

Area Committee Meeting August 12, 2017
Three Lakes, WI
Minutes

The meeting opened at 10:00 am.

Welcome to first-time attendees.

Housekeeping by Sara P including voice/vote explanation, vote by substantial unanimity unless otherwise stated, 5 minutes for DCM reports and 2 minutes for comments.

Agenda changes: Brent H will give District 02 reports and Karen K will give District 17 report.

Serenity Prayer

Traditions read by Gail Z

Timer: Dawn

Counter: Cindy

Roll Call: Area Officers

Area Chair / Alternate Delegate, Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Archives, Corrections MI, Corrections WI, CPC, Finance, Grapevine Chair, Now & Then, Literature, Structures & Guidelines, Treatment

DCMs:

02 (alternate), 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 17 (alternate), 20, 21, 23

Minutes from the 5/21/17 Area Committee Meeting were approved without changes.

Delegate's Report – see page 4

DCM Reports – see page 7

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- 1) **Motion: Approve September 16, 2017 Fall Election Assembly Agenda – Sara P**
Mark E the ECR Trustee was not asked Mark to speak at the Conference, but since he's coming in to oversee elections, it would be nice to make room for Mark to give a report either at the Assembly, or at the Area Committee Meeting.
Tabled, could possibly speak during the Delegate Sharing session.
Bryon B checked with organizer for Conference, and he was OK with **having ECR Trustee speak during Delegate Sharing Session.**
Agenda accepted as presented unanimously.
- 2) **Discussion of cleaning up our mailing list – Jeff C**
 - a) New co-editor along with John S, still trying to figure out duties of each person.
Trying to clean up snail mail vs. email list. 680 registered groups – registrar sends a list every month. 35 copies returned in August. Groups are not putting in group change

forms. area74newsletter@gmail.com – send an email to them. DCMs please go back to your groups and update contacts. Get your list from Jeff.

- b) They are using the same printer the previous editors used who asked if they could simply put electronic addresses on them. Bob M had said previous Assembly said no, because of anonymity concerns. Jeff could find no record of such an action. One person at the printer handles it and he thinks it's OK for them to do the electronic mail merge instead of using individual labels that are hand pasted on by Jeff & John. Plus, they can use the printer's bulk mailing permit, and the printer sorts it for mailing. Saves \$250 for permit, \$75 for strapping, 3-4 hours/month, cost of labels, approx. \$400/month or so.
- c) Tom L passed away. Very involved in Moose & Goose. Next Saturday a memorial service in Milwaukee.

3) Discussion of the Blue People Graphic – Diane D

Diane's agenda item: Blue People Graphic as AA trademark

- 1) Read the agenda item – “The General Service Conference discuss, debate, and with substantial unanimity advise the General Service Board of the use of the graphic ‘Blue People’ as a trademark of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 2) The letter is in draft form, waiting for final voice from the District on Aug 20.
- 3) If sending the letter is approved by District 07, I'll email a cc to all DCM's and service positions with a request for support through your voice to GSO.
- 4) Questions.

Ron S. looked at the AA website and read where it shows it is copywritten.

Derek – would you be willing to bring this to Assembly to get support of the Area? He did ask about the Blue People Graphic at the GSC and didn't feel like he got a clear response. Diane is going to ask to be put on the October Assembly Agenda. Her District requested to invite as many other districts as possible.

4) Discussion / questions of Area Officers and Chairs regarding their positions.

The Area Chair suggested we have a discussion of Area Officer and Chair positions for upcoming elections. We allotted a half hour of time for this discussion. **We voted on whether or not to hold this discussion. 17 Yes, none opposed.**

How much time was the Area Chair was spent away from home & does it prepare you for becoming Delegate?

Beside all the Area 74 Assemblies and Committee Meetings, attended the ECR and one other. Some speaking engagements. More busy with behind the scenes – preparing for the meetings, answering emails, concerns people have about various things. Be the first one here. Very rewarding. Really helped recovery. Not sure if it has prepared me to be Delegate, but learned a lot from Derek.

