

## Northern Illinois Area 20 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes

September 19, 2020

Online Audio/Video Meeting



### Meeting Opening

Area Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela welcomed attendees.

Carmela asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of recently deceased Area servants Mike F., a past NIA 20 Treasurer, Phil G., past Concepts editor, and Tom G., Past Delegate, Panel 46.

Carmela made the day's announcements, including the recent resignation of the Area Alternate Treasurer, Steve L.

### Registered Attendees

Area Officers and Alternates	7
Area Standing Committee Chairs and Alternates	15
District Committee Members (DCMs) and Alternates	20
Members (General Service Representatives [GSRs] and District Committees)	28
Past Delegates	2
<b>Total Attendees</b>	<b>72</b>

### New Attendees

Jane A., D43 Alternate (Alt) Public Information (PI)/Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC) Chair

Mark F., D41 General Service Representative (GSR)

Denise D., D23 GSR

Peggie G., D21 GSR for Still at It 12 & 12 meeting

Javier H., D65 Alt District Committee Member (DCM)

Drew O., D21 Secretary

Chelsea J., Alt GSR

Phil M., D62 Alt Literature Chair

Terese S., D61 Alt PI Chair

Aaron V., D43 GSR

### Anniversaries

Claire B. – 9/16 , 30 years

Dawn B. – 9/11, 17 years

Tom M. – 8/4, 23 years

Heather S. – 8/20, 29 years

Kate D. – 7/8, 14 years

Kris S. – 9/4, 3 years

Karen F. – 8/16, 33 years

Peggie G. – 6/23, 8 years

Joe B. – 7/11, 7 years

Chelsea J. – 7/20, 1 year

Ed M. – 8/23, 32 years

Carmela R. – 7/12, 20 years

***Celebrating 217 years of sobriety!***

## **Approval of 2020 Summer Assembly Minutes**

Cheryl V. made the motion to approve the 2020 Summer Assembly minutes and Kevin A. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Meeting Business**

### **Treasurer's Report – Dawn B.**

Dawn gave the Treasurer's report. Northern Illinois Area, Ltd. had a checking account balance of \$13,878.70 and a savings account (prudent reserve) balance of \$23,514.00. The net operating income for January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020, is \$4,624.76, which is the amount our income exceeded our expenses for the period. The PayPal account for Area donations will be up and running as soon as Webmaster Earl N. finalizes the technical installation on the website. Dawn is working with the Finance Committee on the proposed Primary Purpose Register (PPR) funding for 2021.

The Treasurer's report is posted on the NIA 20 website and is attached to these minutes.

Alternate Treasure Steve L. was not present at the Assembly.

#### At the Mic:

Joe B., DCM D22, asked if the overage on the Green Can restricted fund can be paid with Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) funds for treatment literature in 2020. Dawn is not sure about this and will follow-up on this and report back at the next meeting.

Chris E., DCM D21, asked if the Area will get seed money back from the Big Book Conference to be held online this year. Dawn said that any funds not used will be returned to the Area following the conference date because there may be some expenses incurred even though the conference is online.

### **Approval of 2020 Fall Assembly Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl V. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Chris E. seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a simple majority vote.

### **Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.**

Marilyn gave her Delegate's report. She reported on her recent activities and 2020 expenses. She also shared information from the A.A. Financial presentation given by the General Service Office (GSO) on August 15, 2020; as well as the General Service Board (GSB) Service Summary report from their meeting on August 3, 2020. She has paper copies of the 70th General Service Conference (GSC) Report at her house for distribution to the Area. Some of these have been picked up by members for distribution in the districts, but many are still available.

The Fall Assembly Delegate's Report is posted in the Delegate's Reports section of the NIA 20 website and is attached to these minutes. The Delegate's Page on the website has the various reports from the GSB and GSO that Marilyn has posted.

#### At the Mic:

Cheryl V. asked Marilyn for a copy of the 2020 A.A. Financial Report for the Area archives.

Dave T., Alt DCM D23, asked how much A.A. income is from individuals/groups and how much is from literature/Grapevine sales. Marilyn knows for sure that contributions are up and literature sales are down, but not by how much. She recalled that GSO said to take care of your districts first, but don't forget GSO. Without literature sales, GSO would not be self-supporting.

Dave T. also asked about the 2020 estimate of \$8.11 cost per member to pay GSO's expenses. Marilyn thought that the estimated amount and encouragement for individual contributions for that amount had come from one of the Areas in California a few years back. Kelly L., past Delegate, said the amount per member was calculated from the annual financial report, but the encouragement for each member to pay the estimated amount on the corresponding day of the year, e.g. \$8.11 on 8/11/2020, started in one of the areas. Kelly further stated that some of the additional individual contributions in 2020 came from individuals contributing prepaid International Conference registration fees to the GSB instead of asking for refunds when the conference was cancelled. She confirmed Marilyn's statement that without literature sales, GSO would not be self-supporting. Marilyn said that GSO can't predict very well what the financial situation will be in the near future, given the current Covid-19 pandemic conditions.

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Alternate Delegate – Chris D.**

Chris gave his report, emphasizing his responsibility for facilitating Service Orientation Workshops throughout the Area and being a panel chairperson at the upcoming Big Book Conference. One of his panelists will be Andre D., our Big Book Conference friend from Montreal, Canada. He is also attending a monthly online meeting of Area Alt Delegates from around the country that is helping him stay connected on issues common to all Areas.

The Alt Delegate's report is posted on the NIA 20 website and is attached to these minutes.

### **Chair – Carmela R.**

Carmela gave her report. She asked that in the breakout sessions today, we discuss what our committee structure looks like in the Zoom age, and how we can continue to communicate and serve.

The Chair's report is attached to these minutes.

### **Alternate Chair – Erik L.**

Erik was absent because he was moving, and did not submit a report.

### **Registrar – Carol H.**

Carol reported that she attended the Hispanic District 79 meeting in Rockford with Chris D. and past delegate Rich H. to gather registration information for the district and get communication with the Hispanic districts restarted. She also attended the online National Technical Committee meeting at which she received good information to help her with her registrar's duties. She will be attending a workshop with Chris D. in Freeport for District 72 to help them with the registration process.

The Registrar's Report is posted on the NIA 20 website and is to these minutes.

### **At the Mic:**

Chris E., DCM D21, asked how Carol wants changes made. Carol prefers to have the DCM insert a new line on the Excel spreadsheet to add the new information instead of changing existing information, and to identify both lines. Group changes also go on the spreadsheet. It is easier for Carol to use than the Group Change Form.

Karen F., DCM D12, asked if there was an updated list of GSRs for each district. Carol is currently working on it, and it will be out soon.

Kevin K., DCM D28, reported that one of his GSRs didn't get a welcome packet from GSO. He will send the information to Carol, and she will follow up with GSO.

Carmela reminded the DCMs that they can use the GSR handbook posted on the NIA website, or download the pamphlets that are included in the GSR welcome packet from the A.A. website.

**Alternate Registrar – Rob M.**

Rob reported that he has been working with Carol to manage, update and disseminate Area, district and group registration information.

**Secretary – Christy B.**

Christy has been attending the officers' monthly meetings and working on keeping the minutes up to date. She had nothing further to report.

**Old Business**

**2020 Big Book Conference Report – D10 & D12 (October 24, 2020)**

Hello Area 20

The BBC committee continues to meet. We are now meeting twice a month. Next meeting will be August 27th via Zoom@5:00 pm.

