

Area 36 Area Assembly - June 28, 2008 – Hutchinson

Officer's Reports

Scott A. – Area 36 Delegate

Three Delegate reports left to do.

Steve K. – Alt. Delegate

*The Area 36 GSR packet has been updated. Good as a resource – great for a GSR Orientation.

* Trusted Servant Leadership Training again next year later in Jan. '09 will be in Northfield.

Niles A. – Area 36 Chair

* Has attended a few workshops in the Area.

* Trusted Servant Leadership Workshop will be in late Jan. or first part of Feb.

* Summer Assembly for '09 will be in July

* Budget

* Area 36 Trusted Servant Guidelines

* RUSC will be at Jackpot Junction in Redwood Falls next year.

Chris O. – Alt. Chair

* Reviewed the Trusted Servant Guidelines for Southern MN

* In October, we are electing new Area Officers

* Asking for help suggesting qualified people to be standing committee chairs

* Birthday Contribution envelopes provided

* Chair of RUSC – Working on topics for the upcoming conference; has been visiting groups that aren't participating in the Area.

Andy E. – Treasurer

Mileage will be going up to .36/mi as of July 1st.

* reason money is down is because of the RUSC (Recovery, Unity and Service Conference) – spent \$4,000 more because only 200 people showed up. Anticipated more membership so more money was spent setting up the Conference.

Angie E. – Area 36 Secretary

* Always be willing and the Higher Power will take care of the rest. (she learned from Dorothy).

* God doesn't choose to qualify; he qualifies the chosen. (Another Dorothy).

District Reports

1 – Mike – Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Rochester, Wabasha. New Remote Communities Chair; New Web chair; Adopt-a-Hotel campaign has gone very well;

7 – Jim D. - Edina, Eden Prairie, Chanhassen – Workshop in April; Busy informing the professionals about what AA is and What AA isn't; Doing a lot of CPC work – providing literature to hotels and to the professionals, Nursing homes and long-term care;

13 – Kris – Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Columbia Heights. – CPC Breakfast on Nov. 12. Gratitude night in Sept. New Outreach Chair – getting packets ready and go to mtgs that are not registered.

15 – Liz – Washington County – Eastern edge of State – St. Croix on the East and St. Paul on the West. Washington County Fair Booth – Plan a Fellowship on Sept. 11 – topic RUS (Recovery, Unity & Service). Some pockets of enthusiasm in corrections and CPC. Washington County jail now has meetings. New CPC Chair.

17 – Jeannie – McCob, Carver; Visiting new adolescent treatment center;

21 – Tom – Presence at the Hennepin County Fair – very successful.

25 – Shawn – Richfield, Bloomington - 80 meetings – Doing a group outreach in the District. A lot of misinformation out there about what the general service structure does. Hennepin County fair. Looking at the Adopt-a-Hotel program. Huge hotel district.

27 – Jesus – gave his report in Spanish – Dan from Northfield interpreted.

Committee Chair Reports

Public Information– Doug Childs – Alternate – Public Info. booth at MN State Fair '08. Booth is staffed for all 12 days – 12 hours a day. 144 hours. Needs at least 150 volunteers. Costs \$2,200-\$2,400. A significant commitment. This year has been reluctance on the part of the Districts to staff that booth.

Videos will be made locally for Information to Young People. Area PI was asked to come to a couple of concerts done by Gay Men's Chorus and the Transgender Health Fair. Contacted by Exec Comm of NA to share some of our PI experience and to share contacts that they've made in the community. Carla will be meeting with reps. of NA on July 23.

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Corrections – Scott - Absent. Annette W. gave a brief report on the CFCP (Correctional Facilities Contact Program).

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Website: Ben H. – discussed proposed on-line Committee Directory – Area 35 was asked to participate and this will make it a state-wide project. Only groups registered are to be entered on the State-wide directory. Proposal came from June 2003. On website. Why just registered groups? 7th tradition. Groups that are participating are the ones that should be represented – they are the ones paying for the site. Self-supporting. We are doing it for the groups that are here and that are funding it. What message do we want to convey to the newcomer as far as the 3 legacies? Web committee proposes that only groups registered with GSO are to be listed on online directory. Is the information from GSO accurate? Phyllis stated that they can now look at the information online. Doesn't think accuracy of what is online will be an issue. If there is incorrect information, there is the ability to send an e-mail to the contact on that site.

Is this going to be grouped with Intergroup site at all. No.

If a Club has 32 meetings with one GSR – problem? No.

How do you differentiate from the groups that contribute or not? Don't.

Belief that it is our responsibility to get groups registered. This hopefully will motivate groups to get registered.

The areas that really need this are those areas that are not serviced by an Intergroup.

FNB – stands for Fellowship New Vision – This is the company that takes care of GSO's database.

District 13 – groups aren't registered. A central location is a great idea to monitor accuracy.

There has to be a reason to get into the service structure. This website directory is another good reason.

This will be a challenge to involve non-registered groups.

Minority Opinion: Dean – vetoed the requirement that meetings be registered to be on the website.

Proposal: Called, Seconded, Proposed: Only groups registered w/ GSO are to be listed on the online meeting directory. Voted on - (needs 2/3rds vote) - 72 -6 Substantial unity and Passed that only registered groups be listed on the State-wide website.

Minority opinion – inconsistencies between Intergroup and MN Area sites.

Proposal: Web Committee proposes that Area 36 share the full data download from FNV with the architect of the online meeting directory. The architect of the site will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Each Area Chair has data only in their area.

Called, Seconded, Proposed, Voted, Unanimously Passed. 78-0.

Minority opinion – None.