Gloria O: Really think about running for a position. Make the commitment and take it seriously. Also, have an alternate. I have a meeting that needs to be registered, and the registrar is not here. Do I wait for the next Assembly, or do I send it to New York? We're encouraged to send to the Area first. (People told her to send it to New York)

Brent to Area Secretary has it helped with the separation? And what skill set do you need?

Michelle: Since I haven't done both positions, I can't say if the separation for sure has been helpful, but can't imagine doing both jobs. As far as skill set goes: basic computer & typing skills. Should be comfortable with word processing, Excel, and email usage. It's a privilege to be here doing this job, I'm sure a lot of you feel the same about your positions. The next person might want to look into finding a different recorder. Feel like I've grown in the program and really enjoyed getting to know the rest of the Area Committee.

Jeff C – don't just put people on the spot and nominate them. Talk to them ahead of time and choose carefully.

Brian M – Corrections. Into 3rd year. It was empty before I came in. More than willing to help out whoever wants to be Corrections Chair, whether Wisconsin or Michigan.

Derek T – talk about your process around willingness. What would I like to do vs. what do you want me to do?

Kim R – Area Chair has been the greatest position. Taught me how to listen to people vs. build my rebuttal. Not being elected Delegate after being Area Chair, taught me to examine what God wants for me. Service has kept me engaged.

Jeff C – God has put you in this place. It's your personal responsibility. It was harder to stay drunk.

Sara P – went into service to get to the top of the heap. This program has taught me the opposite. This position has taught me humility. Everybody here has the right to be who they are and I don't have to change them. I am going to stand for Delegate in the upcoming elections. I am giving it up to God. No longer about being at the top of the heap.

Next Area Committee meeting is September 17, 2017 in Eau Claire, WI at 8 am

Motioned to close the meeting, 2nd.

Meeting closed at 1:05 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Zanoni, Area Secretary

Delegate's Report

Recent Participation

Since we last met on May 21, I have attended or participated in several events.

I attended the District 23 meeting on June 4th in Rice Lake and gave an abbreviated report on this year's General Service Conference. Thanks to Jay and Steve for the invite and hospitality.

I attended and participated in the Traditions Workshop in District 8 in June 10. I also attended the Fall 2018 Conference Planning meeting that was held after the workshop.

I attended the District 1 meeting on Thursday July 13th in Green Bay and was warmly welcomed. Thanks to Bruce K. for the invite.

Following the District 1 meeting, my service buddy, Dawn M., overnighted in Milwaukee and then traveled on to Fort Wayne, Indiana for the East Central Regional Conference which was held in conjunction with the Indiana State Convention July 14-16. I acted as the flag bearer for Wisconsin. I also did a presentation on Warranty 4 in the morning and afternoon on the 15th. I attended the Delegates Past and Present meeting where our ECR Trustee gave a brief report. There was a lively discussion amongst the past and present delegates around the lawsuit involving the original manuscript.

I attended the District 05 meeting on August 9 and gave a report on the General Service Conference. I was very warmly welcomed and the turnout was great. Thanks to Bryon B. for the invite.

I have participated in recent Delegate Teleconference calls, of which there have been two. The most recent call was Friday, August 4 and that was very informative as Mark reported on the recent July Board Meeting. I'll provide an update later on in this report.

I have written articles for the Area 74 Newsletter, Now and Then, for June, July and August.

I have participated in teleconference calls for the Finance Committee.

Current News and Information

The print version of the Final General Service Conference Report was delivered to me this past Monday, August 7. I have copies for DCMs to take to their district meetings and share with GSRs. I ordered 50 less this year (350) so that I would hopefully not end with two cases in my garage. The anonymity-protected digital version was made available recently and I did forward that on to my Area Committee and past Delegate e-mail list.

