

Call to January Meeting

11:00 Vermilion Committee

12:15 Administrative Committee

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 820 Belknap Street, Superior, WI

Striving for an atmosphere of love, mutual respect and frank open discussion within the area meeting.

Greetings from the Area Chair

January will be my last Area Service Committee meeting as your Area Chair. It has been an amazing journey. My greatest lesson has been to trust the process. That when I step back and allow the group conscience to guide the way things always turn out better than I ever could have imagined.

We have accomplished a great deal together. We have become a stronger and more united Area. We opened up and shared our true feelings, resentments, fears and complaints through a painstaking Area inventory. We began this path with rumblings of splitting into two Areas. Our services felt Duluth-centric and meetings outside of Duluth were feeling neglected. The I Falls groups helped a great deal with this process by demonstrating their willingness to travel to any town no matter where we met and it humbled the rest of us. We unanimously agreed that we needed to move one of our Area meetings to I Falls and our attendance was impressive. We have learned the importance of supporting each other in our service efforts and traveling to other geographic locations has had a profound affect on our recovery and our service.

We diligently worked to develop a set of goals and identify the services needed to meet those goals. We took a risk, stepped outside of the box, and revamped our entire Area structure. This was a

huge undertaking. It required patience, open-mindedness and dedication to the process. It took us a full year of planning and another six months of implementation through trial and error to accomplish this feat.

Our communication skills have greatly improved. Through the decision making process of consensus we have learned to listen to the quieter voices in our midst. And to the surprise of many, consensus has proven to expedite our decision making rather than hinder it.

Now we face our greatest challenge: to maintain our enthusiasm. We need to make an investment in being of continued service. We need to invite and transport more and more addicts to the Area and encourage them to participate. We have incorporated the concept of rotation of service into our guidelines to better maintain a healthy Area but we must also embrace the idea that we attend the Area even without a specific service position. My commitment is to remain available and of support to the Area. I can't begin to repay NL for returning to me a life beyond my highest aspirations.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Area Chair over these past two years.

Gratefully yours in loving service,

Robin C., Outgoing Area Chair