



D5 AA  
FARGO

AUGUST 2025

# DAKOTA LANTERN

District 5 Alcoholics Anonymous

## A letter from our Area 52 Delegate

Greetings Fellow Area 52 Members! I hope you are all having sober, safe, and joyful summers so far. I have had the privilege of seeing many of you at the Delegate report-backs, and I'm so very grateful for those opportunities. I have given reports at the June Assembly, the District 10 picnic, and most recently District 6 in Jamestown. I have several more coming up, District 8 in August, and Districts 2, 5, and 7 in October. Hopefully I will get to catch up with the rest of you at one of those events. As such, I'll not write much of a Conference report here, not because it's not important or interesting, but because it's such a different experience in person. I learn so much during the in-person discussions and am able to really feel the "pulse" of the Districts. I hope that it is also mutually helping to inform and serve you, it's definitely making me a better-informed Delegate! If you are interested in reading my full Conference Report (as well as the slideshow), it can be found on our glorious Area 52 Website. Go to Area 52 Service Information (this section is password-protected for anonymity from the general public, but your sponsor or your GSR should know the password if you don't) and scroll down

### Service Sunday

Institutions Committee  
3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00pm  
SDSOS Clubhouse  
(basement)

Public Information / CPC Committee  
3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00pm  
SDSOS Clubhouse  
(2nd Floor)

Group Activities Committee  
3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00pm  
SDSOS Clubhouse  
(2nd Floor)

District 5  
3rd Sunday of the Month at 3:00pm  
SDSOS Clubhouse  
(3rd Floor)

to 2025 Panel 75 Delegates Information. You can also find a full list of Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations there.

All of that being said, I would like to touch on just a few actions from the 75th General Service Conference; items that we had quite a bit of discussion on at our March Assembly →

Have an article you would like to submit?



[701-306-9101 \(Text First\)](tel:701-306-9101)  
[editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org)



1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

and subsequent sharing sessions. I'll start with my committee, agenda. We selected the topic for the 2026 General Service Conference, "Humility in Action". You may recall that was not one of the suggested topics to choose from. However, the Committee felt that with the Conference Inventory being conducted this year, it was an apropos theme to follow up with. I had thought the most contentious item in our committee would be the proposed "Harmony and Effectiveness Session", but we took no action on that item and there was very little discussion on that. The committee- much like the bulk of feedback from Area 52- felt that there are already

opportunities and processes in place to address grievances with the General Service Board. We also reaffirmed the 2016 Advisory Action that GSO should post a grid of proposed agenda items and their respective status on a quarterly basis. This is something that seemed to have gone by the wayside a couple of years ago. However, I'm pleased to report that we have already received the initial memo regarding the schedule and plan for this reaffirmed action.

In Finance, there was an EDW (Equitable Distribution of Work) item to remove the following line from the AA Service Manual, p.10: "A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all." This was widely debated but ultimately passed. In Literature, the item to update the book Living Sober was one of our longer discussions. The Conference was pretty split between "do nothing/write a new one/update the current version" at the start; but it, too, ultimately passed. One of the most debated committee items of the week was probably the discussion revolving around adding the 12 Concepts to the 12x12. There were a lot of very strong opinions on this, as you can imagine, but it did not receive the required substantial unanimity in the end. Two similar but somewhat competing items from Report and Charter and Policy and Admissions regarding changes in the Founders' writings were discussed and presented by Report and Charter as the following: "The General Service Board classify all AAWS and AA Grapevine →



**20TH ANNUAL MENS  
AA WEEKEND**

**AUGUST  
8.9.10TH**



**Registration: \$130**  
-Includes lodging, meals, activities,  
-Rope's course (\$15) Fishing (extra)  
*Fellowship, Recovery, Brotherhood Unity*

**Wilderness Boy Scout Camp  
29984 Journey Trail, Park  
Rapids, MN 56470**

Have an article you would like to submit?