I have received the Quarterly Contribution Reports by District from GSO. My apologies on the delay in receiving them and forwarding them along to all DCMS. There was a communication issue with GSO and my e-mail, so I now have them being sent to a different e-mail address.

An opening for an Appointed Committee Member on the Trustees' Literature Committee has just been announced. I did send the notice out to the Area Committee e-mail list. Have also bought a couple of copies of the announcement and associated resume form. Please forward the information along to anyone you know who may be qualified and/or interested.

The yellow safety card has been uploaded to www.aa.org and can easily be found by clicking on the "What's New" button on the home page of the website. The safety card is a service piece produced by AAWS (Publishing) and did not go through the General Service Conference process. It is intended to be a reflection of shared experience offered as a tool from GSO. I have requested any feedback you may have on the yellow safety card in a recent article in the Now & Then. Please feel free to call or e-mail if you (or your group) have feedback. I have been forwarding notes & feedback I receive on this service piece to our East Central Regional Trustee.

I just received a letter from the Chair of the General Service Board, Michelle Grinberg, with an update regarding the lawsuit/injunction to stop the sale of original manuscript of the Big Book. I have printed copies of the letter on hand should you want to review it.

I have received notice from GSO Staff member Racy Joseph that the Committee Chair Contact Update in FNV is being done. GSO is requesting that all committee chairs review and confirm or change their information as currently listed in FNV by August 18, 2017 for email recipients and September 8, 2017 for postal mail recipients. If GSO does not get a response by the deadline, the name of the recipient will automatically be removed from that service committee mailing list. I have copies of the notice for all Committee Chairs if you did not receive the communication from GSO.

The General Service Board weekend was just held the last weekend in July. As I mentioned earlier in this report, I attended the Delegate Teleconference call with our ECR Trustee Mark E. He gave highlights of the weekend and I reviewed the minutes. I did send the unapproved minutes out to all of you on my e-mail list. Please remember that these minutes have not been approved and they are littered with AA member's last names, so they should not be published to any websites or left anywhere that they could be picked up or read by non-AA members. I have a copy of these minutes available today if you are interested in reviewing them. There is a TON of information in the minutes, but just a few highlights:

- The annual anonymity letter went out in June to 30,000 members of the media reminding them of our tradition of anonymity
- Finance - for the 6-months ending June 30 (unaudited and subject to revision) sales are 2.71% ahead of budget; contributions are way ahead of budget (13.31%) and expenses 1.04 under budget. Net profit for first 6 months is \$966,876; budgeted profit for the period was \$14,988. Contributions are up 10% over the same period last year, or \$330,186.

- \$2,000,000 was transferred from the prudent reserve with \$1.25m going to the Pension Plan Trust and \$750K going to the Medical Fund
- \$70,000 has been saved already by switching to new paper for the Big Book (change happened last year)
- AAWS donated 5,000 copies of the Anniversary edition of the Big Book to AA Grapevine to use as they see fit
- AAWS is purchasing \$6,000 in Grapevine and La Vina Subscriptions so GSO can help carry the message.
- Grapevine — June YTD cashflows are \$281,000 ahead of projections. Subscriptions are over budget, but slightly below June 2016 YTD
- 2020 Detroit - the logo has been approved and will not be made available until the latest time possible prior to the Convention. It will be trademarked. It will probably show up on letterhead and website by Jan. 2020. Lots of talk on the Atlanta problems and last-minute registrations, transportation costs, etc. They are trying to avoid massive cost overruns. The company that coordinates the event has had nothing but good things to say about working with Detroit.
- Much of the Literature Committee recommendations are in process and several agenda requests were looked at, including a request to develop a 5th grade level big book, a request to develop a 5th edition Big Book and a request for a revision of the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service. All three items, the Trustees' Literature Committee took no action. The 2018 Literature Committee will be looking at a request to add an appendix to the Big Book reflecting "recognition received from the Library of Congress".

