

District 9 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 3.26.23

The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer with Diane, John, Ricco, Tom, Cathy, Jack, Joe, Chuck, Patrick, Phyllis, Heidi - Area 35 Northern Lights Editor, Kyle - Area 35 Webmaster and Sandy in attendance.

Tradition III: Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Read by Ricco.

Agenda Additions: Area 35 Northern Lights Editor, Area 35 Webmaster, Agenda Items

Secretary's Report: Last Month's Meeting Minutes approved.

CHAIR REPORTS

Treasury Report:

Beginning Balance	\$2,809.89
Income	\$ 180.00
Expenses	\$ 62.20
Ending Balance	\$2,207.69
Less Reserve	\$ -300.00
Total Balance	\$1,907.69 (See Attached)

Treatment: Ricco reported he attended the Area 35 Treatment Committee via zoom today in between the Area 35 Committee Meetings and the District meeting. They brainstormed on pulling the process together with the Bridging the Gap and use of the spreadsheet. The Area 35 Treatment Committee will have a table at the Spring Assembly with brochures and information

about Bridging the Gap. They are encouraging DCMs and Treatment Chairs to sign up as volunteers as contacts from each District. The spreadsheet is available on Area 35 Website. Once this project is complete they would like to present it to Area 36. There is discussion about having a statewide treatment committee with area 36 like corrections.

Corrections: Absent

Literature/Grapevine: Reminder that literature prices are going up! The new prices will go into effect on April 3, 2023, and generally reflect a 20% increase on books and a 30% increase on pamphlets.

Archives: Vacant

PI/CPC: March has been a very busy month with helping the planning of the very successful “Tri-District Workshop,” held here at the Hibbing Alano Club last week on Saturday, March 18. It was great to see so much participation from our 3 districts and even some from District 6. It was targeted for new people in the program who are carrying the message of A.A. The feedback has been very uplifting.

I did put some of our literature to be taken to local hospitals, clinics treatment facilities, etc. on the table in the Alano Club. If anyone wants some specific literature, please let me know.

I’ve also been involved with the online planning for the Area 35 treatment outreach, “Bridging the Gap,” headed up by Ricco. This is helping me to understand how we can better reach the newest members coming out of treatment, so they don’t get lost on the short journey to an A.A. meeting, plus educate some of the staff at the treatment center about A.A.

We do now have our District website, “district9online.org,” and we have had a QR code developed that I would like to have printed on a sticker that can be attached to our literature. I am in the process of finding a reasonable cost form them, otherwise we may just have it put on a business card size piece that we can distribute in our District.

I plan to attend the Spring Assembly coming up his next weekend in Alexandria.

Web Manager: Phyllis reported 394 new unique visitors and 1,161 total hits. Please let Phyllis, Diane or Chuck know if you want something posted on the website. All 3 have to approve it in order for it to be published on the District website.

GSR REPORTS		
GSR Sandy Tom, Alt.	Hibbing Downtown Group #110172 Monday Night St. James Church 7:00 pm Format: Hybrid-Steps, Traditions, BigBook, CAL 4 th & 5 th wk	Attendees: 12-14 Pins: 46 Years
GSR Jack	Thursday Morning Downtown Group #101949 St. James Church 10:00 am Format: Steps & Topic	Attendees: 10 Pins: 35 Years
GSR Cathy	Tuesday 4 pm Group #12541 Trinity Lutheran Church * We will be changing locations in April. Format: Steps, Big Book, Grapevine & Topic	Attendees: 6-8 Pins: 0
GSR Chuck	Thursday Noon Group #8471 Hibbing Alano Club 12:00 pm Format: 12x12	Attendees: 6-8 Pins: 0

GSR	Zim Group #42543 McDavitt Town Hall, Forbes, Wednesday Night 7:00 pm	Attendees: 3-4
Patrick	Format: Steps, Traditions, Grapevine, Big Book, 5 th week outside group takes a CAL Topic	Pins: 0
GSR	Hibbing Saturday Morning Group #110174 Hibbing Alano Club 10:00 am	Attendees: 12-18
Joe	Format: Daily Reflections	Pins: 20 Years 30 Days
GSR	Saturday Nite Keep It Simple Group 64685 Hibbing Alano Club 8:00 pm	Attendees: 8
John	Format: Big Book	Pins: 60 Days

ALT DCM Report: I attended the Lawrence Lake Open Speaker Meeting. Both speakers gave very good stories. The food was great! I also attended the Tri-District Agenda Items. Steve L., our Delegate, made a very good presentation of the Agenda Items “consider and the review.” It was an informative afternoon. I will also be attending the Spring Assembly in Alexandria, MN.
In Service Chuck R.

