Open meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Introductions: P. C., DCM; V. W., Treasurer/Webmaster, A. K.; GSR, DL Alano Club; J. W., Perham GSR; B. D., Helpline Attendant; M. S., St. Mary of the Lakes GSR (new!); S. R., Treatment liaison; C B., Eye Opener GSR/Literature chair; W. F., GSR for Frazee; L. W., Secretary.

Concept 3: (BD): read and explained "effective leadership" and how we are able to extend various positions positions with decision-making powers, even GSRs.

Tradition 3: (JW): read about the "only requirement to be a member is to have a desire to quit drinking" and how we cannot refuse anyone based on petty differences.

Reports:

Secretary: B. D. made a motion to accept the January minutes, AK seconded, motion carried. JW made a motion to accept the Feb. minutes, WF seconded, motion carried. LW is working on editing the District 3 Committee list.

Treasurer: V.W.: Balance: $2,218.75 after $500 prudent reserve. Any questions, may post on our website.

Webmaster: VW: she has now included a self-assessment, the 3rd Step Prayer and all of the meetings available in our district. We discussed adding a page entitled "AA approved Prayers." CB made the motion, AK seconded, carried unanimously.

DCM: Report: 03/22/2016 per P. C.:

"The WCRAASC was held in Cedar Rapids, IA on Feb. 27th through March 1st. There were 346 registered attendees; most were in person. There was discussion about how to conduct a District Inventory and the resources available. If there is interest and/or willingness, we can discuss conducting one. It has been awhile since one was done here.

"The challenge of getting virtual meeting members involved in service was raised. This is especially important for members who only attend virtual meetings. Given the geographic dispersal of attendees, knowing where or how to serve is a barrier that needs to be addressed. For example, electing a GSR and what District meeting to attend may be uncertain. Should Districts have hybrid meetings so Virtual GSRs can attend?

"Encourage your Groups to update their info with GSO to let it know we're here and can influence GSO decisions. Many groups grumble and withhold contributions, but don't participate. Raising their profiles with GSO, Area 35, and the District will increase their influence. The message is "Don't get mad, get heard."

"From 1992 to 2022, the average AA member age has gone from 41 to 52 years old. This is a concerning trend. Perhaps the GSC will address this issue. A report prepared by D. G., Marion, IA, lays this out and many other warning signs for the Fellowship. It is a concise and clear report with many easy-to-understand charts. I can e-mail a copy to anyone who wants to see it. Should we consider a member survey to address this and other issues and learn what concerns are out there?

"A general session focused on gossip. It was defined as unverified "facts." A handy test to use before talking about someone else is to ask "Is this person in the room." Gossip masquerades as concern and is, at its root, resentment. It was also described as a defense mechanism used to deflect attention away from our defect, a veritable "defect deflect."

"The general session closed with the reminder that constant effort is necessary."

ADCM: open position

Helpline: (B. D.): BD read his report and elaborated on a couple of the calls. He received four calls in all. “It’s always time to distribute tear-offs to any community bulletin boards. If everyone just put up two on boards where they frequent, we could cover a lot of ground!”

PI/PCP: Open! See New Business.

Literature: CB: Has sold $14 worth of books recently. She commented that prices are going up. New book “Gratitude “ coming up in April. CB is interested in going to the Spring Assembly and was wondering if her trip could be funded. She will pick up more books while she is there. WF made a motion to approve this expense and VW seconded it. Motion carried.

Treatment: (SR): SR contacted SB regarding Rewind speaking engagements: they prefer bringing back old alumni to speak to their groups, but will utilize our help as needed. They print out their own meeting schedules but SR will drop some comprehensive ones off. He checked with Lakes Counseling and they are set with new schedules. He left a couple with the fancy code on them. He also dropped new schedules off at DayStar Recovery Center.

Corrections: Open, PH is done with his term. But he did submit a report: “M.J. reports that Clay County Jail meetings are going well. In Ottertail [a different] SR reports that he has been the only member bringing meetings into the jail but two new people have been approved to join him. Hopefully they embrace this opportunity.
“Wadena Jail meetings are going well with 3 members bringing in meetings on Monday and Thursday nights. Becker County Jail has had a few bumps in the road due to staff errors that are being addressed.
“I attended the Area 35/36 Statewide Corrections meeting. There was talk of moving the meeting from Zoom to in-person somewhere in the Twin Cities. This is a monthly meeting and would require long drives for some committee members. No meeting changes were made.”

GSR Reports:
A. K.: (Former’s Group - DL): 12 folks came to Game Night last night. There will be a Round Robin on April 11th @ 6pm at their Alano Club. A Sponsorship Workshop has been organized for May 2nd, also at the DL Alano Club. AK plans on attending the Spring Assembly in Alexandria.

JW (Perham Solutions Group): meeting speaking engagements obligations at the Becker County Jail and Lakes Counseling. Perham is doing well financially, able to sustain self-supporting status. He considers attendance to be “normal “ for this time of year: Mondays: about 8-12 folks; Tuesdays: also around 8-12; Wednesdays: appx. 8; Thursdays: between 8-15 gals. JW was concerned about what number to use for donations, PC and VW helped figure this out. Evidently, he can use one number.

WF, Frazee meeting: concerned about newcomers who came but have not returned. About 5 in attendance recently.

M. S. (St. Mary’s of the Lake): Fridays: 7:30pm: Attendance: 4-10; Saturdays 9:30am, Attendance: 7-12. No issues with either group. M.S. 9is their new GSR.

Old Business:

A. Contribute to Spring Assembly to help cover snacks expenses (could simply bring some?). VW made a motion to contribute $50 towards snacks. (PC will buy and get reimbursed).
B. Purchase 1st Ed. Reprints of Big Book ($2 each) for PI/CPC and other uses (no longer available).

C. Call for volunteers for Correctional Facilities Transitions Fairs; contact JO at corrections@area35.org or 507/517-7745.

New Business:

Final Agenda Items for Spring Assembly: PC had a power point document that he introduced.

PI/CPC position open.

B.D. handed out some pamphlets on “Safety and AA” - when to notify authorities, emergencies, harassment, etc.

Had a discussion regarding adopting the Waubun meeting into District 3. VW made a motion to admit this group into our District 3 group. AK seconded this amendment. Carried unanimously.

Calendar:

A. 02/27 to 3/1: WCRAASC in Cedar Rapids, IA (PC went, already discussed that).
B. 3/28-29/26: Area 35 Spring Assembly, Alexandria
C. 7/11/26: Areas 35 & 36 Joint Workshop; probably in Area 36 (no flyer yet)
D. 10/3-4/26: Area 35 Fall Assembly, Baxter
E. 3/5-7/27: WCRAASC at Breezy Point Resort; rooms $110+tax/night. Details and volunteer opportunities coming this Fall
F. 9/10-12/27: WCRAA Forum in Duluth, Holiday Inn

Concept 4: AK

Tradition 4: VW

Next Meeting: April 19th, 2026, noon in Perham

Closed with Responsibility Statement