

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
District 11
May 7, 2020**

Location: Online via Zoom

Meeting time: 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: 32 - Kate D. James P. Joe K. Dennis D. Glen R. Harry G. Georgene, Tim B. Holly, Carrie W. Tim, Kristen, Todd K. Scott, Ryan E. Earl H. Patricia M. Guy R. Sue C. Keith, Marlenna, Ken M. Joan C. Tine H. Harry G. GinnyD. Kevin Dennis P. Mike N. Carolyn, Kelly B. Steve, Sean T.

Committee members: 15

Groups represented: 22

Guests/Alt GSRs: 2

Read Twelve Traditions: Sean

Read Concept of the Month: Ginny

New GSRs or Alt. GSRs present:

New attendees present:

Anniversaries: Georgene - 7 months, Tim - 1 year

OFFICERS' REPORTS

DCM Report: Kate - DCM

- Since the April 2020 Business Meeting was cancelled, there's 2 months of updates to share!
- As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Illinois Governor's stay-at-home order, many AA activities were cancelled or rescheduled:
 - Area 20 Spring Conference, March 20-22 – cancelled
 - Area 20 Spring Assembly, March 21 – cancelled
 - District 11 Business Meeting, April 2 – cancelled
 - Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, April 4 – rescheduled for May 2nd as a virtual meeting
- General Service Conference (GSC), April 19-25 – rescheduled for May 19-21 as a virtual meeting
- 2020 AA International Convention July 2-5 in Detroit is cancelled; the 2025 Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA 2020 AA International Convention Cancellation FAQs 2020 Convention Cancellation Process
- Most/all in-person AA meetings were cancelled and recreated as virtual meetings using Zoom
- There is a plethora of virtual meetings offered in District 11. Sean and Harry have done a beautiful job uploading online meeting details on the D11 website: <https://aa-nia-dist11.org/online-meetings/>. Please take note that meetings with "CLOSED" in the title are limited to people who have a desire to stop drinking. "OPEN" meetings welcome everyone – alcoholics and non-alcoholics. If your online meeting isn't posted, here's the link to have your meeting added to the D11 website: <http://aa-nia-dist11.org/submit-remote-meeting-listing/>.
- On April 2nd, I hosted a virtual meeting to discuss AA tools during the stay-at-home order, including:
- 7th Tradition for Online Meetings - "Every AA group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."
 - Your 7th Step Contributions: AA's 7th Tradition Fact Sheet
 - GSRs should discuss how to best follow AA's 7th Tradition via group conscience with their home groups in this new era of virtual meetings
 - Here's an article from AA's Box 4-5-9 that shares a member's experience with "Passing the (Digital) Basket on page 3 AA Box 4-5-9 Passing the Digital Basket p 3 Holiday 2017

- Options for electronic 7th Tradition collection
 - PayPal - Setting Up a PayPal Account, Sending Money Using PayPal
 - Venmo – How Venmo Works How Venmo Works
 - Credit Cards
 - Access to virtual / online / phone AA meetings:
 - District 11 Online Meetings
 - Chicago Online Meetings (Area 19)
 - AA Intergroup Online Meetings - Global
 - Free tools to use during this stay-at-home directive
 - Free access to 2020 Grapevines
 - Free access to Hazelden Betty Ford meditation books - limited time
 - Free access to AA Speaker talks
- On Saturday, April 25th, I attended the Area 20's Pre-Breakout Report and Charter Committee Meeting via Zoom. Discussions included:
 - Continuing to print Regional A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
 - Considering restoration of 2 paragraphs and accompanying footnote in the Concept 11 essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service that were removed by an advisory action of the 66th General Service Conference
 - Considering amendment of a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter
 - On Saturday, May 2nd, I attended Area 20's Pre-General Service Workshop via Zoom. The facilitators of the Pre-Breakout Committee Meetings reported results to Area 20's Delegate, Marilyn F. Committees represented were: Accessibilities, Agenda, Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, International Conventions & Regional Forums, Literature, Policy & Admissions, Public Information, Report & Charter, Treatment, and Trustees. This feedback gave our Delegate, Marilyn, a stronger idea of how she should vote on various issues at the virtual General Service Conference in two weeks.
 - As an aside, I have learned about various virtual workshops, speaker events and round-ups, that were originally scheduled as live events in different cities across the U.S. I have participated in 2 events in the last 6 weeks, which was only made possible due to the pandemic. Just a little silver lining (thank you, God)... James and Marlenna sent out a flyer for this Saturday, May 9th, for "A Virtual Tour through AA History." Maybe I'll "see" you there!
 - Please let me know if you have any questions.
 - Joan - Should we be putting a definition of a closed meeting?
 - Sean - Will see what he can do. Does not want to crowd the page.
 - Georgene - Is the AA History tour going to have a limit? Should I get there early?
 - Up to you. Might be a problem, but not sure.
 - Sean - Could not find more information about the event. Probably best to get there early.

