

DCM Report
Oct 4, 2022

I attended Fall Assembly Oct 1-2. I want to thank all who attended from our District: Marvel, Lee Ellen, Kurt, Gary, and Sharla. It is a good feeling to know that we all are interested in advancing AA and making sure it is here for the next suffering alcoholic.

I want to thank Marvel for her support as Alt DCM and Chairing the past 2 meetings. It is so nice to know we aren't in it alone.

Here are my comments from the Fall Area Assembly

Delegate report

Final report from GSO can be sent to GSRs by email -contact Steve - final hard copies not available yet - General Service Conference Reports - Expect possibly at Dec area meeting

Passed on the 4 agenda items approved by our Area to GSO

Steve added - Using QR codes or an alternate form of communication - for pamphlets

There are approximately 150 conference committee agenda items so far this year; many related to:

Changes to 12 and 12; preamble; and the plain language version of the BB

8 groups assigned survey in our Area - an outreach by GSO; he had trouble getting participation because wrong contacts and/or no response - 640 total groups asked - they are used to analyze trends - last done in 2014 - so new baseline to see if they are reaching the still suffering alcoholics.

Cost of goods sold tripled this year - publication expenses increased and is causing - 159,000 over budgeted expenses for GV - prices are expected to increase. 1.2 mill loss budgeted. Spikes in shipping - 1mill from groups is helping to offset losses.

WCRAASC is supposed to have a reserve of 9,000. It fell short because Area 36 spent 2000 on unnecessary sign language interpreters and other expenses. Fee may need to be increased. Formed an adhoc committee for better planning.

AlternatieDelegate - Justin W

Arrangements for service workshop have been made - DCM's who have not presented at the workshop will be contacted and asked to participate (our Dist is not in this rotation, expect 2024)

Chair - added Justin as a signatory at the bank - need to have 2 -

Area 36 joint meeting - consensus is to get together again - didn't have joint committee breakout sessions - encourage to reach out to Area 36 counterpart to touch base.

Area corrections service workshop on Oct 8 from 10am-3pm - St Cloud River's Edge Convention Center or online - zoom: 812-1684-1350 - password dEc58W

Area 35 47th Annual Service Workshop - Jan 14-15, 2023 opens at 9am - registration \$15 - Holiday Inn Duluth - room rates \$159 plus tax

Area 35 Spring Assembly - Holiday Inn Alexandria - April 1-2nd, 2023 - rooms \$129.99 plus tax

DCM reports due Oct 10 to Sally

Webmaster - Updates to website - technical things in the background. Looking forward to adhoc technology committee meeting tomorrow.

Sunday Business

Vote: Past Delegates are eligible to be nominated for Area service positions not previously held." Passed by vote of 54 (2/3 needed was 54)

Area inventory - chair will open for another 2 weeks.

Area inventory – Chair will create adhoc committee to summarize what is working; what can use improvement

Ad-hoc Technology committee: Recommendation: Use MicroSoft office for area officers/committee chairs - cost \$1800 with additional \$750 cost for outdated video conferencing equipment

Area 35/36 Joint WS Update: Christine will set up another meeting, continued discussion can only help not hurt

New Business:

GSR Sharing Session Report:

Good questions and feedback

5 questions:

-Have information available in several ways

DCM travel to meetings: share what GSR duties

-How to keep old-timers from keeping newcomers away - pull aside newcomers and talk to them; meeting chair responsible - pull aside old timer

-Get new GSR's involved - move Dist meetings to meeting locations; sponsorship; get newcomers involved right away; give out pamphlets and flyers with opportunities- support those that want to be involved

-Never give money; buy them dinner; help by giving them resources information; fill gas tank;

-Show interest in newcomers; greet them; welcome newcomers; offer newcomers meeting (1st step) focus on AA program of recovery and what AA is and what it can do for you

DCM Sharing Session

Question - Julie Dist 6 - growing rapidly - Travel Expenses - how do Dist remember what was passed previous rotations? - create an action book for Districts?

Dist 16 - Keep a data base of past decisions and query it using key terms using F4

Secretary records actions in meeting minutes

Have a financial policy - outline what Dist will pay: travel, mileage, and other expenses

Spiral booklet and each year the secretary adds to it; it was put in PDF form; google doc and can search; keep receipts and submit; share rooms; share gas; be reasonable on meals

Decisions made sent to Area Archives - in the future will be searchable

Create a list of all approved action items

Use F4 to search - put all meeting minutes in a folder

How can I be of more service to GSRs - communicate better?

Call each group contact and create an email list - Secretary maintains it

Send once - then send a reminder - bring up at a Dist meeting

Call each GSR and ask them to complete - ex: an inventory - or text

How can we use our websites better? Announcements - what's coming up

Give a context for the request - explain it - relationship building

Put it on my calendar -

Use another channel for group business - Slack, text, or something else; be flexible

Would it be useful to have 2 DCM sessions instead of Committee meetings?

