

Community Connections February 2025

Published by **Love In the Name of Christ** (Love INC of Douglas County Lakes Area) 44 Glenn Rd NW, Alexandria 320-759-3022
Churches partnering to transform lives with life skills classes, clothing, shoes, personal care items, Bibles, furniture (referrals through Love INC to the Caring and Sharing Room), Rainbow Rider passes, gas cards, grocery cards, bikes, appliances (must take a class to qualify), Christmas toys, blankets, and prayer.

Please see our website to be added to the Community Connections List: www.loveincdouglas.org



Connections For All Ages

Free Dryer Day – With the purchase of a washing cycle enjoy a complimentary dryer cycle on **February 1st** from **8 AM – 4 PM** at the Laundry Basket (2310 S Broadway St Unit 100, Alexandria).

Bond on the Pond - Join the Alexandria Covenant Church for an afternoon of ice fishing! Fun will be had and memories made at our annual Bond on the Pond. There will food, prizes, bait, and pre-drilled holes. Equipment and instruction are available for anyone new to ice fishing. Fishing license is required for those over 16 years old. Sign up so we know to drill you a hole and save you a hot dog!

February 1st from **11 AM – 2:30 PM** at Lake Reno Bar & Grill (14566 MN29, Glenwood). Sign up at <https://alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/62/responses/new>.

Be Mine! BINGO – Join Ollie Birch Boutique + Lounge (518 Broadway St, Alexandria) on **February 6th** at **6 PM** for free BINGO. Get ready for a sweet evening of family-friendly BINGO with plenty of chances to win and tons of fun! We'll be playing multiple roads, so bring your lucky charms and enjoy the excitement. Food & beverage is available for purchase.

Women's Craft Day - Women, gather your scrapbooking, quilting, sewing, painting or other craft project and join Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) for a day of crafting and conversation on **February 7th** from **6 – 10 PM** and **February 8th** from **9 AM – 5 PM**. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. Sign up at <https://alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/375/responses/new>.

WEcovery Craft Day – Join WEcovery (503 Hawthorne St , Alexandria– in the basement) on **February 8th** from **1 – 4 PM** to make Valentine's Day Cards to deliver to local senior residence! Other crafts may be available & you are welcome to bring any other craft you may be working on.

Vertical Marriage Conference – Whether you've been married for years or just said "I do", everyone needs help navigating the sometimes confusing and often complex world of marriage. This one-day conference at Lake Community Church (90 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) on **February 8th** from **10 AM – 4 PM** includes humorous and relatable video sessions by Dave and Ann Wilson followed by some group discussion and an intentional couple's connection. \$50 per couple (includes workbook and lunch). Register at <https://lake-community-church-46499.churchcenter.com/calendar/event/172386413>.

Candlelit Event at Lake Carlos State Park - Enjoy a magical candlelit evening at Lake Carlos State Park (2601 County Rd 38 NE, Alexandria) on **February 8th** from **6 – 9 PM!** Take a stroll along the trail, guided by the glow of the moon, candles, and lanterns. Afterward, cozy up by the wood stove or enjoy delicious snacks and refreshments at the Lakeview Warming Shelter. This free event is perfect for nature lovers and families seeking a unique night out. Please note a Minnesota state parks vehicle permit is required for entry (\$7/day or \$35/year). Get your vehicle permit in advance by visiting mndnr.gov/reservations or free day pass rentals are available at the Douglas County Library but are limited.

Family Fun Day at Andes Tower Hills – Join First Lutheran Church at Andes Tower Hills (4505 Andes Rd SW, Kensington) for discounted rates on **February 8th** from **4 – 7 PM**. Each family will purchase their own tickets – FLC will provide hot cocoa and a treat! Look for the balloons & you'll find our FLC Kids & Youth Staff! No sign-up needed.