[701-306-9101 \(Text First\)](tel:701-306-9101)  
[editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org)



1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

# HELP WANTED

## -Group Events/Calendar Team

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP OUR FELLOWSHIP CONNECTED AND THRIVING. IF YOU ENJOY ORGANIZING DETAILS OR BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

### -Calendar Coordinator

LOVE KEEPING THINGS ORGANIZED? WE NEED SOMEONE TO HELP MAINTAIN THE DISTRICT 5 CALENDAR AND HELP COMMUNICATE WITH LOCAL GROUPS TO KEEP EVERYONE INFORMED ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS. THIS ROLE ENSURES THAT MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND GATHERINGS ARE WELL-COORDINATED AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

### -Event & Activities Volunteers

WANT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER? HELP PLAN AND ORGANIZE DISTRICT 5 EVENTS!

- ANNUAL EVENTS: THE SOUP & SPEAKER WORKSHOP (WINTER) AND THE FELLOWSHIP HARVEST FESTIVAL (OCTOBER) ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE.
- 2026 STATE ROUND-UP & FALL ASSEMBLY (FARGO): WE NEED A STRONG TEAM TO HELP HOST THIS MAJOR STATEWIDE EVENT!

**No experience? No problem! If you're willing, we'll support you. Step into service and make a difference!**



**Interested? Reach out today! [Events@ndd5aa.org](mailto:Events@ndd5aa.org)**

literature written prior to 1971 as Recovery, Service, or Archival/ Historical; review existing policies and consider proposing additional policies as appropriate for updating each classification, and that a progress report be provided to the 2026 General Service Conference." This was affirmed as an Advisory Action and is significant; the body felt that it "moved the needle" so to speak, in regard to the many but-oft differing agenda items regarding the Founders' writings. Of the 13 Floor Actions (yikes!), only one was passed; that being to begin a study to explore the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book. The longest, most difficult session of the Conference was the Floor Action to censure the General Service Board. The discussion was the most emotionally charged I've ever been a part of. It was spiritually and mentally difficult, I believe, for all. In the end, the vote to censure was defeated 108-6, so I will let the numbers speak for themselves.

Again, I hope to see each of you in person to share more of the details about this year's Conference.

Post-Conference and looking ahead, we have a General Sharing session coming up in August. I am looking so forward to this and to seeing my fellow Delegates again. I was selected as Alternate Chair for next year's Agenda Committee, so I will have some meetings in the fall for those discussions. Regarding the International Convention, I have heard that preliminary numbers are between 32-34,000, and that we are looking good financially thus far. More shall be revealed! I hope some of you got to attend, I heard it was absolutely wonderful. Our West Central Regional Forum in Omaha is

Have an article you would like to submit?



701-306-9101 (Text First)  
[editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org)



1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

scheduled for September 19-21st , registration has just gone live for that. I have no doubt our friends in Nebraska will be excellent hosts! Our WCR Trustee, Charlie H., continues to be busy attending the many required meetings a Trustee has, and is speaking in Fargo in August for the Rally in the Valley event. Please take some time to introduce yourself to him if you are attending and get the chance. He is open and available to talk or answer questions from any of us. Work on the General Service Office retrofit is continuing, and Charlie is introducing a proposal to eliminate the General Service Board's Code of Conduct policy, both of which continue to be a source of contention for many members. I look forward to his reports from the Board weekend. We were recently notified of an opening for a Non-Trustee Director of the Grapevine Board in 2026. If you, or someone you know is interested, please reach out to me about the resume process. I'm also waiting to hear about the selection of the Inventory Committee that will be formed to identify and address actionable items from the Conference Inventory this year. As a reminder, the deadline for submission of a proposed agenda item (PAI) is September 30th of this year. If you, your Group, or your District has considered submitting a PAI, I am happy to help access the forms or provide any assistance. As always, the hands and hearts of Alcoholics Anonymous are busy carrying the message in so many ways.

To close on a more personal and spiritual note, I would like to share my sincere

The image contains two promotional posters side-by-side. The left poster is for the 2025 District 7 Campout, held from August 15-17 at Eagles Campground in Bismarck, ND. It lists gate prices for one-day passes, weekend non-camping, and weekend camping, along with meal ticket availability. The right poster is for the August 16, 2025 Rally in the Valley at Olivet Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. It features a detailed schedule of events from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., including registration, a mixed panel discussion, service, BBQ, and entertainment, with Charlie H. as the speaker. Both posters include contact information for Amber W. and Michael H.

