

District 9 Meeting Minutes

DATE: 4.30.23

The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer with Diane, John, Ricco, Tom, Jack, Denise, Joe, Chuck, Patrick, Phyllis, Larry, Nels-Area 35 PI Chair, and Sandy in attendance.

Tradition IV: With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount. Read by Ricco.

Agenda Additions: Web Manager, Delegate nomination, District Inventory, Open/Closed meeting problems, and discussion on disruption in meetings.

Secretary's Report: Corrected Beginning balance transposed from \$2,809.98 to \$2,089.89 minutes only. Minutes approved with correction.

CHAIR REPORTS

Treasury Report:

Beginning Balance	\$2,207.69
Income	\$ 185.00
Expenses	\$ 378.61
Ending Balance	\$2,014.08
Less Reserve	\$ -300.00
Total Balance	\$1,714.08 (See Attached)

Treatment: During the Spring Assembly and after the Spring Assembly a booth was put up where DCMs and treatment chairs had the opportunity to sign up. Our goal is to have every district represented on the spreadsheet which will be posted on Area 35 website. So far, 39 members have signed up as contacts for those getting out of treatment centers.

Corrections: Diane reported for Corrections as she is on the Statewide Committee for Corrections. The Statewide Committee consists of both Area 35 & Area 36. They looked at what's going on when people get out. Area 36 has a Temporary Contact Program, and we call it Bridging the Gap. There are many opportunities to speak at jails and Thisledw. Please contact Diane for more information on speaking at jails and/or Thisledw.

Literature/Grapevine: The new prices on literature went up on April 3, 2023. A 20% increase on books and a 30% increase on pamphlets. Please let me know if you have any questions or literature needs.

Archives: Vacant

CPC/PI: On April 1 and 2, I attended the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Alexandria. I attended as our Monday Night Downtown Group Alt GSR and our District 9 – CPC/PI representative.

As the CPC/PI representative from District 9, at the “Action Chair Committee Meeting” we talked about some different ways to reach out community with the AA message such as having meetings with the Probation Department and possibly being involved in their training sessions, working with treatment centers to be sure they have the latest materials, helping with the MN State Fair, if possible, etc.

I also participated as our Monday Night Downtown Group Representative by voting on the Agenda Items, etc.

I was able to come up with a source for getting our QR code stickers at the quantity of 1,000 for about \$25.00 and I will proceed with this because they are a good size to fit on the literature.

Yours in Service, Tom T.

Nels, Area 35 PI Chair, presented at our District 9 Meeting. He reminded us that A.A. is a program of Attraction rather than promotion. In 2020 A.A. has an estimated worldwide membership of over 2 million. He also reported Celebrate Recovery has over 2.5 million and that they have been around for 10 years. Based on these numbers in their fellowship, they have a variety of recovery, not just alcohol. Information had been gathered by google online.

Discussion followed. We know A.A. has a solution that works. As an individual member we can be attractive to the newcomer. Nels shared that when speaking at a treatment center recently, 9 identified themselves as chemically dependent. After speaking, they realized that they too had been alcoholics.

Nels, Area 35 PI, is asking those interested to Sign-up for the MN State Fair A.A. Booth for August 26 & 27, 2023! Please contact Nels if you want to sign up to cover any 2-hour slots at the booth. At the June Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin, he will get the list of available time slots for Area 35 Time slots are 2-hour time slots. Currently he has time slots available on 8/26th 5 pm – 7 pm (2), and 8/27th 1:00 pm and later while the booth is open from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm.

What it looks like to cover the A.A. State Fair Booth: Pamphlets, brochures, are retrieved in the education building, volunteers will cover the booth for a 2-hour time slot, people will stop by and ask questions, and you can hand out brochures that you feel are appropriate. Volunteers have to

pay to get into the fair. The cost for the Mn State Fair is \$15.00 in advance and \$18.00 at the door, plus your parking. Keep in mind, each district/group is autonomous if they want to pay expenses. There is no financial support from Area 35 to participate in the Mn State Fair's A.A. Booth. Area 35 does share the cost of up to \$700 with Area 36. Thank you Nels.