We are fleshing out our panels. Have Amot on board for recording. We are working with Megan for ASL. We will have a virtual flyer out with detail as soon as we have put more eyes on it.

We are meeting with the Tech committee later next week to make sure we have a working knowledge of our zoom capabilities and to set up a practice date.

We need folks to help behind the scenes to make sure the panels run smooth and to help with Q& A. Contact me or Karen F. to help.

In Service,  
Kevin A., D10 DCM / BBC2020 Chair

Karen F., Conference Committee Co-Chair said the electronic flyers will be out soon. They will distribute paper flyers as needed. The welcome and announcements at the conference will be from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., and the speakers and panels will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A.A. members from Canada and the Chicago Area will be participating in the panels.

At the Mic:

Kevin K., DCM D28, asked when his panel is scheduled. Karen confirmed 11:00 to 11:45 for him.

**Appointments Review**

Chair Carmela R. has appointed additional members to the Administrative committees.

- Concepts Editor – Robert S.
- Finance Committee – Karen D. (D73)
- Technology Committee – Bob B.

There were no objections to the appointments, and the appointees will be added to the NIA Committee Roster.



## **Open Positions Elections**

Chair Carmela R. reviewed the Area election process, including the Third Legacy process for electing officers because the Alternate Area Treasurer position is open, and who the voting members are. Cheryl V. made a motion that elections for committee chair/alt chair positions be by simple majority vote, and Chris E. seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

### Area Secretary – Alternate

Kevin A., DCM D10, whose DCM term expires in December 2020 was nominated and respectfully declined the nomination.

Karen F., DCM D12, whose DCM term expires in December 2020 stood for the position. Her sobriety date is August 16, 1987. In addition to the DCM position, she has served as Corrections chair, special event committee chair for several events, and is currently chair of the Area Finance committee. She has also served in other district positions. She is retired, has the time to serve and is willing to do the job.

No other candidate stood for the position.

The Third Legacy voting procedure was followed for the vote on this Area Officer's position, as required by the Area Service Manual.

### Election Vote

Votes for candidate Karen F. = 48 (100% of those who voted)

Karen was elected to the position of Area Alternate Secretary with no opposition in the first round of voting.

### Area Treasurer – Alternate

Allen Jacks stood for the position. His sobriety date is February 6, 1999. He has served as District 23 Treasurer, Alt DCM and DCM. He has been Area Alt Chair, Grapevine Chair, Literature Chair and has served on several administrative committees. He is currently the treasurer for his Wanderer's A.A. group.

No one else stood for the position.

Allen had a concern that this open position has not been announced in the districts so others could stand for the position. Cheryl V. concurred with Allen and asked for the formal election to be suspended. Allen agreed to be interim Alt Treasurer. The open position will be announced to the districts, and the formal election will be held at the 2020 Winter Assembly.

### Service Committee Positions

- Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate: No one stood or was nominated for the position.
- Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate: Gary F. was nominated and respectfully declined. No one else stood or was nominated.
- BTG Committee Area Chair: No one stood or was nominated for the position.
- BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate: No one stood or was nominated for the position.
- Grapevine / LaViña Committee Area Chair – Alternate: No one stood or was nominated for the position.

Elections for these open service committee positions will be included on the Winter Assembly agenda.

## **2021 Big Book Conference Host Bids**

Chair Carmela asked if there was any district that wanted to bid on hosting the 2021 Big Book Conference. District 11 made a tentative bid. The DCM was asked to

## **2022 Spring Assembly Conference Host Bids**

Chair Carmela asked if there was any district that wanted to bid on hosting the 2022 Big Book Conference. No district came forward with a bid. She also said there will be no 2021 Spring Assembly Conference because no one bid on it when there was still 18 months to prepare for it as recommended in the guidelines.

**Note:** The Sharing Session included in the Assembly Agenda was omitted to allow more time for the remainder of the program.

## **New Business**

### **Election for East Central Regional Trustee and U.S. Trustee-at-Large Candidates from NIA 20**

Area Delegate Marilyn F. explained the responsibilities of the regional trustee and trustee-at-large. The regional trustee represents our region on the GSB. The U.S. trustee-at-large represents the United States on trustees' International Committee. Additional information can be found in the A.A Service Manual.

#### East Central Regional Trustee Candidate

Cheryl V., NIA 20 Past Delegate Panel 64, stood to be the NIA 20 candidate.

She read her resume. Her sobriety date is 11/27/86. Her home group is the Spiritual Kindergarten Group in Grayslake and she sponsors women in the program. In addition to Area Delegate, she has been Alternate Delegate, Area Chair, and served on Area committees. She has been Alt DCM and DCM in District 10, and has served on District committees. At the group level she has been ashtray emptier, coffee maker, greeter, chair, secretary, intergroup member, treasurer and GSR. Her resume also included her non-A.A. service work, education and professional background.

No one else stood to be the NIA 20 candidate for this position.

#### Vote on Candidate

Votes in favor of Cheryl V. as candidate = 48 (96%)

Votes opposed to Cheryl V. as candidate = 2 (4%)

Total votes = 50

Cheryl was selected to be our candidate with 96% of those voting in favor of her candidacy.

Marilyn will submit Cheryl's nomination with accompanying paperwork to the GSB in the near future. All nominations must be submitted by January 1, 2021.

#### U.S. Trustee-at-Large Candidate

No one stood to be the NIA 20 candidate for this position.

## **Assembly Motions**

These motions and background materials are posted on the Fall Assembly page on the NIA 20 website, and are attached to these minutes.

**Motion 1** – Motion by the Finance Committee to send \$2,000 from NIA 20 to the General Service Board

Karen F., Finance Committee Chair, read the motion and presented the background material.

**Questions:**

Susan H. asked what the basis was for selecting \$2,000 as the donation amount. Karen replied that the Finance Committee reviewed past NIA 20 donations to the GSB. They determined based on current Area finances, with contributions down due to the pandemic, that this was an appropriate amount to contribute. The finance committee will review 2020 finances again in early 2021 to determine if an additional contribution is appropriate.

Jeff K. asked if the “General Service Board” is the correct wording for the entity receiving the contribution (not GSO). Carmela replied that it is the GSB that is receiving the donation. Dennis R. asked if this is the only contribution; there is not a separate one to GSO. Carmela confirmed this is the only contribution being made at this time by NIA 20.

**Comments:**

Cheryl V. commented that the reason we are preserving funds now is that in 2021 we will be asked to contribute for our Delegate to attend the General Service Conference.

Carmela stated that any motion requiring expenditure of NIA 20 funds requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

**Vote on Motion** by the Finance Committee to send \$2,000 from NIA 20 to the General Service Board

In Favor of the Motion = 60 (100%)

Opposed to the Motion = 0 (0%)

Total = 60

The motion passed with 100% in favor.

**Motion 2** – Motion by District 21 that our Area Delegate write a letter to the General Service Board requesting this agenda item be added for consideration at the upcoming General Service Conference: A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating “The Conference agreed that General Service Board should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups,” by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.

Chris E., D21 DCM, made the motion and Dennis R. seconded the motion. Chair Carmela asked to have the motion and second recorded; however, since the motion was submitted by the District 21 DCM, per the NIA 20 guidelines, no motion and second on the floor was required for the Assembly to discuss and vote on the motion.