Upcoming events & participation

I am looking forward to participating in the following upcoming events:

I'll be giving a brief GSC report and Area 74 update at the Emotional Sobriety workshop in District 4 on August 19.

I am very excited to be participating in the Panel 68 elections for Area 74 at the Assembly during the Fall Conference September 15-17 in Eau Claire. I picked up flyers and the preliminary program at the District 5 meeting on August 9. Please take some if you need them. I'll be coordinating the pickup of our ECR Trustee Mark E. that weekend as he'll be coming in to oversee our elections. I have been attempting to foster awareness and excitement regarding our elections and encouraging all who are available and willing to serve to show up and stand for a position for the next two-year panel. Good leadership is vital to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous — if you have the qualifications (of which there are few) and the time, I encourage your participation.

I'll be reporting on the GSC at the District 20 Home Group Workshop on October 7th in Germfask, MI.

I'll be speaking at the Atlantic Group in NYC on October 21. While not an Area 74 function, I am excited to be with my dear friend who took me to my first meeting in Chicago in 1998 when I got sober.

Don't forget that the East Central Regional Forum is to be held November 17-19 in Springfield, IL. At least a few folks from Area 74 will be going. If you have not been to a Regional Forum, I encourage you to check one out. It is put on by GSO and it is an opportunity to meet staff members, board members and other like-minded servants from our five-state region and beyond.

I am still available to come to your district or workshop to present on this year's General Service Conference (or any other topic you desire). With today's approved reimbursement, I will have been reimbursed \$1895.37 of my total \$2600 budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek T., Delegate
Panel 66 Area 74
Northern Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula of Michigan

DCM Reports:

District 02 -- Char V.

District 02 extends from Oshkosh in the south to Clintonville and Bonduel in the north and west from Weyauwega to Brillion in the east. There are approximately 130 meetings held in the district weekly. Our District meetings are held on the second Sunday each month at rotating venues within the district. We continue to average between 20-40 attendees. All A.A. members are invited to attend. The monthly Newsletter has a circulation of 140 hard copies and 474 electronic copies. Our committees continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. We have feet on the ground.

Our Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations presented to the District were voted on in July and all but one were approved by substantial unanimity. The one recommendation was returned to committee with additional input from groups to review and resubmit.

Our 2019 Area Spring Conference Committee is coming together nicely. We are having wonderful attendance at our planning meetings and numerous committee chairs have been filled. There has been a change in venue. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kimberly, WI. We will have a "Save the Date" update for everyone at the Fall Conference in Eau Claire.

Our District Elections will be held Sunday August 13th for the upcoming 2018 to 2020 rotation. We will be electing all positions and Chairs.

Upcoming events in our District include "The Home Group" sponsored by the Seymour Thursday Nite Group on August 19th from 10:00am until 1:00pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 349 N. Main St. Seymour. Also on August 19th there will be an Intergroup potluck at St. Mary Seven Dolores Parish Basement 120 Davis St. Stockbridge. Doors open at 5:00pm with Dinner and Speakers to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Char Van Deraa
District 02 DCM

Joyfully presented to you today by Brent Henslin. As Char was unable to attend today's meeting due to her Aunt's funeral.

District 03 -- Stephen W.

1. Our Thursday Night Group held their annual summer picnic. We had an AA speaker and an Alateen speaker. A 14-year-old boy shared his story and did a great job.

2. Our Working With Others group continues to hold an open speaker meeting on the second Saturday of each month.

3. We currently have 11 active groups, 1 GSR, and a Public Information committee.

Thank you,

Stephen Webster
DCM District 03 Area 74

District 04 -- Jeff D

All of Portage & Western Waupaca Counties. District meetings attended by 20+. We started holding nominations for elections. We have nominees for all positions except Literature. Elections in September and positions start October 1st, but will serve 2 years & 3 months to be in line with the Area. Emotional Sobriety workshop coming up, flyers on the back table.