Web Manager: Phyllis reported there were **539** new hits out of the **1,475** hits this month on

www.district9online.org.

GSR REPORTS

GSR	Hibbing Downtown Group \$110172 Monday Night St. James Church 7:00 pm Meeting ID: 399 875 003 Password: 129930 Format: Hybrid – Steps, Traditions, Big Book, CAL	Attendess: 12-14 Pins: 43
Sandy Tom, Alt		
GSR	Thursday Morning Downtown Group #101949 St. James Church 10:00 am	Attendees: 10-11 Pins: 38 Years
Jack	Format: Steps & Topic	
GSR	Tuesday 4 pm Group #12541 Hibbing Alano Club (New Location)	Attendees: 8 Pins: 10 Years
Chuck for Cathy	Format: Grapevine Literature	
GSR	Thursday Noon Group #8471 Hibbing Alano Club 12:00 pm	Attendees: 6-8 Pins: 0
Chuck	Format: 12x12	
GSR	Zim Group #42543 McDavitt Town Hall, Forbes, Wednesday Night 7:00 pm	Attendees: 3-4 Pins: 40 Years
Patrick	Format: Steps, Traditions, Grapevine, Big Book, 5th week outside group takes a CAL Topic	

GSR	Hibbing Saturday Morning Group #110174 Hibbing Alano Club 10:00 am	Attendees: 20 Pins: 6 Months
Joe	Format: Daily Reflections	
GSR	Friday Day Night Group #106065 Keep It Simple Hibbing Alano Club 8:00 pm	Attendees: 11 Pins: 30 Days
John	Format: Big Book	

ALT DCM Report:

I attended the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Alexandria. Steve L., Delegate gave an excellent presentation on the GSO leadership change and the Agenda Items. A good time was had by all. I have been researching District inventories. I have developed a District 9 Inventory that has 11 questions. It seems to me that the district should do more to encourage participation from the membership. I will present this at the district meeting. Additionally, I have researched "Safety in the Groups" and will present some information during the meeting. In Service, Chuck R.

DCM Report

Thank you everyone for attending and participating in the District.

The Tri-District Workshop met on April 16. The date for our next workshop will be September 23, 2023 at the Hibbing Alano Club. We have asked Christine G. to be our speaker and she has agreed. As rotation approaches, we felt it important to talk about the GSRs, PI/CPC, Corrections/Treatment, DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, Grapevine/Literature and what their duties are. It is important to rotate these positions. Service sponsor will also be a topic. Our next

meeting will be May 7, on Zoom at 5:00 pm. If you would like to be involved on the committee, please let me know so I send you information on how to attend.

I attended the Area 35 Spring Assembly held in Alexandria. It was difficult to drive there but we arrived safe and sound. There has been communication sent to you about the Class A Trustee that resigned. Please read the Area Secretary Report for more information. We informed our delegate on the conference agenda items and I felt confident that he was well informed with the Area 35 conscience. He has been in New York this past week at the conference. The following are items that we voted on at the assembly.

Have Kyle move forward with Office 365 to connect DCM's, Area Officers, and Committee Chairs. This would save us \$60.00 in the long run. The monthly cost is \$99.55 per month.

Motion passed.

For 2023 only, Area 35 will hold ACMs virtually and offer hybrid Assemblies and workshops. Motion failed.

To have a one-minute presentation by nominating member of why the person standing for secretary, treasurer and chair should stand. Motion passed.

To reconsider for discussion of the Financial Oversight Committee Report. Motion failed.

There was question whether the Financial Oversight Committee reported on the finances at the June meeting. The secretary looked at her minutes and they did but it was not in the minutes. She will update the June 2022 ACM Meeting minutes.

Send and pay for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate only to the West Central Regional Forum. If the June the finances look better, we can re-evaluate sending others. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Mark R as the new Corrections Chair. Motion passed.

Read in the Area Secretary Report the discussion of why past delegates are not attending ACMs and Assemblies.

Please read the Area Treasurer's Report in the Area Secretary Report. Contributions from groups have been up from the previous year. The Treasurer is still concerned about the finances.

The Fall Assembly will be in St Cloud, October 7-8 at the River's Edge Convention Center.