Chris E read the motion and explained that the district is asking the Area to support their letter to the GSB asking to have a 2021 GSC agenda item to reconsider the GSC decision made in 1972 to reject donations from A.A. clubs.

**Questions:**

Chris D. asked for clarification on the part of the motion about sending a questionnaire to clubs. Chris E. explained that the district wants A.A. to revisit the questions asked in 1972 about clubs’ operating procedures, which may have changed so now some clubs have funds exclusively donated by A.A. members. The purpose of the motion is to find out if current operating procedures of clubs are not in violation of the 7th Tradition as opposed to 1972 when they were determined to be in violation by the survey results.

Cheryl V. stated as a point of order that members should not use the Zoom Chat Room for discussion of motions.

Dave F. asked if this violates the 7th Tradition. Bob thinks this violates the 7th Tradition and wants to know if GSO would have a list of clubs to survey. Carmela said that is a question to be answered at GSO. The only purpose of the motion in support of District 21's motion is to start the process of re-evaluating if clubs should be able to donate to the GSB at this time. It is only after it becomes a GSC agenda item, if it does, that any discussion of Tradition 7 violations will occur. Joe B. was opposed because clubs are entities separate from A.A, and he sees no need for this motion. Mark H. is opposed because it violates the tradition of group independence and would be better handled at the district level.

Karen F. asked if the catalyst for this motion is the Covid-19 pandemic. Chris E. replied that this issue came under consideration before the pandemic started. There was a misunderstanding at the district level about GSRs from groups that meet in clubs not being able to vote on district matters unless their groups donated to the district. This misunderstanding was cleared up, but in the process the issue of whether clubs should be allowed to contribute to A.A. if their funds only came from A.A. groups.

Comments:

Richard S. commented that most clubs are separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations under the U.S. tax code, so they are outside entities.

Chris E. clarified for Kristen F. that this motion is about whether money from A.A. groups pooled in a club treasury can be donated to A.A.

Rich H. opposed this motion to send a letter supporting District 21's motion. Donations from clubs would violate both the 6th and 7th Traditions because groups from other fellowships often meet at clubs and pooled funds are not exclusively donated by A.A.s. at these clubs, making them outside entities. A club is a place that rents space to A.A. groups, as well as potentially to groups from other fellowships such as Al-Anon or Narcotics Anonymous.

Rob. M. commented that the issue of donations from groups meeting in clubs is better handled by educating the groups on the difference between paying rent to a club and making a donation to A.A. He opposes this motion.

Cheryl V. commented that even though the Area may decline to send a letter of support for this GSC agenda item, District 21 can submit it for the agenda. This allows the trustees to decide if this is worthy of discussion. If it becomes an agenda item, then it will be discussed at the GSC. She supports the effort of District 21 to start communication on revisiting this issue.

**Vote on Motion** by District 21 that our Area Delegate write a letter to the GSB supporting District 21's request to the GSB for an agenda item at the 2021 GSC to reconsider the GSC decision made in 1972 to reject donations from A.A. clubs.

In Favor of the Motion = 16 (26%)

Opposed to the Motion = 45 (74%)

Total = 61; the motion was defeated with 74% opposed.

Minority Opinion:

The Area Chair asked if there was a minority opinion from anyone who was in the 26% minority in favor of the motion.

Kevin A. voted in favor because he agrees with Cheryl that this may be an item for the GSB and GSC to discuss again since it was last discussed in 1972. No one voting in the majority wished to change their vote based on this opinion.

The motion stands as being defeated.

**Motion 3** - Motion by the Concepts Editor and committee: It is moved that the Concepts Newsletter be distributed through digital means, including emailing and publishing on the NIA Website, with copies being printed and mailed for members who do not have digital capability.

Kris S., Concepts Co-Editor, read the motion and presented the background material.

Questions:

Earl N., Webmaster, commented that Concepts is currently posted on the NIA website and asked Kris if this will continue or change. Kris stated that it will be posted on the website and emailed to members going forward unless a paper copy is requested by an individual. Cheryl V. asked how the Concepts staff would decide if someone gets a paper copy. Kris said the members will identify themselves as lacking digital capability. Rich S. asked if members with digital capabilities can get a paper copy. Kris said they can. Heather S. asked how the list will be developed. Kris replied that anyone who asks for a paper copy will be put on the list. The Concepts staff has no way to police that list. It will be maintained by the Concepts co-editor.

Scott T. asked what the cost reduction is for the digital version. Current costs for Spanish translation run about \$300-\$400 per issue, or \$1,200-\$1,600 per year. Some costs for printing, posting and returned mail fees will be incurred for the mailed paper copies. The new cost per year is estimated to be about \$2,000 to \$3,000 versus \$13,000 a year for mailing paper copies to all members. This is a substantial reduction.

Scott also asked how the email distribution will be done. Kris said they had looked into free email services. It will be up to the individual to watch for it to arrive so it doesn't go to spam. Rob M. asked how list maintenance will be done, and if we will use our own mailing service. Kris answered that the Co-Editor will maintain both lists (regular mail and email). It will help our maintenance efforts when FNV or its replacement gets back up and running. We will be using an outside service for mailing and we have been looking at ones that are free. Karen F. asked if the NIA website could provide an opt out/in service. Kris said yes, it could, but she thinks they may do postcards for opting in for paper copies. Karen D. asked if members will still be able to ask Concepts to stop duplicate mailings/emails, the same as they could under the old system. Kris said yes, they will.

John O. asked what the cost per mailed copy will be going forward. Kris estimated \$2.00 per copy. Chris E. asked if any new expenses will be incurred under this new distribution plan. Kris said there will not be any new expenses.

Comments:

Richard S. said he doesn't think in the long run this action will benefit us. He does agree with giving members a chance to opt out and streamlining the mailings. He thinks the Accessibilities committee should have input about this action.

Chris E. said that adding/deleting to the lists will be easy. Tracking unopened emails by addressee could enable follow up with individuals.

Cheryl V. is opposed to going electronic because there is no way to "pass it on" with digital copies at the group/newcomer level. Carol H. responded that we are not totally eliminating paper copies, so there will still be a way to circulate copies.

Chris D. rigorously supports the motion. As past Registrar, he has helped the Concepts editor, and the task of mailing paper copies and following up is not easy. He has personally gotten paper copies and not read them. Instead he has read the electronic copies online. We are doing good for the Area by carrying the message digitally.

Earl N. strongly agrees with Chris D. about this being the right direction to go, especially since anyone who wants a hard copy can get it. He suggested we use a "white listed" email service, so we don't get lumped in with other users who are easily identified as spam. He has good information for the Concepts staff on these services.

Alan U. agrees with making it all digital and said that the groups could print their own copies for distribution. Bruce M. said this shouldn't be decided only on the desire for the Area to save money. Amy, a GSR, said that unwanted paper copies have been a long-term problem.

Gary F. asked if this was for 2020 only. Carmela responded that it will be a permanent change. The Concepts Editor decided to bring this motion about a permanent change to the Assembly after the discussion about changing media from paper to digital at the Summer Committee meeting in August.

A two-thirds majority will be required to pass this motion because it results in a change to the Primary Purpose Register for 2021 and future years.

**Vote on Motion** that Concepts Newsletter be distributed through digital means, including emailing and publishing on the NIA Website, with copies being printed and mailed for members who do not have digital capability.

In Favor of the Motion = 50 (77%)

Opposed to the Motion = 15 (23%)

Total = 65; the motion passed with a two-thirds majority (77%).