They'll bid for the Fall 2019 Conference to be held in Waupaca. Plenty of room. Intergroup September 9 and Sara P will be the speaker. See the District04 website for info.

District 05 -- Bryon B

District 05 meets monthly in Menomonie, WI on the second Wednesday of the month.

All our committee chairs are filled.

As previously reported we have uploaded our meetings into a database that is accessible from a phone app called "Meeting Guide". It has been working well and there have been many positive comments

The Fall conference planning committee has been meeting regularly and we are in good shape. There is a change in the accommodations, the water park that is associated with the resort will be closed for maintenance during the fall conference. The facility informed the committee after the everything was already booked. There will still be go carts, a zip line, laser tag, and an arcade available. Certain attractions will be included in the hotel stay.

There is a change in the lineup for speakers on Friday night. There will be two speakers. It was brought to the attention that Clancy I was going to be in town and would be available to speak.

The committee discussed the option and the invitation to Clancy was extended and he accepted.

There has not been anything else of significance to report but there are three workshops in the planning stages: Treatment workshop, Service workshop, and a concepts workshop.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Bryon B

DCM District05

District 07 – Diane D.

District 07 covers the communities of Abbotsford, Colby, Marshfield, Medford, Neillsville, Stratford.

Elections: Aug 20, Sunday will be elections prior to our regular District 07 service meeting.

Newcomer's bundle: Distribution of sample 'Newcomer bundles' will start the month of August. A couple other AAs and I will be joining meetings to deliver bundles, make connections, as well as gather GSR data confirmations from each group in the district to forward to Area 74 Registrar. We will be asking the groups to read, review and comment on the pamphlets: Is the material in pamphlets pertinent, accurate, purposeful, high quality? One homegroup decided on their own to have every member read each pamphlet and share their comments.

Phone contacts: The use of a Hot-line via a cloud service is still being investigated. In the meantime, additional contact names and phone numbers were placed on the new printing of our meeting lists. This group will help construct a set of guidelines for those responding to the wide variety of phone calls received through meeting list and our Area 74 Website meeting list.

Blue People Graphic: Aug 20 District meeting, our groups will be sharing their voice regarding whether or not the Blue People Graphic letter should be sent to the General Service Office from the District. The letter submits the following as an agenda item for the 68th GSC: The General Service Conference discuss, debate, and with substantial unanimity advise the General Service Board of the use of the graphic 'Blue People' as a trademark of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have not heard back from GSO regarding the question presented via DCM conference call on what the cost of trademarking/copywriting this graphic.

Safety Card: The safety card was presented to all groups. Looking into ordering cards for all groups.

Activities: There was a successful summer picnic in July for the purpose of fellowship. Our district has several new families involved in AA and it provided a platform for kids to join together in activities as well as AAs getting to know one another better.

District 8 – Joe W.

Our district is in central Wisconsin. We cover Northern Marathon and Southern Lincoln Counties. We hold our monthly district meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at Mount View

Care Center. With about 15 to 18 members attending. Our District now has 43 registered groups. Our District had a few members that held a few Traditions Workshops and in the same individuals plan on doing it again in the future but will not do it so it falls in the summer months. Our District Website keeps getting better and better all the time so please check it out at www.aawausau.org We have been meeting monthly with our Conference Committee as of now we have all of the committee chairs filled with our next meeting on August 15th we have all meetings at the Plaza Hotel. We will also be having our District elections coming up next month. Our District also is in favor of sending me to the East Central Regional Forum in November. We also have a Home group that puts on a monthly speaker meeting on the third Thursday of every month at the Alano Club at 5:30 pm. We also just updated our hotline phone list with around 30 people on it. Our hot line phone is alternated to a different home group every month.

District 9 – Norm

All of Oconto & Marinette counties. New group 11 am M-F in Shawano at Presbyterian Church, they have a GSR & Alt GSR. Had nominations for all officers and committee chairs, only 4 chairs are still active and they all agreed to continue serving. No nominations for officers. Hope they can have elections in September.