Alt DCM Report: Pat - Alt. DCM

No report

Secretary's Report: James - Secretary, Marlenna - Alt. Secretary

- Minutes were emailed out right after the last meeting. If you are not receiving them, please see me after the meeting and we will fix that. Are there any corrections? If not, I would like to make a motion to accept March 2020 minutes.
- Please email me your report. I will put the email address in the chat.
- Any new GSRs? I have paperwork for you to fill out and can you please see me afterwards please.

- Thanks for allowing me to be of service

Motion to accept with no changes: Sean , 2nd - Harry
Motion Passes

Please send written committee reports to the secretary to be submitted into minutes.
Email: secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org

Treasurer's Report: Holly G - Treasurer, Tim - Alt. Treasurer

Treasurer's Report Summary for: April 2020

- Available Funds, minus \$4000 prudent reserve:
- \$3,765.96
- Income from Individual Groups: \$685.40
- Expenses Incurred: \$211.18

Motion to Accept Report: Holly, 2nd- Steve
Motion Passes

- If your group would like to donate to district 11, mail in contribution as usual.

Northern Illinois Area District 11
PO Box 846
McHenry IL 60050

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibility Report: Bob K. - Chair, Kristen F. - Alt. Chair

- No report - nothing has happened with everything being closed down.

Answering Service Report: Scott - Chair, Mike - Alt. Chair

- 25 total calls were received.
- 15 calls were forwarded to volunteers.
- 10 calls went un forwarded. These were predominantly hang ups, but also included callers that refused to accept a call back and some wrong numbers.
- Several of the forwarded calls were inquiring about online/zoom meetings. As discussed earlier, rather than have the phone service give out any online information, these calls are being forwarded to volunteers.
 - ALL calls are now being forward for now

Archives Report: Clarence J. - Chair

- Not present

CPC Report: Ken M. - Chair, Ginny - Alt. Chair

- Not sure what to do with everything going on
 - Kelly - Not sure how, but now is a great time to reach out to people that online meetings exist.
 - Kristen - Accessibilities could help with that too.

Corrections Report: Emily B. - Chair, Steve K. - Alt. Chair

- No meetings at the jail. Three cases of soft cover Big Books were ordered from CASO and other literature for exit packages.
 - Harry G. - All the schedules are at the Church.

- Kevin - I will be up there tomorrow. But we could not find the schedules at the last business meetings

Grapevine Report: Todd - Chair, Pixie - Alt. Chair

- In-person presentations have stopped, but online presentations are an option.

Literature: Keith - Chair, Carrie - Alt. Chair

- I attended the Pre-General Service Conference Literature Committee break-out session Sunday April 19th. Over the course of 3hrs 45min up to 18 people attended. Our area delegate was on the meeting for almost the whole session and our alternate delegate joined on and off. We reviewed, considered and took group conscience on 30 agenda items listed for the General Service Conference.
- AA World service is continuing to process literature orders. AAWS has published the 2020 Literature catalog with streamlined pricing. For instance: Many versions of Alcoholics Anonymous ~ "The Big Book" are now priced the same \$9.50. Also there has not been a price increase from the last catalog.