**Minority Opinion:**

The Area Chair asked if there was a minority opinion from anyone who was in the 23% minority opposed to the motion.

Cheryl V. opposed the motion and stated that newcomers to A.A. or to service work need to see paper copies. She would like to make paper copies default, and have individuals opt out for digital copies.

Susan H. wants to make sure that both options are available.

No one voting in the majority wished to change their vote based on these opinions.

The motion stands as passing.

**Lunch and Service Committee Breakout Sessions occurred from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

## **Service Committee Reports**

### **Accessibilities – Dwayne G. / Rachel B.**

Dwayne reported that he is working on the outdated accessibilities roster. He will have more information at the Winter Assembly.

### **Answering Service – Tracy F. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Not present

### **Archives – Jeff K. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Jeff give his report. The written report is attached to these minutes.

### **Bridging the Gap – Chair and Alt Chair are vacant**

### **Concepts – Robert S. / Kris S.**

Kris S. gave the report. She has received the Fall issue from Robert for editing. It should be coming out soon. They are looking for articles and/or ideas for content/themes. Please submit articles to Robert for the Winter issue.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community – Jeff L. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Jeff attended a New Jersey CPC workshop via Zoom. He met with GSR Amy in the breakout session. He is awaiting receipt of the CPC workbook from GSO.

### **Corrections – Scott M. / Mark H.**

Scott gave the report. His written report is attached to these minutes.

### **Grapevine – Susan H. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Susan is providing a Grapevine Corner section to the Concepts newsletter. On September 25, she will be attending a Quebec Grapevine workshop via Zoom. She wants to do a Grapevine informational workshop, or one on writing Grapevine articles, this fall or winter. She is willing to attend district meetings to talk about Grapevine / La Viña.

### **Literature – Kimberly T. / Phil M.**

Kimberly gave the report, and reminded us that literature sales are down in 2020. Her written report is attached to these minutes.

### **Public Information – Rich S. / Ed M.**

Alt Chair Ed M. gave the report. He and Jane A. talked about PI in the breakout session. He and Chair Rich have weekly Zoom meetings to generate ideas for Area-wide programs. They have been working on assembling a list of people who are involved in PI at the district level for better communication throughout the area.

#### At the Mic:

Chris E., D21 DCM, commented about the Big Books and pamphlets his district has placed in local police stations as a suggestion for PI work in other districts and wanted to know if any other districts have experience with this. He said it is good to give the police stations notice that you are coming to get your foot in the door when delivering books. Ed M. said this is good PI work and it could also involve CPC.

### **Treatment Facilities – Lisa S. / Rich H.**

Richard H. gave the report, saying that they have sent emails to districts asking about meetings in treatment centers. Not much has changed since our last meeting. Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Services is using FaceTime to bring meetings to the patients. Many districts are still reaching out to bring virtual meetings into other treatment facilities, but they are not making much progress.

Lisa's written report is attached to these minutes.

## **Administrative Committee Reports**

### **Archivist – Cheryl V.**

I met with Ray and visited the archives storage area. We talked over the contents and additional information on how he was serving when in the role.

At that time, I removed the printed versions of the Concepts, along with the various copies of the minutes. I will be working to ensure that we have these all in digital format.

I have also been in contact with our Web Administrator to find out about the ability to place more of our digital information on the web. He assured me that space is not an issue. He also gave me the naming convention. I will be working to create anonymity protected versions of these items and get them moved to the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl V., NIA 20 Archivist

**Conference Advisory Committee – Erik L.**

There is nothing to report. The committee has not met since the Summer Committee Meeting in August.

**Electronic Equipment – Joe B.**

Joe stated that they are ready to go whenever we get back to in-person meetings.

**Finance Committee – Karen F.**

Karen said they will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to start working on the proposed Primary Purpose Register expenses for 2021.

**Operating Committee – Carmela R.**

This committee has had no activity to report.

**Report and Charter Committee**

Kate D., D11 DCM assigned to the committee, said they could use some help. There are four open positions on the committee.

**Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V.**

The Spanish version of the Service Manual and other documents have been updated on the website. Spanish Districts can now access the Service Manual, Primary Purpose Finance, Planning Procedures, and Website Policy and Guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl V. NIA 20 Service Handbook Custodian

**Technology Committee – no chair elected yet**

See Webmaster's report below.

**Website Administrator - Earl N. / Eric B.**

Earl reported that they had a good discussion in the breakout today about having a back-end tech person when a district or the Area is hosting an event on Zoom to monitor chats, do the breakout sessions, etc. Randy C. from District 90 in the Quad Cities area attended the breakout today and commented about how much easier it is to attend a virtual meeting than in-person when you live at the outer edge of our Area. Earl is hopeful that Randy will agree to be appointed to the Technology Committee. Carmela will reach out to Randy about this appointment.

Earl is still working with PayPal on doing online donations to the Area. He had good news that 90% of the districts are now maintaining their own websites, and 80% of the districts are submitting their meeting lists to the Meeting Guide app. He has uploaded the Spanish language version of the Service Manual to the website. If you don't see a flyer you have asked to have posted on the website within 2-3 days of submission, please send Earl an email about it. When you see a flyer title on the website with "(English)" after it, that means there is also a Spanish or other language version also posted.

At the Mic:

Chris D. said that GSO has parallel websites form Spanish and French languages. He asked if our Area can do that with Spanish, perhaps by using Google Translate, which would be less expensive than using a translator. Earl said it is possible, but it would be too costly to do the whole website, and his experience with Google Translate is that doesn't translate idiomatic language very well. We can do it on a limited basis for the most important information on the website. He currently is using Google Translate to create some Spanish flyers and event announcements.



Chris D. asked if Earl was tracking how many people are using the translated pages. Earl said yes, he is. He has continued to get Google Analytics data on website usage, and his experience is that it doesn't vary much from month to month, so he has quit reporting them at every Assembly. He can provide them again at a future meeting. He commented that generationally, young people tend to go the website first, while older people use the answering service first. Both are useful.

Carol H. asked if we can get translation services for virtual meetings. Earl said it had not come up in the Technology committee, but they will be meeting soon with the Big Book Conference committee about getting the technological side set up, and he will bring it up then. Carol suggested they contact Laura in the Chicago Central Office (District 19) for help because they are currently doing translation services on virtual events. Earl said he will add this to the agenda for the next Technology committee meeting.

## **Meeting Closure with Open Mic**

### **Open Mic:**

Chris E., DCM D21, announced that his district is having a virtual speaker meeting on September 25, 2020. They will show a video of Sir Anthony Hopkins giving his A.A. talk.

Chris D. announced that there will be an Area-wide Service Orientation Workshop on November 7, 2020. The districts are encouraged to participate.

Susan H. said she had read the GSO announcement that all forums in 2021 will be virtual, and asked Marilyn if the General Service Conference will also be virtual. Marilyn answered that it most likely will be.

### **Adjournment**

Dennis R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Claire B. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Winter Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on December 12, 2020.