District 10 – Kurt

Phone is going strong and good rotation.

Corrections going good. Always need volunteers especially in Forest County.

Got in touch with Big Books for Forest County. A group from Laona donated two Big Books and a few that came from Moose & Goose. The donations are greatly appreciated and being used in Corrections.

We have our District meeting the second Saturday of every month at the United Methodist Church on Arbutus Street in Rhinelander at 9:00 am.

I currently don't have an Alternate DCM. Elections are around the corner.

Nothing in place yet, but looking at putting on some workshops.

Finance is going well. Good support from groups. But the District could use more people to fill District Chairs.

District 17 – Karen K for Bruce

District 17 is a strong area for recovery in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are 41 meetings throughout the area we serve. The meetings are located in Carney, Crystal Falls, Florence WI, Powers, Iron Mountain, Iron River, Niagara WI, Randville, Spaulding and Pembine WI. These meetings are filled with sober, happy people working their program which in turn helps the newcomer to become a member of this excellent Fellowship.

In my absence, I would like to remind everyone of the 11th Tradition. From the 12 and 12 ... "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." The reason for bringing this up is ... the increase in the use of social media. As soon as a statement breaking one's own anonymity is posted on the various social media out there, all of the people, many of which belong to this fellowship, are informed as are all of the people they have on their social media. It is innocent for sure, but still allows others to know about many people's business which is breaking our anonymity with one push of a computer, iPad, or smartphone send button. Food for thought.

One of the items we as a District did this past few months was to create a flyer for the newcomer. It started with a question posed by an AA group's GSR: "What is the difference between an open meeting and a closed meeting?" As it happens we turned it into a whole project which turned out fantastic and informational without breaking any traditions we value so much. I have included a copy if anyone is interested.

The District 17 Hotline is up and running the # is (906) 774-0900

The website for the district is www.district17a74.org

Thank you to Karen for delivering this information. Her dedication to our District is always top notch.

This is enough from me, my heart and prayers are with you all and remember "Keep It Simple".

In sobriety,

Bruce T. District 17 DCM

District 20 – Dean

District 20 is located in east central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We have 22 meetings covering 3200 square miles and every day of the week.

- Last District meeting was August 5th.
 - Elected new district officers for rotation starting January 2018.
 - Re-designed District 20 website—www.district20area74aa.org. Also added a password protected page to our district website for items that might indirectly lead to identification
 - Have ordered 250 welcome packets to distribute to groups. Still waiting on some pamphlets then will have an envelope stuffing party!
 - Worked out DCM travel budget to use moving forward
 - Health Fair September 16th in Munising that we are trying to get a booth at.

- Workshop scheduled for October 7th 2017. Topic is Home Groups. **FLYERS ON TABLE**
- I have been involved in the Monthly DCM and PI Committee conference calls.
- Intergroup going on today in Gwinn. Next U.P. Intergroup is September 9th in Ontonagon, MI. **Flyers on table.**
- Spring 2017 Conference status.
 - Thank you to all who attended and to all who helped. Our District 20 people were great. We also received help from Districts 18 and 19 along with Area support and past conferences.
 - Conference counts
 - Registration—228
 - Banquet—220
 - 50/50 split--\$643.11
 - Final financial report in the August Now and Then

District 21 – Ron

District 21 covers northern Houghton and Keweenaw counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The area includes two universities, year-round tourism is our major industry, and thus our recovery population is very transient. We strive to be available to all who visit or study here, be it the alcoholic in recovery, the alcoholic who still suffers, or their families and friends. Because of this we recognize and support two allied programs, Al-anon and ACOA. We currently have 28 active AA meetings. We cooperate with Houghton County's drug court, as well as local residential treatment facilities and shelters, and although not in our district we continue to support A.A. meetings at Michigan Department of Corrections, Baraga Max.