LCM Report: N/A

Public Information Report: Guy - Chair, Randy - Alt Chair

- No Report

Schedule Maker: Harry

- No Report

Hospital & Treatment Setting Report: Glenn - Chair, Maureen - Alt Chair

- Hospital has suspended all Volunteer work until further notice
 - so both thursday and sunday meeting in the Behavioral unit is on hold

Webmaster: Sean T. - Chair, Harry G. - Alt. Chair

- The Webmasters were busy this past month updating the Meeting status of numerous meetings on the Meeting schedule/Meeting Guide app related to temporary closures and adding online meeting information when provided by the meeting contacts. Several meetings are likely inaccurately left active, but I think it is safe to say most people would assume by now that meetings are not meeting in person while the "Stay At Home" order is in place.
- Harry created a Submittal Form/page to facilitate the submission of Online meetings, helping let people know what information we need and get contact information of the person who submitted the details in case we discover problems with the details. Submitted meetings are forwarded to both Harry and I, so either of us can add/update the schedule as needed.
- As most of you know, we have a new separate Online Meeting page with known local online meetings and links to some meetings in other areas and additional helpful information. I created a separate Online Meeting Help page to somewhat reduce clutter on the list of online meetings and to provide links to additional resources. So much is available online now and easily searched, I do not anticipate the need to add anything new to the help page unless there is errors or updates needed particularly, if any major changes in security are announced.

- I think it is unnecessary and would be counterproductive to try to recreate help guides unless there is specific district information needed. There are countless excellent resources available online already and many that are specifically related to use in AA meetings, I have included some of those I found helpful on the new Online Meetings Help page, but ultimately a simple search online will find help on other AA websites, Youtube.com and numerous tech forums not to mention the help pages of the various apps themselves.
- Throughout last month there were many updates to meetings, interactions with meetings all across the globe as a participant which helped me determine what information was helpful and also to help people provide correct information for their meetings. We've received input from district service representatives as well as other AA members that have visited the website or used the Meeting Guide app. Most important is getting current status of in person meetings and accurate details of local online meetings. I personally attended many meetings that were attacked by intruders, known as "Zoom Bombers." These are basically unwanted attendees of an online meeting. Some are more disruptive than others and some are more malicious than others. Ranging from name calling, racial slurs, drinking and drugging on screen to pornography and gun violence, including videos involving children! Meetings can minimize these attacks by changing the basic security and sharing settings of the online rooms. Illegal content and activities can and has been reported to the FBI or other authorities by the meeting hosts.
- Personal information is not generally at risk, just by attending an online meeting, but just like with any online activity, we need to be cautious on what we share in a room or in the chat because basic information can be manipulated to steal identity or otherwise cause mayhem. Its' goof practice to have 1st name and last initial only and not share phone numbers or email addresses in public chat - reserve those exchanges for private messages. Also note be cautious of what you have in the background when your camera is on and be cautious when downloading files or clicking on links shared in chat. One thing that has been reported on some popular Zoom meetings is internet trolls/predators leaving links to bogus zoom meetings or asking for phone numbers pretending to be newcomers or potential sponsors. They drop the links in crowded chats and leave the meeting before anyone notices. In some instances the activity was reported. I have learned a lot from participating in online meetings, including some very large meetings of over 500 people and watching and asking the hosts how they handle the troublemakers. Besides of course, the benefits of going to a meeting, you will learn good (and bad) protocol as a host and as a participant in a meeting and perhaps find something you like to bring back to your own groups to add to the experience.
- Additional meetings will be added/updated as submitted. I anticipate many meetings will remain active online after the Stay at Home order/pandemic situation has ended, some may even opt to have online and in-person meetings co-exist. The online meeting details and in-person meeting schedule will be updated as needed as time goes on. I hope and anticipate the Meeting Guide app will continue to evolve and become more online meeting friendly, so that we can easily add Online Only meetings. As is it is currently, the meetings need to have a physical address to be added to the Meeting Guide. The workaround that many AA districts have done, is to use some generic address as the physical address for Online Only meetings so they can include them in the meeting guide. This is not necessarily a problem while ALL or most meetings are temporarily NOT meeting in person, but when meetings do re-open, the Online Meetings will incorrectly show up in searches by location/near me which would make it harder for someone to find an actual in-person meeting. For that reason, I have continued to keep Online Only meetings on a separate page, unless they are actually associated to an in-person location.

- It is quite likely the Meeting Guide app will become more Online Only "friendly" and allow us to eliminate the "old school" hand sorted scrolling list of online meetings in the future. I also anticipate many meetings that are currently considered Online Alternatives to existing in-person meetings, will stay online and "spin-off" on their own at which time, they would need be registered as new meetings with the GSO. This will be a lot of work, just as it was to initially setup the meetings, but the hardest part will be as always - getting the accurate information from the meeting contacts... whether or not each online meeting continues on as part of the original group or spins off on its own is up to the group conscience of each meeting. So be sure to discuss this with the meetings you attend. As always, the basic notes on the Website changes can be found on the Website Updates page.