**List of Attachments to the Fall Assembly Minutes  
September 19, 2020**

1. 2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer
2. NIA 20 Panel 70 Delegate's Report
3. Alternate Delegate Report
4. Report of the Area Chair
5. 2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar
6. 2020 Fall Assembly Motions & Background Material
  - Motion 1 by the Finance Committee to send \$2,000 from NIA 20 to the General Service Board
  - Motion 2 by District 21 for Area support of their 2021 GSC agenda item to survey A.A. clubs nationwide to re-evaluate a 1972 GSC Advisory Action to recommend that the GSB not accept donations from A.A. clubs [summarization of motion]
  - Motion 3 by Concepts Editor and committee to distribute the Concepts Newsletter through digital means, with paper copies available to members without digital capacity [summarization of motion]
7. Archives Committee Report
8. Corrections Update
9. Literature Committee Report
10. Area Treatment Chair Report

**Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.**  
**PO Box 808**  
**Streamwood, IL 60107-2971**



**2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer**  
**NIA Fall Assembly – September 19, 2020**

**Balance Sheet**

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020:

- Checking account balance: \$13,878.70
- Operating funds balance: \$10,044.69
- Restricted funds balance: \$3,834.01 and consists of:
  - "Pink Can" \$4,012.41
  - "Green Can" (\$178.40)
- Savings account balance: \$23,514.00 (Prudent Reserve)

**Profit and Loss Statement**

The QuickBooks Profit and Loss Statement summarizes the revenues, costs and expenses incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020:

- Total Contributions: \$33,957.23
- Total Expenses: \$29,332.47
- Net Operating Income: \$ 4,624.76 which is the amount that our expenses exceed our income in 2019

**Miscellaneous**

- Paypal for Area Donations is all set up. As soon as the Webmaster makes it live, I will let the Area Committee know.
- I am working on a draft PPB for 2021. I am going on the premise that we will be back to normal and meeting in person/doing activities in person in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn B., NIA Treasurer – Panel 70 [treasurer@aa-nia.org](mailto:treasurer@aa-nia.org)

## Delegate's Report

## Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery

September 19, 2020 – Fall Assembly

Greetings Area 20,

I hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe out there.

Since the last Assembly meeting that was held on June 13, 2020, I have visited some District business meetings to give a short General Service Conference report. I would like to visit your district also!

District 21 – June 16<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Chris  
12x12x12 & More Meeting on June 24  
District 11 – July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thank you Kate  
District 23 – July 13<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Scott  
District 73 – July 17<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Karen  
District 10 – July 10<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Kevin  
District 41 – August 20<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Tom

I attended the National Corrections Conference on August 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a wonderful conference. Two male prisoners in Angola were able to speak to us. It was wonderful to see how AA is helping people that are incarcerated. Thank you Mark and Scott. Great job!!!!

I attended many of the IL State Conference planning meetings and gave my General Service Conference report at the Virtual State Conference on August 15<sup>th</sup>. I also attended the final wrap-up meeting for the State Conference on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>. No final figures are in yet, however the conference was a success.

I attended all of the Illinois State Policy meetings. This committee has been very busy updating the procedures for hosting the Illinois State Conferences. Each area in Illinois hosts this conference once every third year. This year Area 19 hosted the conference virtually. The “procedures” document has not been updated in a while, so this year the Illinois State Policy Committee had several meetings to bring the document up to date including information regarding Virtual Conferences.

Also, on August 15<sup>th</sup> I attended the Finance presentation given by the General Service Office via ZOOM.

Here are the minutes that I took of that meeting:

They are still having problems with ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), but it is beginning to work. The problem is this, trying to get the three different systems to become one system. #1 system was FNV (Fellowship new Visions, a record of all groups, contacts and trusted servants; #2 GSO webstore, where all literature is sold.



#3 Group contributions. All three of those systems are being combined into one system named ERP, Enterprise Resource Planning system. The new computer system at GSO should be working by December 14, 2020. ERP helps make all of the systems work together.

7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of self-support \$8.86 million set another record up 5.71% from 2018

Hotel deposit for the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC, that hotel has closed its doors so we won't get back the deposit.

Paypal is working for contributions. / No venmo.

Highlights from A.A.W.S and Box 459 are both on-line.

Grapevine loss was \$27,303

Reserve Fund \$16.2 million resulting in ration of 9.2 months

Question from a Delegate: Where there any employees furloughed, layoff?

Answer, by Greg, 3 or 4 furlough, a couple of leaves, one retired. Answer by Stephanie, 3 AAWS and 1 Grapevine employees were furlough. (as of August 15, 2020)

Questions from a Delegate: Any plans on hiring by the end of the year?

Answer by Greg T., undergoing right now – the plan is not to replace one to one. Expect a smaller workforce in 2021.

Will the \$3 million be enough? (drawdown of \$3,000,000.00 from the prudent reserve) Will we have to drawdown again?

Answer by Leslie: how soon the money comes in the from insurance company for the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention.

Answer by Leslie-(drawdown) we hope to pay it (the drawdown) back within two years.

Question from a Delegate: When will we see the quarterly group contributions? Zenni answered, currently working on the data in NetSuite.

The data cannot be exported.

END OF MY MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> FINANCIAL MEETING\*\*\*\*\*

The final reports for the 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, in English, Spanish and Polish are all on the NIA website. Thank you Earl!

The 70<sup>th</sup> GSC Finance Update Presentation, "Around The Picnic Table" is posted on our website and included in the e-mail that I sent to everyone. (Thank you Earl!)

Rich H. stopped by my house and picked up of the Final Report to help distribute them to Districts 10/11/12/20/21/28/79. 225 English and 20 Spanish reports

I have received several e-mails from the General Service office regarding finances and other topics. I have forward all of those e-mails out to Area 20. I have also attached some of them to my e-mail to you for this Assembly.

There will be no "in person" FORUMS in 2021.



The Conference of Delegates Past and Present will not be in person. May be Virtual?

AA catalogues will not be mailed out for a cost savings.

All DCM and GSR kits have been sent out.

Box 459 and Highlights will only be sent out electronically.

No travel by General Service Office.

The General Service Office is asking for stories from the "A.A. Older Alcoholic" (included in e-mail)

The August 20-22, 2021 ECR Conference hosted by Area 55. (Save the date flier is included in the e-mail)

Due to the Conference approval of the Report and Charter item to change Item D to change the wording in the Conference Charter (included in e-mail)

Current amount to be self-supporting is \$8.11. I contacted Mark E., our East Central Region Trustee to get an understanding of where / and how this all started. This is what he said:

*About 3 or 4 years ago the "cost" of supporting the General Service office was \$7.28 per individual AA member. A movement was started in the Pacific northwest that each member was encouraged to send in \$7.28 on July 28 and the idea spread from group to group all over the country. And on July 28 and for days after loads of contributions came in for \$7.28 each. The next year it was a bit more and this year the cost is \$8.11 and again a grass roots movement has found many contributions of \$8.11 coming in on August 11.*

The Area Handbook in Spanish should be on our website now or soon.

Now about today's election for Area 20's East Central Regional Trustee candidate: Some background; there are eight regions total: 2 regions in Canada and 6 regions in the United States. We are in the East Central Region which includes the five states; Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Within our five states there are 14 Areas. Each area can elect a candidate to be elected at next year's 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. At our Area Assembly today we will see who we have elected for our regions trustee. I then will send their resume to the General Service Office. The Trustee will serve four "one year" terms. The Trustees Committee will review the resumes of all newly-nominated persons.

Also to be voted on today is a candidate from our Area for the Trustee at Large – US. More from Mark:

*Each area has the right and (some might argue) responsibility to nominate a candidate for each of these two positions. These candidates will be presented by you (or your delegate replacement for the panel 69 delegates), at both our East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present in February 2021 and again at*



*the General Service Conference in April 2021. The Trustee at Large – US will be discussed and the number reduced to a total of six at regional luncheons by the six US regional meetings at the Conference – each region will then present one candidate for Trustee at Large US at election to be held usually on Wednesday, at the Conference. In the same afternoon, the ECR Trustee will be elected and all of you witness how those elections go.*

I thank you for allowing me to serve you.