Our 24-hour A.A. hotline is answered live by Dial Help in Houghton, meetings are listed in our local newspaper, and we are expanding the number of radio stations running our PSA's, all at no charge. Our *abridged meeting schedule*, *A.A. pure*, can also be found on the Area 74 website.

Today all district positions are filled and district meetings are well attended. We recently completed work in conjunction with local treatment centers on a Bridging the Gap program to make sure persons completing treatment have meeting lists and contact numbers when returning home. After years of talking we finally restarted our Monday night Big Book meeting in Mohawk that was inactive for about ten years.

Most importantly...

We have reserved the Marsin Nature Retreat Center in Houghton for Saturday, November 4, 2017, and are planning a workshop tentatively titled "Back to the Basics of: Groups and Sponsorship". Anyone interested in helping with organization or presentation will be welcomed and appreciated. The organizers are relatively inexperienced and can use all the help they can get!! Let me know if you are interested in helping or have ideas. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Schreiner, Area 74,

District 21, DCM

District 23 – Alt Steve S., report sent to AMC meeting minutes.

- ❖ The following areas represent where District 23 has been directing its energy to be of optimum service to our A.A. Groups in particular, and to Area 74 in general:
 - I. District 23 is poised and ready for our September elections (for district officers and committee representatives/chairs) to coincide with those of our groups (for GSRs) and those of Area 74 (at the 2017 Fall Conference in Eau Claire, WI). We have at least one person who is willing to stand for the DCM position and the treasurer position, with one person giving serious consideration to stand as district secretary. In addition, and in

direct relation to helping facilitate easier participation, we will be addressing moving our district meeting to a more central location within district boundaries. Our three and one-half year experiment of having split the district meetings between a longstanding eastern location and our western reaches has brought more participation and it is thought a more central location will benefit all and promote better unity.

- II. Members of District 23's Jail Meetings' groups attended the "22nd Annual Wisconsin/UP Michigan Corrections Conference" held in Wausau, WI on June 24th. Although informative, the attendees found the corrections conference over- focused in its representation of the prison system at the expense of the state's county jail system. Having made that observation, and not being able to benefit directly from their attendance, our district's Corrections/Jail Liaison officer forwarded a letter to the conference planners and our Area 74's Corrections Committee Chairs sharing our observations and suggestions. District 23 offered to share its experience, strength and hope with conference planners from a county jail perspective in future planning activities.

- III. District officers have recently been moved to review the relationship and nature of District 23 group membership registrations among a number of our groups. This effort is being put forth to better understand and address certain anomalies which have surfaced over past years, and are presently seen as potentially detrimental to serving the best interest of District 23's groups and those of the neighboring groups of Districts of 12 & 24. To wit: It is understood as accepted practice, and the understandable decision of some groups located on officially established district boundaries, to choose which district they will actually participate in and register with individually. However, current District 23 leadership recognizes that this practice is not, and should not be encouraged or exercised as an expanded or "excepted" mass emigration from one district's interior to another's without following Area 74 and GSO guidelines, and the process as suggested in the "A.A. Service Manual". It can be shown that this historically encouraged practice in District 23's past has overreached standard practice and has been expanded to include groups far into the interior of some of our neighboring districts, as cited above. The result of this "incremental redistricting" (or "gerrymandering") runs counter to "Best Practices" and impedes the potential of participation in the General Service Structure as part of the identifiable entity they are. A view of our detailed Area 74 District Map shows, at a glance, what is in essence a wholly new and officially unrecognized and unidentified "shadow district", at the expense of each districts' outlying areas. In other words, it appears that this past practice has weakened one district and incapacitated two others within the established General Service Structure. This topic will be put on a future District 23 GSR Committee Agenda for reconsideration and possible action in the near future.

We look forward to our September elections and the subsequent January rotation of officers and GSRs within District 23, and thank all those who have been serving our district to date and over what will be the last three and one-half year rotation.

Thank You, District 23, for the Honor of Serving You,

Jay Hands, DCM/District 23

715.469.3656