DCM Report: It has been a busy month since we last met. I attended the West Central Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Omaha. It was a very busy weekend. We went through all the Agenda Items. Also, there were topics brought by the other Areas. The General Session topic “Using Literature in Carrying the Message” was done by Area 52. They talked about using our literature in their groups and with sponsors and sponsees. It brings a passion and a love for A.A. They also gift literature to others. Many feel that books are divinely inspired, especially the early ones. “Fostering a Three Legacy Culture”, it was mentioned to watch for the newcomer when they come in the door and foster them in unity, recovery and service. “Our

Common Perils and Our Common Solution” talked about keeping unified and keep open. Our common problem is disunity and common solution is the traditions. We have Singleness of Purpose versus outside issues. The solution is working with others in A.A.

I also attended a breakout session Carrying the Message Online: Is Anyone Left in the Meeting Rooms. Mostly they talked about Hybrid meetings.

If you would like more information on any of the agenda items, please let me know. I have the discussion on all agenda items from the WCRAASC.

On March 18 we had a Tri-District workshop at the Hibbing Alano Club. There were about 60 present in-person and online. Charlie did an excellent presentation on Sponsorship. We had 10 Newcomers tell their experience working the steps with their sponsors. Abby and Evan told their stories including working with their sponsors. Needless to say, the “Focus was on Sponsorship”. Thanks to all who attended for making it a successful workshop.

I attended two open meetings, one in Lawrence Lake and one in Gilbert. It is always nice to hear the experience, strength, and hope. I always enjoy the fellowship.

On March 25, the Tri-District Workshop has a Conference Agenda Discussion with our Delegate, Steve L. We discussed the ‘consider’ agenda items and some of the other agenda items that were of interest. There was lots of discussion. He was very well prepared.

The Area 35 Spring Assembly is April 1 and 2 in Alexandria MN. We will inform our Delegate the Conference Agenda Items. We also have a list of other agenda items that will be discussed and/or voted on. Please come prepared to discuss these agenda items too. In Service Diane

Business (Old/New):

Heidi, Area 35 Northern Lights Editor reports that she uses up to 28 pages in the Northern Lights. Heidi wants to know what's most important to us as a District such as financials, events page, letters from members sent in, etc? What is least important? Discussion followed. Suggestions were made to remove the Map on the front page, move events out if they could make the next print and that financials were important. Also discussed was the expense of printing. Heidi asked the whether a digital copy is preferred vs a hard copy? Currently 1000 copies are being printed, 10 copies were provided to each district and 737 mailed out. The cost to add an event to the Northern Lights is \$30. The average budget is 20 pages, 1000 copies @ \$380 for printing and \$300 for postage. She is considering cutting printing by 100 and email notifications that the Northern Lights is available online.

Kyle, Area 35 Webmaster is proposing the purchase of Office 365 for all Area 35 positions to streamline all documents including Publisher used by Northern Lights.

This would allow all chairs to pass on their emails and have all documents in an accessible format. Since we are a not for profit, we would get a significant discount with google and/or Microsoft. Currently the system is inefficient with separate

accounts all being expensed. The new program would allow for easier, smoother and efficient for high level correspondence. Currently emails are ending up in spam. Cost is \$36/year per user. The cost of the program is \$700 per year/\$99 per month or Area 35 officers and chairs or \$149 to include past delegates. Area 36 allocates for their past delegates.

Archives Chair proposal: A motion was made to eliminate the Area 35 Archives Chair position. Four in favor, four opposed. The motion did not pass.

A motion was made to include the Archivist and Archives Chair Question & Answer session transcript in the DCM Report. Motion Passed.

Zonal Forum – the Forum is in our zone this year with District 8- Virginia, District 9 -Hibbing, District 14 - Int'l Falls, and District 12 – Duluth. This is an opportunity for area officers to come and participate. Justin suggested a GSR orientation would be nice at a Fall workshop. The cost of the Zonal Forum budgeted by Area 35.

District 16 would be interested in dividing the costs between Districts/Area.

Discussion followed. District 9 is not interested in a Zonal Forum by the end of the year nor a GSR workshop at this time. It was suggested that we have GSR workshops in the Spring after the next rotation.

Delegate nomination process: Currently each District is allowed 1 nominee. The Northern Lights Nov/Dec issue has more information.

It was suggested that when nominating other area officers (chair, treasurer, and secretary) the election process include a brief history of the nominees' service history from the person making the nomination. Please bring this topic back to your groups for discussion at the next District meeting.

Hybrid Meetings: Area Committee Meetings are proposing the initial chair meetings be hybrid and the Area Assembly be hybrid.

Web Manager as an elected position: The question arose if the Web Manager is a voting position. Currently, it is not. It is part of CPC/PI. Please discuss with your group the pros and cons of having another position in the District for Web Manager. Would they be required to come to the meetings on a regular basis. Currently the web master does not have to be at the meetings but is required to keep the website updated.

Area 35 Spring Assembly: April 1-2, 2023 Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN available on Zoom

Next District Meeting: Sunday, April 30, 2023 @ 6:00 pm Hibbing Alano Club & Hybrid
Meeting ID: 884 1245 0410 **Passcode:** 020124

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

Minutes taken by Sandy K., District 9 Secretary 520-664-6011 skomula@gmail.com