In Service,  
Marilyn F.  
NIA 20 – Panel 70 Delegate

Expenses for 2020: Printed GSC documents - \$492.44  
March 2020 ZOOM \$14.99

# Northern Illinois Area 20

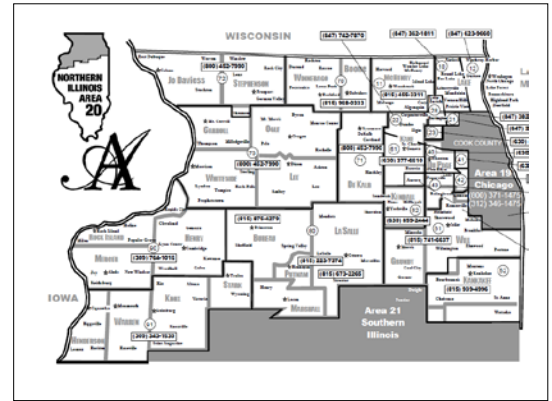
Unity - Service - Recovery

September 18, 2020

## **2020 NIA-20 Fall Assembly**

### **Alternate Delegate Report –**

#### **Welcome to the 2020 Fall Assembly!!**



First off, thanks to all for attending what is becoming an all to common occurrence, that being an Area virtual assembly. We are glad you are here and I'll take this opportunity to remind all reading this that the Area's primary purpose is to be of service to all members in our Area. To that end I was honored to be invited to attend and speak at District 79's district meeting this last week, with one particular difference being that this meeting was in person! Although our faces were concealed by masks I believe all who attended would attest to the enthusiasm and passion that was clearly evident in the "eyes" of those present!!

One of my primary responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate is for me to help facilitate Area-wide Service Orientation Workshops. For those of you that might not be aware, these workshops are completed funded by the Area, meaning we'll cover the cost for the venue, refreshments, printed materials and other associated expenses. The first of these workshops is currently scheduled to be held in Freeport on November 7 at 10A, home of District 72. We are currently planning to make this an "in-person" workshop, though we may be able to also have a live Zoom option as well. We're still in the planning stages for this workshop although a working theme is PARTICIPATION, flyers will be forthcoming shortly!! Hopefully, this will open the door to have other district's ask for similar (or different) service orientation workshops and District 80, I'll be calling on you next!!

I have also been asked to share on a panel at the upcoming Big Book conference along with Andre D., our stalwart friend up in Area 87, which is in Montreal Canada. Once again, we'll have involvement for our "Sister BBC Area" and I know he shares my sentiment when I express thanks to committee for the invitation and inclusion.

I've also had the opportunity to take part in monthly meetings composed of all the Area Alternate Delegates. This is new "committee" (with no official business being transacted) was put together by the Alternate Delegate from Southern New York (SUNY). It's been an excellent opportunity for us "Alternates" to meet one another and stay connected on issues that are common to our Area's.

#### **2020 Reimbursement Requests-**

I have no reimbursement requests since my last report.

Respectfully submitted - Chris D. – NIA 20 – Alternate Delegate - Panel 70

([nia20altdel@gmail.com](mailto:nia20altdel@gmail.com))



September 19, 2020

Fall Assembly

Virtual meeting via Zoom

To the Area Assembly,

These last few weeks have been fun! I've had the chance to help reformat and incorporate recent changes to the Illinois State Conference Policy document. It is nearly final and ready to be shared with the Area 21 host committee next month. We made additions to account for future virtual program elements and guidance around contingency planning.

Officers met recently to review upcoming agendas, discuss any areas of concern, and come together to discuss how to improve the way we get things done. We are scheduled to meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 5-6pm.

I recently joined the Technology committee and our Alternate Chair to talk about virtual event production support and Technology Committee responsibilities. Our first order of business is to support our upcoming 1-day virtual Big Book Conference.

As a reminder, our Area Zoom account is available for any members of the Area Committee to leverage. Want to host a standing committee meeting? District service workshops? Let us know – the resource is available for Area use.

In the coming weeks, I intend to make more time to learn about how other areas operate, especially in key areas of technology support and assembly formats. I will do more to share in this space so we can all learn and keep new ideas circulating.

**Expenses to date: \$631.70 (nothing new since last report)**

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 CDPD \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela R

Area Chair, [chairperson@aa-nia.org](mailto:chairperson@aa-nia.org)



## 2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar Fall Assembly – September 19, 2020

Since the August 8<sup>th</sup> Summer Committee meeting, I have been working on the reformatting and individualizing of the Excel spreadsheets provided by the General Service Office (GSO). They are currently sending three reports developed to reflect the group and individual contacts currently in GSO's records. This now weekly email distribution is a temporary method of delivery, while the work continues to design and implement an improved process that will allow Registrars to view these in "My Portal", which is part of the new ERP system that replaced the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) which previously housed that information. There have been many group and service position changes submitted in the last couple weeks and I'm trying to get those all sent in to the General Service Office as well as provide updated information to the districts and service committees as soon as possible when requested.

Last night I attend the District 79 meeting in Rockford with Rich H. and Chris D. after Rich was contacted by a member of that district to attend. This was very helpful as we have not had current contact information for the three Hispanic districts in Area 20 so this opened that door to future communications. They are very excited about being a part and participating in the Area activities as well as sharing things that go on in the Spanish community. I plan on attending and participating in the service orientation workshop in Freeport on November 7 and hope to provide information to those groups but how they can register and answer any questions and requests.

I have also participated in several virtual service committee meetings such as the Area 20 Officers meeting, the Area Sharing Sessions sponsored by Area 19 and have been in contact with the Area 19 Office Manager who acts as their Area Registrar for shared experience that could provide solutions to some of the common problems we have been experiencing. Last weekend I attended the National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) <https://naatw.org/> to learn how others are sharing the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through technology to help the next alcoholic.

If your General Service Representative (GSR) did not receive their GSR kit and number please resend the new group form to the registrar so that it can be resubmitted. We are finding there are a lot of forms that were previously submitted that have not yet been processed but they are getting much better at providing these updates more quickly than in the past.

All workbooks are available as a download on the websites below:

- General Service Representative (GSR) Kit - [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_GSR\\_list.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf)
- Service Committee Workbooks - [https://aa.org/pages/en\\_US/aa-service-committees](https://aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-service-committees)
- Northern IL Area Service Manual - <http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-201908.pdf>.

If you have any requests or specific needs for information please send your request to the registrar's email address. Please do not send images of forms copied into the body of an email because it is very difficult to read. This is the preferable format for submitting service position updates and group changes are in an Excel spreadsheet format. The information that is required on the group change form can also be submitted by typing it into the email. The updated list of the current group contacts in each district will be coming individually to each DCM.

Updated group change and new group forms are on the NIA Website <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. **All communication of changes and updates should be sent to the [registrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org) mailbox or mailed to Area Registrar, PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524 .**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol H., NIA Registrar – Panel 70  
[registrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org)

## 2020 Fall Assembly (motions & background material) \_final

September 19, 2020

### 1. Motion by the Finance Committee to send \$2,000 from NIA 20 to the General Service Board

#### Background detail:

At the June District 42 Meeting the District passed a motion to distribute \$400 of their own reserves to NY as well as unanimously passing the following:  
“We move that District 42 petition Area 20 to make a \$2,000 donation to General Service Office, New York.”