Proposal: In the spirit of the 7th Tradition, the Web proposes that Area 36 compensate for the labor cost for the build of the online meeting directory. The amount estimated for labor is \$5,000.00

Discussion: This is a specific skill and if that person wasn't member of AA, we would have to hire someone and pay that person. \$50/hour for 100 hours. This person does this for a living for non-profit outfits. Area 36 has invited Area 35 to come in on this. 500 groups in Area 35. Area 36 comprises 70% of the groups in Minnesota.

Should be paid in the Tradition of self-supporting.

Area 35 didn't express a great interest in this venture. If we are going to commit to an amount, assume that we might be paying for all of it without any contribution from Area 35.

Tradition 8 – Our service centers may employ special workers. \$50/hr is very cheap. Suggested getting bids.

Professionalism and service work should be separated.

This person is an active member of the website committee. He has done some work for the website committee.

When do we pay this amount? He is open to any type of payment plan.

Do we have the funds?

What does the area want to do in the spirit of Tradition 7?

Opinion is to pay this worker at a reasonable going rate. Only the rich will be able to afford to do these positions.

What is the yearly maintenance cost of this program? \$next to nothing. \$100 a year at most. Updating code, software, normal stuff done to websites.

Would a formal contract being drawn up for this individual? Is there a timeline? Will there be a maintenance determination presented in the contract to control the costs? Yes.

Descending vote – He can donate \$2,000 of his time, we pay the max of \$2,000 and Area 35 pays \$1000.

Up to the Area Assembly to decide.

Area 35 Directory. Why are we not incorporating into their program and sharing the same idea. We are using the same programming. We have already purchased to software.

The Area 35 Web guy did it as in-kind contribution.

Proposal:In the spirit of the 7th Tradition, the Web proposes that Area 36 compensate for the labor cost for the build of the online meeting directory. The amount estimated for labor is \$5,000.00.

Called, Seconded, Proposed, Voted, Passed 57-18 – Passed with a 2/3rds vote.

Minority opinion – None.

Amount to be determined by Assembly: At the present time, we are moving on to the mailing list policy.

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Proposal: Area Mailing List Distribution Policy - Will not be shared with "anyone."

55-12 in favor of the revised policy.

Minority Opinion: When we say "anyone." Does that mean anyone within the District 36 service entity?

Do we want to revote on this proposal. What are we revoting on? If we do revote, can we open the discussion again? Yes.

Revoting – majority passed.

Discussion is carried. Mailing list proposal, not a group records proposal. If Phyllis needs to share group records with me as a DCM, that is fine. We are talking about a "mailing list" policy. Thanks for clarifying. We are talking about the Southern MN mailing list, not the Pigeon mailing list, correct? No, the DCMs only get the lists from their District, they don't get the lists from every District in MN.

Clarify "mailing list." Mailing list is used for 2 purposes: 1) mail out the Pigeon; and 2) part of the list is used for the Finance letter which goes to the GSRs and Alt. GSRs, Finance Committee Chairs.

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Proposal: All past delegates in the US and Canada are eligible to stand as an Area Officer

48 for / 10 against

Minority opinion: None. Amendment stands.

Continuing with Committee Chair Reports:

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Remote Community – Meg - Able to attend the RUSC, WCRSC, Delegate’s Workshop, composed an article for the Remote Communities Communicator; still visiting Districts and working to help you. Still looking to do a Fall workshop with CPC and PI.

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CPC – David Butler - Really busy. RUSC and Trusted Leadership Servant School; Area Inventory; WCRSC, District 19, Gratitude Night, and District 24. Nat’l Assoc. of Social Workers Conf. – handed out about 1,000 pieces of literature. Henn. Cty. Fair; Scott County social services presentation; went to District 15 to help start their CPC committee. Next year: MN Social Services Assoc. mtg (10x larger than NASWC in March ‘09) – will put this in the budget.

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Treatment Facilities – Robert – Wrote a long article for the Pigeon. Has new Temporary Contact Volunteer form that has been updated. Andy DiMartino is the temp. desk coordinator. Database is updated; volunteer slots at the desk are full. Need clients now! Need active treatment facility chairs in your district to reach out to the clients.

Sample GSR (General Service Rep.) Report: Dan from Northfield gave the sample GSR Report. (Summary of this Area Assembly that he will report to his Group). As a GSR, he generally shares the spirit of what goes on – tries to keep his report interesting and brief.

District reports shared

Always a lot of service opportunities

Online meeting directory – using registered v. non-registered groups to list on the directory. 72/6 in favor.

Voting privileges – Discussion of who can vote.

Discussion about Policy v. trusting our Trusted Servants – are we getting too policy oriented – Rule 62. As drunks, can we strictly be policy driven?

Discussion about paying the website architect. Voted in favor to pay the architect, but not how much.

Share Area mailing list. Shared how I voted.

Election policy. There was an unfriendly amendment made which I thought was cool. We distinguished how we nominate only past service delegates that as Trustees.

The more I attend Area Assemblies, the more I understand, the more I feel confident in sharing, and the more I feel a part of AA as a whole.

Area Inventory Discussion

4 years ago, our Area Inventory suggestions were:

To always hold GSR sharing sessions.

The Area should sponsor Districts; make area functions more fun; decrease days; focus.

Area should have outreach committees; drag people along.

Old-timers should agitate things; should be willing to fight more; don't push newcomers too quickly; Strengthen districts; let Districts do more such as service sponsorship; Pink Can at the District level.

GSRs should sit in and on Area Committee meetings for a 2-year rotation.

Help Districts help out with Corrections; 3rd Legacy committee for dark districts at the group level.

Samira reduced our last Inventory to this list.

Announcements:

Frank asked Annette W. to step up to the microphone and announce the new Spanish Big Book meeting in Chaska on Sundays at 7pm at the St. Andrews Lutheran Church (flyer attached).