

## **Proposal 1 - District 24 sponsoring a Hospitality Suite at Gopher State.**

As some you may know, Kent H. has been organizing the hospitality suite for the Chaska groups in the current and past years for the Gopher State Roundup. He is stepping down from this responsibility and suggests that either someone else from the Chaska area take over the organization of the hospitality suite for the Chaska groups or, as another possibility, that District 24 take over the responsibility of this suite.

Kent has provided the following cost information: The cost for the hospitality suite that the Chaska groups are currently paying for at the Gopher State Roundup this year (with 2 additional tables and eight extra chairs) is \$326. This cost is always due by April 1 each year. An additional \$300 is also budgeted for food, pop, coffee, paper plates & cups, which would bring the total budgeted amount to approximately \$626.00. If groups want to “potluck” it (Lakes does this), this cost could be eliminated.

From District 24’s perspective, we would need to budget for the full amount just in case there were no contributions from the Groups. I do realize that the groups would contribute; however the District would be responsible for the full amount and the budget would reflect that.

District 24 is not getting the contributions from the Groups as it is to help do some work with our current and struggling committees. So how can we in good conscience support this proposal to fund the hospitality room at Gopher State next year?

In my opinion, there are better ways to spend the Groups’ contributions to the District than to fund hospitality rooms. We have Committee Chairs in the District, but we have no action in these Committees. This is because there have been no proposals to *carry the message* to do the committee work. It is fine to have workshops to promote district unity; however, we do need *more* participation from the Group members to do the 12<sup>th</sup> step work in the committees.

I do not see anyone going to our local Libraries and Hospitals. I do not see anyone approaching Schools, Veterans clubs, Extended Care Facilities, Retirement Homes, Group Homes, Light Care Facilities, Doctor’s offices, Lawyer’s offices, or Clergy’s offices.

The One thing that we do have going on in our community is the Jail meetings (Chaska and Shakopee) and the Groups have not picked up on that. What Karl started and Dave is currently carrying on is what a Committee is designed to do. We do need to be carrying out the District’s work before we can host hospitality rooms at roundups.

The **purpose** of the District is to provide 12<sup>th</sup> step opportunities for the Groups in the District. It is the job of the Committee to seek out these opportunities and present them to the Groups at the District meeting. That is exactly what the Corrections Chair has done.

We, in District 24, are going through growing pains. We, as a District, need to start **focusing** on our **primary purpose**, which is to **carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who are in need**.

Karl needs help with the Public Information Committee

Kent could use some help with the Treatment Facilities Committee

Greg needs help with the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee  
Dave needs help with the Corrections Committee.  
Annette needs help with Group Records.  
Susan could use some help with the Newsletter Committee.  
Marty needs help with Group Outreach

As you can see there is plenty of work to go around, but we desperately need the participation from the members of the groups.

I liked what Kent said at the District meeting. The GSRs need to be going to the Area Assemblies and vote their group conscience. The Groups have the say and the GSR is the voice of the Group.

To carry this out one step further, the Committee Chair's job is to attend the Committee meetings that are held in Mankato 4 times a year. At these meetings they can find out what their Committee is all about and find ways to encourage members of the District's groups to do 12<sup>th</sup> step work in their community.

We seem to get caught up in the idea that AA is a social club, and that we need to have all of these activities to stay sober and now the proposal is to have the District serve as our social director. From personal experience, I have found that what is needed to stay Sober is a good Home Group, a good Sponsor, working with another Alcoholic and getting involved with AA as a whole.

The rest of this is the fellowship in the Roundups, the sober dances, the picnics, the chili feeds and so on. Are what we do to have fun at these functions serve a purpose; however, is that purpose what the District should be involved with?

We have come a long way in the District from where we were. I would not like to see this all go away and the focus change to the party time atmosphere that seems to be going on at the present.

I like to have fun just like the rest of you, but not at the expense of my sobriety and the expense of the District.

In my opinion, District 24 does not need an Activities Chair.

If we are going to have a function in the District we need to give the opportunity to a member who would like to plan it and pull a committee together to carry it out.

This is how we did it for the Sponsorship Workshop and it seems to be working just fine. There are several people involved with the Committee and involved with the workshop its self. Rather than having an activities chair how about having a Remote Communities Chair or a Grapevine chair?? Which, by the way, these committees are still vacant.

Ask yourself this question: What is the primary Purpose of AA and what have I done today to carry that out?

Yours in Service,  
Frank B. DCM