Purpose of DCM attending Action committee - Train DCMs to be chairs in next rotations - is why we have committee meetings -

Is there a District inventory?

Aa.org - has a district inventory - 12 questions - do one each month

Officers/Action Chair Session Report

Webmaster shared technology recommendation

Discussion on reports for NL and when due

State Fair Booth

Joint venture with Area 36 - asked for volunteers and there wasn't a lot of excitement. Questions- is this the best use of our resources - No - not a bad thing but not best for our area. Based on what people shared about their experience. this year we declined - PI Chair would take a commitment that we couldn't fulfill. Request - people who have participated at the fair and their experience.

Dist 6 - 2 people served 2 years ago - great time with family - checked in every 2 hours - our area showed up, coordinating for that year was difficult, she took another 2 hour time slot.

Dist 13 - Motion - Area 35 not participate either staffing the State Fair Booth or financially supporting the State Fair Booth - Scott - 2nd - motion tabled, see discussion and vote below

Nels PI Chair - will refer people interested in serving to the Area 35 PI Chair

Dist 8 - It is a way to cooperate with Area 36 - and it is the State fair

Dist 7 - Might open the door for younger people who might ask questions

Delegate - Is this for just this year? 125,000 people a day go; 50,000 people a day go through the education center. More important - participate in how the booth is presented- make it educational - room to communicate with Area 36

Dist 3 - It has an instructional manual with resources. People from No Mn do visit the booth. We would want the booth to be there.

Dist 5 - Reaching out is important, both the alcoholic and the family. If we aren't willing to support it then we are out.

Panel 54 Past Delegate - Paid half the expense and had half the spots; made DCMs feel obligated to provide 4 people - PI Chair - made a phone call, told them what to do and not do at the booth. AA is visible - stays in their minds - this is service work - face to face contact - would be a missed opportunity

Treatment Chair - Principles before Personalities - Chairs are working on unity - well attended and important to have presence at the Fair. Repair ill feeling.

Literature Chair - Love to see us mend the fence

Nels - for people that are new to service - our piece has been opening weekend. We haven't had a say because it is Area 36 event - has to do with coordinating the event and contributing money. Is it the best use of time and resources.

Alternate Delegate - Question is do you want to have the opportunity to man the booth? Group wants to maintain the opportunity.

We pay maximum of \$700 - 2/3 of the cost

Motion: Simple majority - Area 35 is not participating in staffing or contributing financial support. Motion did not pass. Area 35 will support the fair.

Minority voice: Discussed at length in the PI committee - not reaching out to still suffering alcoholic- can we better use the funds and time. Have a booth at Gopher State roundup?

Delegate Nomination Process Discussion - have a discussion on our procedure for electing our delegates. A District can put forward one name for a Delegate.

Delegates stand for the position if you are qualified and are willing to stand you can - Delegates complete the resume and people vote based on that. Current process is nominations.

Sharing session: is there some history to the resume process and nominating procedure that anyone wants to share.

Past delegate - if principle is that we don't like nominating somebody? Then we nominate our other officer positions and do we want to continue for Delegate?

Last time we had 2 that were willing to stand - thinks it would be nice to have more than one or 2 - other area's stand when willing

Start having the conversations now and talk to people – find out what they want

Steve Lere - Reason picked in the past - could afford to go to NY (in the beginning) How we nominated started in the 60's - made sure we had qualified people - not based on personality. Districts can nominate 1 and another District can nominate someone from another District.

When voting - the candidates resume is in the NL - but persons don't give a summary on voting day. Is there space to do that.

Privilege if someone asks you to serve - is it going to come to you and not to seek it.

When conference elects Trustees - maybe if the District can talk about why they nominated that Delegate.

Take this back to Districts and Chair will put it on old business.

NL information suggestions: We are limited to 28 pages - sometimes lots more information - sometimes we remove things - financials, traditions -

Set up a survey - what do you think is the most important to keep?

Discussion - see more events: round robins, etc; communication - read area and Dist reports - will add to old business - talk to groups and bring it back

Budgets:

Will put the position budget up and allow discussion/question

At the end take a full vote

Motion to add to Webmaster budget cost of MicroSoft 365 and video conferencing equipment -motion to approve 2023 - \$89,464.21 - budget passes - ask group for additional support.

Minority opinion - concern about approving budget without money

Area Committee go back and refine their budget - living by a balanced budget and not a hopeful budget

Motion - all area officer positions have an alternate - 4 in favor - motion failed

Treasurer nominations -

Terry P

Vicki R

Vicki was elected after 2 rounds of voting