Valentine's Day Party – Please join the Windmill Project for a fun dance party on **February 8th** from **1 – 2 PM** at Dancin' Off Broadway (422 Broadway St, Alexandria)! This free event is for those with special needs and their family and friends to have fun in a sensory accommodating atmosphere! Two separate dance rooms – one room will have lots of lights and music (will include latex balloons and flashing lights) and the other will be more sensory friendly, a quieter room for those who enjoy a more peaceful space.

The Great Hotdish Bake-Off! - Join The BoatHouse at the Legacy of the Lakes Museum (205 2nd Ave, Alexandria) on **February 8th** from **11 AM – 1 PM** for the Great Hotdish Bake-off & Silent Auction! Family friendly event fundraiser featuring a hotdish competition, silent auction, and fun local history supporting the Douglas County Historical Society. \$12 per adult, children 12 and under eat free. Interested in forming a hotdish team? Please email us at historic@dchsmn.org or call us at 320-762-0382 for further details.

Parents' Night Out FUNdraiser – Kids ages birth-5th grade are invited to join First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave E, Alexandria) on **February 14th** from **5 – 8 PM** for a night of dinner, play, and FUN with our middle school and high school leaders and adults. The cost

is \$20/child for the first two children and \$10/child for each additional child in the household. Proceeds will support children & youth ministry. Please register online by February 2nd. <https://firstlutheranalexandriamn.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2702342>.

Awesome Athletes – This is a free event sponsored by Henry's Foods at Shenanigans (1410 McKay Ave S, Alexandria) on **February 18th from 4:30 – 5:30 PM**. Awesome Athletes is a Community Education program in partnership with The Windmill Project that offers children and adults with special needs a special time to connect and have fun. Each participant gets one support person included with registration. Additional friends and family members are welcome but must register at <https://alexandria.ce.eleyo.com/course/9348/adult-fall-2024-summer-2025/awesome-athletes%E2%80%94941>.

Dementia Friends Event – Join Vista Prairie at Windmill Ponds (715 Victor St, Alexandria) on **February 18th at 2 PM** for a free event that will give people an understanding of dementia and the small things you can do that make a difference. This one-hour informal session will give you tips for communicating with loved ones who have dementia. You'll learn how to turn your understanding into action that supports people living with dementia.

Storybookland – Join Alexandria Community Education (1410 McKay Ave S, Alexandria) for a free community event for families with young children (best suited for children up to about 5 years old) on **February 21st from 4 – 6 PM**. Step into a world of fun and imagination with engaging activities, crafts, games, heartwarming stories, a photo booth for capturing special memories, tasty snacks, and opportunities for parents and children to connect and explore early childhood programming. No registration needed – just come as you are and enjoy quality time with your littles ones! Costumes are optional.

Bridging the Gap Leadership Conference - Join BTG at Lake Geneva Christian Center (605 Birch Ave, Alexandria) on **February 21st – 22nd** for a powerful getaway with Training, Connecting, Workshops, Idea-Sharing, Prayer, Coffee, and Lots of Fun! The Bridging the Gap Leadership Conference is for every woman—spanning generations, life stages, and leadership experience. We believe every woman is a potential leader, and we have designed this event for you! You will gain fresh perspectives, resources, and connections with sister leaders from across Minnesota. Come individually or with your team! Contact LGCC (320-763-3680) or go to <https://mnbtg.org/leadership/> for additional information and to register.

2025 Alexandria Polar Plunge – The Alexandria Plunge has raised over \$1,213,363 for Special Olympics Minnesota in its 18-year history. Come and cheer on the polar plungers on **February 22nd at 1 PM** at Zorbaz on the Lake (32 Browns Point Rd NW, Alexandria). Learn more and register at <https://www.plungemn.org/events/alexandria/>.

Pop Up Traveling Tree House - The Traveling Tree House is a mobile learning center that provides FREE learning opportunities for local children. At each visit kids experience reading, crafts, and activities. Designed for children Pre K- Elementary but open to all ages. **February 22, 9 - 10:15 AM** Osakis Community Center (18 E Nokomis St, Osakis), **10:45 AM - 12 PM** Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria), **1 - 2:15 PM** Grand Arbor (2306 S Broadway St Ste 6, Alexandria).