Workshop: OPEN - Chair, Carolyn - Alt. Chair

- No Report

GSR Reports:

- **Kelly B.** - The 3 Legacies Group we are having a Speaker meeting May 31st.
 - Three Legacies - May 31st 7:00 pm. Speaker meeting Meeting ID: 607725514 Password: 093982

Old Business:

- **Open positions for 2020:**
 - Local Committee Members, Alt Schedule Maker, Workshop Chair
 - (Left them on the table)
- **Monthly District Meeting Location: Do we want to keep the meeting here at First Methodist Church, or should we move it, in the spirit of rotation?**
 - (Left them on the table)

New Business:

- **Steve K., Corrections Co-Chair, would like to change the business cards, which currently read: "If you want to drink, that's YOUR business. If you want to stop, that's OUR business." Discuss changing to read: "If you want to drink, that's your business, if you want to stop, we can help."**
 - Kelly - These cards were designed by PI awhile ago. I suggest that we send this back to PI and have them redesign it and bring it to district so we do not have the whole district trying to come up with a new design.
 - Sean - The slogan is no longer on the website. I do not like the line either. Should be something simpler like "Pick up the phone before you pick up the drink"
- **Angie B. has stepped down as District 11's Workshop Chair. Carolyn T. would like to remain as Alternate Workshop Chair, hence we need a new Workshop Chairperson. Please go to your groups and ask who would be interested in this position and bring any candidates to the June District meeting.**
- **Treasurer Holly G. was recently asked to reimburse expenses for a 12-Step Workshop that was held in January 2020 at the Crystal Lake Alano Club. She hasn't paid it yet because no reimbursement form has been submitted. They are asking for reimbursement of two days of CLAC room rental (\$60.00) and donuts (\$87.50). This made Holly ponder..."What exactly does the Workshop Committee pay for?" Holly spoke with Sid, our former Workshop Chairperson, and he only had one workshop during his term, also at the CLAC, and the District reimbursed \$200 on that workshop.**
 - **A great example of what the District covers, although NOT a workshop, is the Old Timers Brunch in February. The District provides seed money and**

the Brunch pays the District back via the suggested meal contributions, passing the 7th tradition basket and holding a 50/50 raffle. Most years they break even, some years it loses money, and this year the Brunch made a profit and contributed it to D11.

- As a district, we have an opportunity to put on some great informational workshops for our entire district. The 2020 Workshop budget is \$1,000.00, but we need better controls on how that money is spent.
- The most recent Workshop Committee Job Description was written in 2015:
 - DISTRICT 11 SERVICE WORK - WORKSHOP COMMITTEE
 - The Workshop Committee Chair and Alternate Chair should have at least 2 years of sobriety, have worked the 12 Steps, and have an understanding of AA's 12 Traditions.
 - Recruits, trains, motivates, and plans for volunteers to work behind the scenes in facilitating the District's efforts to put on informative and educational workshops
 - Books meeting spaces for workshops
 - Arranges for room setup and cleanup
 - Arranges for coffee, donuts, food, etc. if requested
 - Handles publicity for all workshops, including flyers and announcements in the Into Action, etc.
 - Sets up workshop calendar for the upcoming year and coordinates with the various Committee Chairpersons to have their materials ready well in advance for printing and publicity distribution
 - The time commitment required for the service work of this position is approximately 1 hour per week.
- Holly recommends that we form a committee to write a more robust job description and add specifics of what the Workshop Committee budget pays for and the process of reimbursement.
 - Interested on being on this committee - Joan, Kate, Carolyn, Holly

OPEN MIC:

- Sean - I am speaking at a meeting that is hosted in South Africa:
 - Monday May 11, 2020 1PM CENTRAL (8PM SAST) DAILY DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA Friends In Recovery 1:00PM CENTRAL
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9498376643?pwd=h8xaH67rdS4>
 - Password 1902

Meeting Closed at:8:56 p.m.

The next District Meeting is June 4th TENTATIVELY at 7:00pm at First United Methodist Church of Woodstock, 201 W. South St., Woodstock, IL 60098. Committees will meet prior to the District Meeting at 6:30 p.m.