Have an article you would like to submit? [701-306-9101 \(Text First\)](tel:701-306-9101) [editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org) [1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1112+3rd+Ave+S,+Fargo,+ND+58103)

gratitude to each and every one of you. On this journey as your Delegate, I have felt nothing but support and love (some tough love, but that's ok too!). I have received so much guidance but haven't been told what I WILL do. I have heard so many opinions, but not that yours is the only one; nor have I had anyone "whispering in my ear". I have gotten so much feedback, but always in a respectful manner. I have asked question after question and been met with thoughtful minds and tempered tongues. I can say from my Conference experience, sadly, that is not the case for every Delegate. I feel so fortunate to come from Area 52, truly. As I have been reminded, there have always been ups and downs and inevitable difficulties at Conference and sometimes in our Fellowship. At the end of the day, I sincerely believe that we are fulfilling our Primary Purpose, and that Alcoholics Anonymous is going to be just fine. When I remember that we are guided by something bigger than ourselves, and that each one of us loves Alcoholics Anonymous just as much as I do, my mind and heart open a whole lot. And when I remember Rule 62, my sense of humor grows immensely ;).

Thank you all for the loving and life-saving work you do to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, and thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity.

*-Jessie Wolff  
P75 A52 Delegate*

**WEST FARGO MONDAY NIGHT  
BIG BOOK GROUP**

**53rd ANNIVERSARY**

SAME TIME - SAME BUILDING - SAME MESSAGE



**Potluck at 6pm**

(hamburgers & hotdogs provided - bring a dish to share)

**Meeting at 7pm**

- AA Speaker
- Al-Anon Speaker
- Open Meeting

**AUGUST 18th 2025**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

127 2nd Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078

**Complacency in Long Term Sobriety**

In the doctor's opinion we read that, "The message which can interest and hold these alcoholic people must have depth and weight." I do not know if this is that message. All I can share on this topic is my experience, strength, and hope.

I have been sober for over ten years. This is something that, to me, used to seem like a monumental achievement when I would see it in others. In myself I see it is a true miracle. After about five years, bouts of complacency began to plague my sobriety. I never left AA, —————>

Have an article you would like to submit?  [701-306-9101 \(Text First\)](tel:701-306-9101)  
[editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org)  1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

always maintaining at least one meeting a week, my homegroup. And I have never gone long without having a sponsor. But nothing else. I would not recommend this program. It does not take long to descend into a state of spiritual misery. I do not know why I keep letting it happen. I suspect that it is because I am a self-centered alcoholic. Dr. Tiebout said that the "Characteristic of the so-called typical alcoholic is a narcissistic egocentric core, dominated by feelings of omnipotence, intent on maintaining at all costs its inner integrity." That shoe seems to fit.

Now let me be clear, I have had a spiritual awakening. In fact, I have had several spiritual reawakening's. This problem is that I keep falling back into a spiritual slumber. Bill warns me of this in his story. Bill warns me that even after a spiritual awakening my sense of God's presence can be blotted out by worldly clamors. So how do I keep this from happening? Or in the worst case how can I reignite the fire once this has happened?

Well, that is what the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is for. What has saved me time and again is that I keep going to meetings. I have friends around me that ask me how I'm doing, sometimes I get honest. I have people in my life that I absolutely know will reach out their hand and pull me back from the



depths of hell whenever I am willing to reach out. Mostly what they do is remind me to get busy.

The fellowship saves my life, but it is the program that reignites the fire and gives me a life worth living. It starts with engaging in service work at meetings. Taking that little bit of time to think about what I can contribute to life rather than constantly asking, "what is in it for me."

Next I have to get current with my sponsor. I have to drop the "everything is great" mask and start talking about what it is really like inside my head. I am very good at glossing over the little stuff until it is killing me. Resentments are resurfacing of emotion. That means that all the little stuff that I keep telling myself



LINK TO LOCAL FARGO AA WEBSITE (DISTRICT 5)



LINK TO STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA AA WEBSITE (AREA 52)



LINK TO NATIONAL AA WEBSITE (AA.ORG)

Have an article you would like to submit?