Community Chess – Everyone is Welcome. 12 sessions with total instruction or just play. There are plenty of chess boards and chairs available for you. Every Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM located at AAHS Commons Area (4300 Pioneer Rd SE, Alexandria).

Tabletop & Roleplay – Are you ready for Adventure? Come join the quest Sunday afternoons at ArtisTree (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) from 3 PM – 7 PM as we practice the art of interactive storytelling! No experience needed. Under 18's allowed with guardian and DM permission. Regardless of age, you must be able to participate in the game in a way that is safe and enjoyable to all. This game is committed to accessibility. Please let us know if you need help attending this event. No fee to play, but we encourage you to acquire some food and caffeinated drinks for the journey at the Cafe register window to support our amazing host facility and enable us to keep this game free to all!

Alexandria Farmers Market – Come out and enjoy shopping the local farmer's market at Copper Trail Brewing (205 Broadway, Alexandria) from 11 AM – 3 PM the first Sunday of every month. There will be 12 vendors there selling vegetables, breads, meats, canned goods, sweets, and more!

Frozen Fairy Tale – Digital Escape Room – Join the Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) during regular library hours through February 15th to navigate through various fairy tales, solving riddles related to beloved characters and stories, to break the ice curse! Escape Room begins in the Teen Area and continues throughout the library. All ages welcome to play and win a small prize. Grades 6-12 may register for Grand Prize! Limit 1 prize per patron. Open during regular Library hours. No registration needed.

Free Tax Return Prep – This service is available to individuals who make \$55,000 or less. Eligibility, documents to bring, and more details available at: <https://www.alextech.edu/taxes> Alexandria Technical & Community College accounting students offer free tax return preparation for low-income taxpayers. Students are certified by the IRS to prepare returns. The hours are **4 - 6 PM** on a first-come, first-served basis on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 6th through April 10th** (Closed 3/11 and 3/13 for spring break). Located in Room 755 of the Office and Information Technology Center (700 Building) at Alexandria College (1601 Jefferson St, Alexandria). If you have limited mobility, a few appointment times are available. We may also be able to arrange a different entrance.

Free Tax Prep – WCMCA free tax preparation and e-filing, by certified volunteer preparers, for low-income individuals and families through April 15. For more information, please see wcmca.org/program/free-tax-preparation/.

Energy Assistance Program – West Central Community Actions is accepting applications for 24/25 season. Energy Assistance is a program that is designed to assist income eligible households with the cost of energy/heating their homes. Everyone deserves affordable, continuous, and safe home energy services. Call to request an application via postal mail at 1-800-494-4805 option 1, request an application via email at eap@wcmca.org, or go to <https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>.

Weatherization Program – This program helps income eligible households cut their heating costs and improve the comfort level of their homes by making energy-savings home improvements. Improvements to be made are determined from the energy auditor's blower door testing equipment at your home. Items may include furnace improvements; minimize infiltration; insulation of attic, walls, and floor; and venting of water heaters and heating systems. For more information, please call 218-685-4486.

Kid Connections



Story Hour at Cherry Street Books – Join Cherry Street Books (503 Broadway St, Alexandria) on **Saturdays** for a fun filled mornings from 10 - 11 AM. Geared for kids ages 3-5 we will sing songs, read stories, and make crafts.

Douglas County Library – has many storytime hours and activities going on at the library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) daily. Please see their website for more information. <https://www.douglascountylibrary.org/events>.

Adult Connections

Mocktail Monday @ The Lounge – Join Ollie Birch Boutique + Lounge (518 Broadway St, Alexandria) **every Monday** from 4 PM – 7 PM for a free in-store tasting event. Whether you're looking for a flavorful drink without alcohol or simply want to enjoy a fun evening out, our expertly crafted mocktails are sure to delight your taste buds. *Must be 21 to participate in the tasting.