The motion was also supported by District 11; however, their DCM was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, but her district’s support was noted.

This was taken up by the Finance Committee who unanimously recommended it go forward to the Fall Assembly for approval. The recommendation for approval was straight forward:

- While NY contributions are solid, literature sales are down significantly, and operations have been affected. Dipping into the reserves and furloughs have been necessary.
- There are sufficient Area 20 funds available now over the prudent reserve.
- Our Area 20 Treasurer ran an analysis of the maximum outlays Area could expect to incur through year end and we would still be well below the prudent reserve even if incoming funds were reduced.
- Money sent to GSB (NOT for GSC, Delegate Support, or Birthday plan)
  - 9/26/2018-----\$10,000
  - 4/30/2018---\$8,000
  - 7/30/2017--\$8,300
  - 10/15/2016--\$8,250Total for last 4 years; \$34, 500



The Primary Purpose Register basic expense items and year over year contribution details on the following pages are also being presented as background for this motion.

**Primary Purpose Register - basic items (PPB) example**

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 7/31/2020	2020 Expected Amount	Remaining if we don't open	Open last Quarter
B01	General Service Conference	The Area Committee is expected to participate in and report on the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental for pre-GSC workshop</li> </ul>	Delegate and Alternate Delegate	\$ 14.99	\$2,000.00	\$ -	
B02	General Service Conference Contribution	The Area Committee is expected to make a contribution for the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	Year-end contribution to GSB for NIA participation in GSC	Delegate reports to the Treasurer the current expenses per the General Service Board	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00	\$ -	
B03	Area Assemblies	The Area Committee is expected to support hosting districts to host four assembly meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 267.94	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,100
B04	Area Committee Meetings	The Area Committee is expected to host four committee meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 890.01	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00
B05	Service Orientation Workshops	The Area Committee is encouraged to host roughly eight Service Orientation workshops around NIA per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Alternate Delegate	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 600.00

B06	Administrative Committee Meetings	Committees are encouraged to hold roughly ten meetings each year to perform their respective functions per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Conference calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance committee</li> <li>• Operating Committee</li> <li>• Report and Charter Committee</li> <li>• Conference Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Electronic Equipment Committee</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 250.00		\$ 75.00
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mailing services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts Editor</li> <li>• Concepts Co-Editor</li> </ul>	\$ 7,094.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
B08	Area Committee participation in District Committee functions	When invited, Area trusted servants are expected to attend and participate in District service functions including District meetings, workshops, service events, etc., per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• This relates to expenses incurred when the District is hosting.	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 500.00
B09	ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	Attend the East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> <li>• NIA Chairperson</li> <li>• Immediate Past Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ 1,586.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
B10	Area Operations	Area trusted servants are expected to operate NIA basic services per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage, postage, mailing services, NIA contribution envelopes, office supplies, post office and postage, printing or</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$3,583.06	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 5,000.00



			copying, insurance, Quick Books Online. coffee pots, annual reports, bank fees, Archives repository, GSR Handbooks, canceled check charges, website expenses, electronic equipment maintenance and upgrades					
B11	Illinois State Conference, Area Committee participation	In years in which the IL State Conference is hosted by NIA, thirty-six trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years, the Delegate, Area Chairperson, and Archivist are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years service committee chairpersons who are requested by the NIA Delegate and the Conference planning committee are also expected to attend and participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate every year.</li> <li>• Group I, II and III when it is held in N.I.A. and in other years when Delegate requests participation for Area 19 or 21 State Conference Host Committees.</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B12	Spring Conference, Area Committee participation	Thirty-six Area trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate in the NIA Spring Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B13	Big Book Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the hosting district to host the Big Book Conference per the NIA Big Book Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$ -	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00

		guidelines and historical practice.						
B14	Spring Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the Spring Conference Committee to host the NIA Spring Conference per the NIA Spring Conference Guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 3,750.00		
B15	East Central Regional Forum	The Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Forum (held every two years.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B16	East Central Regional Conference	The Area Delegate and Alt. Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Conference every year (held every year except those with International Conferences.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B17	Service Committee Workshops	Area service committee chairpersons are expected to host workshops focused on carrying the A.A. message within the scope of one or more service committees. The workshops should be geographically distributed throughout NIA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter (If needed)</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• This relates to expenses incurred when the Area is hosting.	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00

B18	Annual Bridge the Gap Weekend Workshop	The Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson or their replacements, as appointed by the BTG Chairperson, shall attend the Annual BTG Weekend Workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTG Chair</li> <li>• BTG Alternate Chair</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B19	IL State Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the State Conference Committee to host the IL State Conference per our guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee		\$ 750.00		
B20	National AA Technology Workshop	Either the Website Administrator or the Alternate is expected to attend the annual National AA Technology Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Administrator or</li> <li>• Alternate Website Administrator</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
B21	National AA Corrections Conference	The Corrections Chairperson and Alternate Corrections Chairperson shall attend the Annual Corrections Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrections Chair</li> <li>• Alternate Corrections Chair</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
<b>Primary Purpose Basic Totals:</b>					<b>\$ 24,336.42</b>	<b>\$ 78,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,825.00</b>
<b>Group I:</b>		<b>Group III:</b>		<b>Group II:</b>				
Officers and Alternates		Administrative Committees		Service Committee Chairs and Alternates				
• Delegate		• Operating		• Answering Services		• Corrections		
• Chairperson		• Finance		• Archives		• Grapevine		
• Treasurer		• Report and Charter		• Accessibilities		• Literature		
• Secretary		• Electronic Equipment		• Bridging the Gap		• Public Information		
• Registrar		• Conference Advisory		• Concepts Service Letter		• Webmaster		
				• Cooperation With The Professional Community				



Year over Year Donations to NIA (Jan- Aug 2019 vs. 2020)													
Group Donations													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August					
2019	3058.12	4423.38	2873.06	2595.19	5764.38	2432.73	6522.21	3723.91		31392.98			
2020	0	16130.1	3505.21	2587.12	999	678	1476.51	1684.5		27060.44			
										4332.54	Difference 2019 to 2020		
District Donations													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August					
2019	1442	1310.19	743.85	216	2030	0	1782	3200		10724.04			
2020	0	400	250	1693.5	775	2312	0	500		5930.5			
										4793.54	Difference 2019 to 2020		
		9,126.08 Less donations January through August 2020											

2. **Motion by District 21 that our Area Delegate write a letter to the General Service Board requesting this agenda item be added for consideration at the upcoming General Service Conference: A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating “The Conference agreed that General Service Board should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups,” by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.**

**Background detail:** the letter being sent by District 21 to the GSB requesting the item be considered for discussion by the Conference.

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**District 21 | Northern Illinois Area 20**

**P.O. Box 1003, Palatine, Illinois 60078-1003**

August 24, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Palatine Angle Group proposed a change at our District meeting in January 2020 to allow AA to receive donations from Clubs, providing they have no outside commitments or connections. The group believed it was wrong for District 21 to reject a donation from our local club, because it came from a group of alcoholics. They understand the reasoning for the decision the District made but believe the GSC Action used to make that decision is outdated and needs to be revised.