701-306-9101 (Text First) editor@ndd5aa.org



1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

is no big deal, eventually becoming the avalanche that buries my spirit. Sometimes this means talking about it with my sponsor. Sometimes this means going back and remaking a list.

Finally, I have to remember (or be reminded of) what Bill found, that when all other measures failed, working with another alcoholic would save the day. All of the other work, being part of the fellowship, the service work at meetings, and getting myself back into a fit spiritual condition are done so that I can have something to pass along to the still suffering alcoholic. They keep doing it for me when I step into a meeting spiritually tattered and torn, and I have to remember that when I am focused on being there for them, I am not thinking about myself. Ultimately that is my salvation. I have never been the guy that can spend time thinking about my life and feel better about it. To be relieved of the bondage of self I have to stop getting all wrapped up in myself. That is what working with others does for me.

I said at the beginning that my sobriety is a miracle, and it is. The miracle that has kept me sober is that in all my low points, when I felt utterly lost and defeated, I turned to AA. In my time in this program, I have seen many that made a different choice. My experience is that this program will not only keep me alive but will light a fire that makes my life worthwhile. My strength has been that I have always returned to AA even when the worldly clamors call me away. My hope is that one day I will not forget to keep trudging the road of happy destiny.  
-N

## \$ District 5 Treasurer's Summary \$

**OUR BUDGET FOR 2025 IS \$27949.12 OF WHICH \$13735.42 HAS BEEN USED WITH ONE ASSEMBLY LEFT IN THE YEAR. THAT BEING SAID, WE HAVE USED 49.15% OF THE BUDGET SO FAR GOING INTO QUARTER 3. WE ARE ON TARGET/ SLIGHTLY UNDER BUDGET AND I DON'T NOT ANTICIPATE GETTING CLOSE TO USING THE FULL BUDGET BY THE END OF THE YEAR. I FORECASTED \$22775.00 IN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR, AND WE ARE AT \$15777.17 WHICH IS 69.07% OF THE PROJECTED AMOUNT FOR 2025 AND WE ARE ONLY 49.86% THROUGH THE YEAR. WE ARE NEARLY TWENTY PERCENT AHEAD OF OUR INCOME PAGE. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF FLUCTUATION BUT AS OF NOW, AREA 52 IS LOOKING GOOD.**

## AREA 52

### 2025 STATE ROUND-UP



"WORKING TOGETHER,  
INCREASING TRUST"  
**SEPTEMBER 12TH-14TH**

**MINOT, ND**

REGISTRATION \$36.35

COFFEE PASS \$31.25

BANQUET: \$33.25

**ROUND UP**

**REGISTRATION**

Have an article you would like to submit?



701-306-9101 (Text First)  
[editor@nnd5aa.org](mailto:editor@nnd5aa.org)



1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103



## Tradition Eight:

Tradition Eight of Alcoholics Anonymous states that “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” It defines professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire, while recognizing the need to employ alcoholics for service that would otherwise require non-alcoholics. The Fellowship’s experience showed that professionalizing the Twelfth

Step undermines its purpose. Paid Twelfth-steppers were not heeded, and the money motive compromised the spiritual essence of the work. In embracing the creed of for free and for fun, AA ensures recovery support remains a gift, free from commercial influence. At the same time, AA service centers employ special workers—secretaries, caretakers, administrative assistants—to handle essential administrative and logistical duties that volunteers cannot consistently sustain. These paid roles exist solely to make Twelfth-Step work possible (but not actually doing the twelve step work themselves), preserving group unity, anonymity, and the purity of peer-to-peer helping. *-Cody*

**YOUR  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
HERE!** HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT THE COMMUNITY TO HEAR ABOUT?  
SUBMIT YOUR FLYER TO THE INFORMATION DOWN BELOW!

Have an article you would like to submit?

✉ [701-306-9101 \(Text First\)](tel:701-306-9101)  
[editor@ndd5aa.org](mailto:editor@ndd5aa.org)

📍 1112 3rd Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103