Young Adult Game Nights – Join Ollie Birch Boutique + Lounge (518 Broadway St, Alexandria) **every Thursday** from 6 – 8 PM for N/A drinks, fellowship, and games! For all young adults (18-35).

Young Families Wednesdays – Join Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) **every first and third Wednesday of the month** from 6 – 7:30 PM for a Bible study to bring together young families to share experiences and learn about God together. New families welcome to join any time! Contact Christine Van Engen: christine@lakecommunity.org.

Young Adults Ministry – Meets **every Thursday** at 6:30 PM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria).

In It Together Mom's Group – Join Spirit Life Church (912 MN-29, Alexandria) 10 AM – 11:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Children are welcome.

Men's Breakfast – This year's Alexandria Covenant Men's Breakfast will feature Mark Deterding, one of Alexandria's gifted business and leadership coaches. Mark will discuss servant leadership, drawing from Jesus Christ's example in a way that is applicable to every man's circle of influence. Come be inspired in your leadership and connect with other men over a great breakfast on January 4th from 9 – 11 AM located at Alexandria Covenant (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria). Sign up here alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/355/responses/new.

MOMS – Meet other moms at Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) 9 – 11 AM on January 8th. Childcare available.

Financial Peace University – God isn't silent about money. And the church shouldn't be either! Debt, investing, stewardship, money stress... it's all right there in the Bible. Join St Mary's Church (421 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) for Financial Peace University where you will learn biblical principles around finances and making wise financial decisions. Childcare available. This is a nine-part series that will occur every Sunday beginning January 26th from 6 – 8 PM.

LCC Young Adults – A place for singles, ages 18-30 and is designed for fellowship and to be a safe place for spiritual growth. Meeting **Fridays** from 6 – 8 PM at the Ahlers Home. Contact Nick Ahlers for details (507) 786-3256 or nickahlersrom116@gmail.com.

Osakis Life Group – Do you live in the Osakis area and are looking for a Bible study community? If so, we have a group meeting at the Clapper's home on the **first and third Friday** of the month from 7 – 8:30 PM. Light refreshments and childcare provided. Contact Bob Clapper at bobclapper@yahoo.com for more information.

Senior Connections

Senior Coffee – The first Tuesday of every month join Calvary Lutheran Church (605 Douglas St, Alexandria) from 10 – 11 AM.

Ready Ride – Safe, friendly rides helping adults 65+ maintain independence. Call Ready Ride at 218-685-7433 for more information.

Alexandria Senior Center – Open weekdays 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (414 Hawthorne St, Alexandria). For more information on all their many exciting events, call 320-762-2087 or visit their website at www.alexsrctr.org. February's activities include: **Barn Quilt Painting** – February 1st from 9 AM – 3 PM, \$75 per person, call 320-762-2087 to register; **Sunday Music** – February 9th and 23rd from 2 – 4 PM, free will donation, refreshments available for purchase; **Pie and Coffee** – February 13th and 27th from 1 – 3 PM, no charge, call 320-762-2087 to register for pie count; **February Birthday Club** – February 14th from 1 – 3 PM, penny BINGO, call 320-762-2087 for cake count; **Tech Time** – February 20th from 1 – 2 PM, no charge, call 320-762-2087 to register.

Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging – Dancing Sky works with rural communities to help older adults stay in control of their choices. Go to www.dancingskyaaa.org for more information on programs for older adults and caregivers in your area. Follow Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging for updates and information. Contact the Senior Linkage Line for assistance on options for seniors at 800-333-2433.

Support Groups



Sundays

Recovery Game Day – Every **third Sunday** at the Alano Club, 12 – 4 PM (1604 Jefferson St, Alexandria).

Friends & Family Game Day – Get ready for an evening filled with laughter, competition, and quality family time at ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) **every Sunday** from 2 – 6 PM for Friends & Family Game Night! Whether you're a seasoned board game enthusiast or just looking to unwind with your loved ones, this free event promises something for everyone.