Business (Old/New)

Web Manager – Do we want to create another position? Do we want to fund attendance at area committee meetings, assemblies and workshops and allow to vote also? Right now, the Web Manager works under CPC/PI. The Web Manager keeps the website current; updates change in positions update and keep current events, activities, etc. updated. We anticipate more people visiting our website with the QR codes on literature. Phyllis doesn't see that it is necessary to have the Web Manager as a separate position. This position can be defined before the next rotation. The DCM and Alt DCM have to approve any changes prior to the Web Manager making any changes to the website. It is a position of a Web Manager only.

Should this position be kept under another chair? Tom spoke with other CPC chairs at the Spring Assembly, and they do not have a separate position for it. The Web Manager falls under CPC/PI.

It's our responsibility to get her the information. Phyllis was asked to write up a position description. Chuck offered to send her a guideline to use in writing the position.

District Inventory – Chuck handed out a District Inventory worksheet from District 8. He is asking to tackle these questions over the next few months with 2-3 questions at a time at each District meeting. Please review the District Inventory and discuss this with your groups. (See Attached) There are many groups not represented in our District. Chuck sees the purpose is to attract more people to the district and attract more GSRs. We want to invite members to the meetings. One suggestion was for the DCM to go to meetings and explain what a GSR does. Larry shared as a past Delegate that he went to all the meetings and shared who he was, what he did and what GSRs do.

Delegate Nomination: I would like to nominate Diane R., as a District 9 representative, to stand for the office of Area 35 Delegate for the upcoming 2-year term of 2024-2025. I believe Diane has done an exemplary job as the District 9 DCM as well as other past offices she has held. She shows a strong desire to help the still suffering alcoholic and is proficient at computer skills, verbalizing the desires of District 9 recommendations and desires at the area assemblies, and she is willing to put in the required time and complete the tasks for the office she has. She is very resourceful and willing to help others. I believe Diane would make an excellent Delegate. In Service – Tom T.

I place in nomination for Area 35 Delegate, Diane R. Diane devotes a significant portion of her life in fellowship and service to Alcoholics Anonymous. She has a thorough understanding of A.A.'s structure along with the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service. Diane has a unique

quality of clear, plain and calming speech, all very important for a Delegate. I wholeheartedly place in nomination for Area 35 Diane R. In Service Jack P.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion from Open/Closed Meetings: Zim has requested to change their Closed Meeting status to an Open Meeting status for the purpose of attracting more people to their meeting. They believe the current schedule showing “Closed” may give the impression that they are no longer open. This change is already updated on the website. Also, Zim will be having an open meeting in August of 2023. Discussion followed. We will update the new schedules at the next printing with the codes “O” and “C” to signify whether the meeting is an open or closed type meeting. A definition of this is already on the schedule.

Safety & Disruptions at meetings: Chuck ran across some A.A. information on dealing with disruptions. (See Attached) Consider group’s conscious on how your group wants to handle any/all disruptions. Discussion followed: The chairperson can state that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If necessary, law enforcement can be called. It was suggested to managing time to allow each member to be able to speak at a meeting by using round-robin. Also, remind others at the beginning of a meeting to be considerate of the time to allow for everyone to speak. It’s the chair’s responsibility to manage this. Today’s there is a lot more mental illness, a person may not only be alcoholic – reach out in a friendly way was suggested. Please discuss with your group how you would handle this.

Tri-District Workshop Committee Meeting: May 7, 2023 @ 5:00 pm
Meeting ID: 844 2122 8372 **Passcode:** 354058

Next District Meeting: Sunday, May 21, 2023 @ 6:00 pm Hibbing Alano Club & Hybrid
Meeting ID: 884 1245 0410 **Passcode:** 020124

Delegate Report Back with District 16: May 27, 2023 @ 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids (Ice Cream social to follow)

Area 35 Committee Meetings (ACM): June 4, 2023 @ 9:00 – 2:00 Aitkin, MN

WCR Forum: August 25-27, Montana

Tri-District Workshop: September 23, 2023, Hibbing Alano Club.

Area 35 Fall Assembly: October 7-8, 2023, River's Edge, St. Cloud Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN

Closed with the Responsibility Statement

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