from Wyoming talk about Bill W. and his experiences and trials getting the Trustees and Fellowship on board with the idea of a General Service Conference, and it occurred to me that the bulk of the



District 7 Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 17th at Lum Park Brainerd
FREE Potluck Event starts at 11:00 AM
Everyone is welcome! Friends, Family, and Hungry Relatives!

Hotdogs and Hamburgers will be served! Home cooked hot dishes, and the finest desserts in the central lakes region will be free for the tasting here at the Annual District 7 Picnic. Hot and cold beverages will be served. Games and fun for all.

Bring a dish to pass around.

AA Speakers, and District Members will step up to the soap box to thank you for your support.

This will also be a chance to meet and greet your hard working District 7 Volunteers.

This event, funded solely from the pockets of the District 7 Volunteers, is our way of saying thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Come one- come all and let's mix it up at Lum Park and have a good time.

A special reminder!

District needs volunteers to assume the various Chair Positions. Currently many positions are available... people are needed to fill positions for the next two year rotation. This is your District, and this is your opportunity to give back what has been so freely given to you.

it occurred to me that the bulk of the Fellowship remains in the dark concerning The General Service Conference and the immense personal exertion that Bill W. had put into getting it off the ground and here we are 75 years later and we pay so little attention to it and remain so much in the dark concerning it. We do such a great disservice to Bill and the founders for this lack of interest, it borders on disrespect, I feel ashamed thinking of this and feel compelled to do what I can to change the situation. I feel I can speak to this, I am one of the many who remained in the dark them 10 years, I was never really educated on it nor taken to a service meeting, the groups I went to did not encourage me to go, I believe a little bit of encouragement is all I needed and that's what in the end got me there.

So what to do? I am going to start by putting together a presentation for the Fellowship. My first presentation will be brought to an Alano Club which has shown an interest in general service lately. We have a nice film from the General Service Office that shows all the cool stuff at the offices out in New York, I intend to relate the story of Bill W. How he put so much into getting the conference and his trust in us that we as a fellowship would step up to the plate and be the collective conscious that would be the ultimate authority to keep this thing on track and going for many years to come. We will introduce people to the Service Manual and ask them to bring business meetings to their groups and read the 12 Traditions at their meetings.

I will practice a 30 second elevator speech. So when ever I have opportunity when visiting the many meetings I go to I will let them have it, I will also bring the events happening in the General service to the meetings when ever some one asks if there are any announcements.

I will continue to come up with ideas and try them out as I go to do what ever I can to generate interest in service work. If you have ideas or an interest in this I would love to talk to you about it. You can find my contact information in the Northern Light.

I don't think that we overlook the General Service Structure on purpose it just isn't brought to our attention in some cases out of neglect, issues from the past with some of the old timers or any number of reasons. I think if a concerted effort is made to bring this information to the groups and the story of Bill is told and retold it can't hurt and may even help. I will at least try. Thanks for your time.

Mark N. - Area 35 PI Chair - Home Group Sleepy Hollow

Delegate From Area 35 Kelly D. will be reporting on the Annual Conference

following a wonderful
PotLuck Dinner

May 19th, which is the third Thursday of the month at the First Congregational Church in Brainerd, our usual meeting spot and time for District 7. We will kick it off at 6pm with Kelly's report at 7:00, and a short District 7 meeting at 8:00- 8:30pm. This is tentative, and subject to change if Kelly can't make it in May we will shoot for June 16th.. However the event will happen! Call Liz, Carl, or email eric for more information, or confirmation.

See You There!!!!

Ok Folks,

This situation where 10% of the people do 90% of the work is getting ridiculous. We have 80 meetings in our district, and if each group had only 10 people that would total 800 human beings sitting on their asses and running their monkey mouths while a tiny handful slave away in the kitchen. WE NEED HELP! The fact is that in District 7 there are probably a thousand active members of AA. But we can't find a treasurer for District? Or a Secretary? The work we do here is vital. We can't do it alone. Dave said, at his last meeting here in Central Minnesota, that he probably only spends an hour a month typing the minutes....It's not a huge commitment here folks. Somebody please step up to the plate and do this thing. Every principal of our wonderful program pretty much screams SERVICE, but where, I ask, does the rubber meet the road?