GriefShare – Loss of significant loved one? Join Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) Sundays beginning February 16th from 1 – 3 PM Room H101 (enter through door #6). Please sign up at <https://alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/357/responses/new>.

Mondays

Amazing Journeys Support Group for Weight Loss – Meets **second and fourth Monday** from 6 – 7:30 PM at the YMCA. For more information, please call Betty at 320-304-3444.

Jesus Cares Bible Studies – The Jesus Cares Ministry reaches out to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through bible study and fellowship opportunities. They meet on the **second and fourth Monday** of the month at 7 – 8 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (718 Victoria Dr, Alexandria). If you have questions or would like more information, call 320-762-1644.

Navigating Autism Together – Living Word Lutheran Church (1722 16th Ave E, Alexandria) meets **the third Monday** of each month from 7 PM – 9 PM to support care givers of autistic individuals.

Tuesdays

Lounge Legends Trivia – Join The Lounge (inside Ollie Birch – 518 Broadway St, Alexandria) **every Tuesday** at 7 PM for themed trivia.

Pens and Pals – Held on the **first Tuesday** of every month at The Church of St. Mary's (420 Irving St, Alexandria). Pens and Pals is a ministry to love and serve persons in our faith community with disabilities through adult faith formation by creating a trusting partnership between all abilities of adult parishioners. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion. Contact Barb Friedrichs by email at barb326@live.com or call 320-766-6106.

Caregivers Support Group – Meets the **second Tuesday** of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave. E, Alexandria). For more details, call Val at 320-762-2196.

Cancer Support Group – Meeting the **third Tuesday** of the month at Alomere lobby conference room, (111 17th Ave. E, Alexandria). Meetings are offered in person or on Zoom. For more information call Jo at 320-766-3741 or email her at jopete@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group – Supporting caregivers in the community who have loved ones with Alzheimer's or Dementia. Helping each other, sharing our burdens, finding tools to help with the journey. This group meets **every third Tuesday of the month** at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria).

Grieving Parents Group – Located at First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave E, Alexandria) on **every third Tuesday** of the month from 7 – 8:15 PM. Contact FLC for more info at (320)762-2196 or at admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

Alexandria Area Newcomers – Shalom Lutheran Church (681 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) The Alexandria Newcomers meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of every month from 6:30 – 8 PM. Meetings are open to residents of all ages who are new to the community or former residents who have moved away and returned. For more information contact us at alexandriaareanewcomers@gmail.com.

Amazing Journeys Together - Amazing Journeys Together is a Non-Profit Organization focused on activating and building meaningful healthy lifestyles. Join The Church in the Pines (3992 Hwy 27, Alexandria), building #1 on church campus on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** of each month from 6 – 7:30 PM. For more information call, text, or email: 320-304-3444 or amazingjourneystogether@gmail.com.

Wednesdays

All Recovery Meeting - All Recovery is a support group for people interested in talking about any path to Recovery. We are open to people curious about, currently in, or affected by/supportive of substance use and mental health Recovery. We read a daily mediation of a different kind each week, and check in or share anything that could be helpful to you or someone else's Recovery. This is a free, confidential group that meets on **Wednesdays from 6 – 7 PM**.

Unmasked: Neurodivergent Fun Night – Spend some time with people who get you **every Wednesday from 6 – 8 PM** at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria). At Unmasked we decide the program together, from Tabletop Games to Special Interest Slideshows to Art Nights to anything (safe, legal, and possible) that you can imagine. Unmasked is free to attend thanks to a grant from the LRAC and the generous work of the community at ArtisTree Cafe and Community Event Center. Feel free to call or text 320-216-2101 or email info@artistree.cafe for more information.

Worship Wednesday – Join ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) for an inspiring and joyful afternoon of music, worship, and creativity **every Wednesday** from 4 – 7 PM. This is a great place to meet up before youth group, practice new songs, and discuss ways to show God's love to your community.

Handicraft Support Group – Knitters, sewers, crafters of all varieties and abilities are encouraged to join the Handicraft Support Group. Bring your projects and join others for company, encouragement, and inspiration. Located at Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) from 1 – 3 PM **every first and third Wednesday**.

Mom's Group – This is a group for moms with children of all ages to engage in fellowship and community as we encourage one another on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month** at 9:30 AM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria). Children are invited to join you!

St. Mary's Walking Group – Are you looking to get some exercise and good conversation? Join Katrina Brault the **first and third Wednesdays** each month from 6 – 7 PM. Meet at Big Ole. All are welcome!

Someplace Safe Women's Empowerment Group – A support group for survivors of abuse. Please call Leigh, at Someplace Safe for more information at 320-762-1995.

Coffee Connection – Are you feeling isolated, alone, and disconnected? We need real relationships with one another, so we are starting on ongoing opportunity to connect with other people, make some new friends, and to care well for one another. Join from 9:30 – 11 AM for coffee, donuts, and genuine conversations at Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria).

Game Night – Join Unity Recovery (503 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) on the **4th Wednesday** of each month from 4 PM – 6 PM for card games, board games, dice games, cribbage, UNO, Yahtzee, Go Fish, and more!

Thursdays

Puzzle Night – Making friends has never been easier or more fun! Join us for puzzles, tea, and camaraderie **every other Thursday** (beginning October 3rd) at 6 PM at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria). This is a free event, food and beverages available for purchase.

Ladies & Lattes Coffee Chat – Ladies of all ages welcome: Come join us for fellowship, sharing, and laughter the **second Thursday** every month at Common Ground Coffee House (516 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) from 1 – 2:30 PM. Contact Paulette DeFoe for more information dpdefoe@gmail.com.

Crochet/Knit Night – Join us at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) **every Thursday** at 6 PM. Bring your own project or just come and learn! This is a time to relax, enjoy a nice tea or coffee, hang out with others, learn from each other, and make some progress on that project that you've been dreaming of finishing (or even starting!). An experienced Crocheter will be on hand to help you if needed, or you can bring your skills and help others.

Grieving with Grace – A monthly grief support group hosted by KT Humble Hearts for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one meets every **first Thursday** of the month from 5 PM – 6:30 PM at KT Humble Hearts (700 Cedar St Suite 44, Alexandria). For additional information call 320-219-7144 or email kthumbleheart@gmail.com.

Fridays

Meal and Fellowship – Every Friday dinner and fellowship at The Regeneration Center (1615 6th Ave E, Alexandria) at 6:30 PM. For questions call Dave at 320-815-3590.

Friday Night Karaoke and Koffee – Come sing your heart out in this joyful informal setting. This group tends to be quite silly, so be prepared for lots of laughter and no judgement! **Every Friday** from 7 PM – 9 PM at ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria).

Friday Night Game Nights – Every Friday evening a group of tabletop gamers meets from 5:30 PM – 7 PM at Church of the Pines (3992 Highway 27, Alexandria). Location subject to change – check Facebook page for updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/788842233426336>.

Saturdays

Refine Your Rhythm Women’s Group – was created to offer an opportunity to come together on the **second Saturday** of the month from 9 AM – 11 AM at Crossings Life’s Bridges, LLC (5396 Peaceful Ln NE, Carlos) to unwind, experience connection, and shift your rhythm in an emotionally safe space. Learn from others. Increase your self-compassion. Give yourself grace. Join us when your schedule permits and the time is right for you. Must register for each session you attend at <http://www.crossinglivesbridges.com/events-2>.

Each day of the week

AA Meetings – Seven days a week at various times at the Alano Club located at (1604 Jefferson St, Alexandria). The schedule is posted outside the club door, or you can go to www.district4online.org or call the AA Hotline at 866-423-2969 for more information as well as the schedule for other area meetings.