The District voted in February 2020 to support the group in requesting that this change be considered by the General Service Conference. It has been almost 50 years since this matter was last addressed by the GSC. We believe it is time to reevaluate the decision that was made in 1972 to determine if the reason for the GSC Action is still the same. Therefore, we are proposing the following motion to be considered by the GSC and request that it be added to the agenda of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference in 2021:

*A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating "The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups," by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.*

It is known that meetings for other 12 step programs take place at our local club and that they pay rent to do so. It is not known if the money received from those groups is kept separate from money collected from AA meetings. We believe the donation that the District received and returned in December 2019 was from money collected from AA members and made in good faith to our District. By conducting a survey of clubs, similar to the one done before the 1972 GSC Action, the GSC can determine if money received from Clubs is contributed by A.A. members only, and if so, to make the proposed change.

**Background:**

District 21 made an initiative in 2019 to get our local Club more involved at the District level. This resulted in a few club members attending the monthly District meetings and a few groups selecting GSR's. Their involvement resulted in the Club sending a donation check in November 2019. The Operating Committee of District 21, Northern Illinois Area 20, in a meeting on Dec 15, 2019 discussed what to do with the donation check from our local Club and recommended to the District as a whole to return, with regret, the check received from the Club in accordance with guidance from the GSC.

The District voted on Dec 17, 2019 to accept the Operating Committee's recommendation. The minority opinion indicated understanding why it violates the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and GSC Action; however the opinion is that anyone that attends the meetings at the local Club is part of AA therefore the money should be accepted. He further stated that there is a difference between Clubs being an outside entity providing money versus a hospital being an outside entity.

The rational used by the District for rejecting the donation was from the following:

- A GSC Advisory Action in 1972 states: "The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups."



- *A.A. Guidelines –Relationship Between A.A. and Clubs* states that “Further guidance was given by the 1972 General Service Conference, which advised that G.S.O. no longer accept contributions from clubs. This decision was based on returns from a questionnaire sent to all clubs. The answers indicated that the difference in club operating procedures was too great to enable G.S.O. to decide whether or not money received from a particular club was contributed by A.A. members only. (Of course, G.S.O. does accept contributions from A.A. groups that meet on club premises.)”

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris E. DCM,

District 21, Area 20

**3. Motion by the Concepts Editor and committee: It is moved that the Concepts Newsletter be distributed through digital means, including emailing and publishing on the NIA Website, with copies being printed and mailed for members who do not have digital capability.**

**Background details:**

In June of 2020, the Finance Committee asked that the Concepts Newsletter be distributed by digital means only due to the excessive cost of printing and mailing.

In the prior Area Service Guidelines (pre 2019) the Concepts Editor's responsibility included mailing the Concepts Newsletter. During the Report and Charter revision (2019) mailing the newsletter was removed in favor of giving the Concepts Editor the freedom to distribute as they see fit. During the last Committee meeting, there was opposition to distribution by digital means only and the Concepts Editor and Co-Editor were asked to develop a motion to address this.

The Current (2020) Primary Purpose Register includes the following:

Activity #	Service Activity	Expectation Per Guidelines	Allowable Expenses	Reimbursement Authority	Proposed Amount
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	Mailing and supplies Printing or copying Mailing services	Concepts Editor Concepts Co-Editor	\$13,000.00

**The proposed revision would be:**

Activity #	Service Activity	Expectation Per Guidelines	Allowable Expenses	Reimbursement Authority	Proposed Amount
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce and digitally distribute the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	Microsoft Publisher license, translation, into Spanish, printing, mailing and postage	Concepts Editor Concepts Co-Editor	TBD

**Breakdown of 2018-2019 expenses related to the newsletter:**

**Spring 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,493.95
Returns	<u>\$92.52</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,586.47

**Summer 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$1,853.41
Returns	<u>\$74.72</u>
Total for Issue	\$1,928.13

**Fall 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,101.03
75 Additional Copies Print & Ship	\$107.41
Returns	<u>\$41.29</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,249.73

P.O. Box Rental - 6 months	\$50.00
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**Winter 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,485.28
Translation to Spanish	\$274.45
Returns	<u>\$95.40</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,855.13

<b>Total for the Year</b>	<b>\$9,669.46</b>
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**Spring 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$1,868.96
Translation	\$324.35
Returns	<u>\$51.30</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,244.61

Mail Permit	\$235.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$59.99

**Summer 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,206.04
Translation	\$349.30
Returns	<u>\$144.42</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,699.76

**Fall 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$3,019.83
Translation	\$399.20
Returns	<u>\$174.00</u>
Total for Issue	\$3,593.03

P.O. Box Rental	\$59.00
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<b>Total for the Year</b>	<b>\$8,891.39</b>
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## **Archives Committee Report (updated) – September 2020**

This report is updated in conjunction with the Area Fall Assembly (virtual) held 9/19/20. Since the last committee report submitted June 15, the Archives Committee has done the following:

- In July and August 2020, Archives committee chair (Jeff K) assisted Area 19 (Chicago) Illinois State Conference (ISC) planning committee co-chair (Jerry M) with preparation for the archives topical areas included in this year's Conference this year. This was done via phone calls, emails and zoom meetings. Specifically, the Archives committee:
  - Provided Area 19 with many Archives photos for use in the ISC's "Virtual Archives Room" that was made available throughout the day of the Conference.
  - Attended ISC planning committee preparation meetings (held via zoom) to discuss and finalize details for conducting the Conference (that was held August 15 via YouTube and other virtual technology).
  - Area archives chair (Jeff K) served as Moderator for the Archives Panel session included in this year's Conference. The three (3) Panelists were Area 19 archives chair Gary P; Area 20 past archivist Ray M; and Area 21 archivist Carl M. (I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with these panelists in advance and during the Conference itself.)
- So far this year Archives chair Jeff K has attended three (3) workshops (all held virtually) to make digital audio recordings for archives in the hosting Districts and Area 20:
  - "Long-timers" panel discussion & workshop held 5/9/20 (hosted by D.43 archives)
  - "Long-timers" panel discussion & workshop held 7/25/20 (hosted by D.42 archives)
  - Panel discussion & workshop (impact of pandemic) held 9/8/20 (hosted by D.43)

The following summarizes the Fall Assembly archives committee breakout session on 9/19/20:

- 8 people at breakout (Jeff K, Cheryl V, Ray M, Darryl A, Bruce M, Gary F, Ed W, George C)
- Committee chair reported activities since Summer Assembly as summarized above
- There was no interest expressed in drafting "shared experiences" for the GSO Archives Workbook as described in the GSO Archives' July letter asking for same (GSO letter had been forwarded 7/17/20 to all on Area-wide archives committee roster)
- District-by-District archives news/updates were given by those attending –
  - District 40 (Darryl A) (cataloging collection, preparing for digitizing)
  - District 43 (Bruce M) (digitizing collection, collecting group histories)
  - District 64 (Ed W) (continuing to maintain collection, groups starting live meetings)
  - District 73 (Gary F) (continuing to maintain collection)
- There was discussion and consensus to consider using the Area Zoom account to –
  - Host an Area-wide archives committee meeting before the next Assembly and
  - Potentially plan for an "Area-wide long-timers panel" or similar workshop
  - Note – these are tentative ideas to be developed further by committee
- Committee chair is available to help districts' archives with workshops, problems etc.
- Request for help to fill Area archives alternate position

In service,

Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA20

September 19, 2020

## Corrections Update

Fall Assembly NIA 20 9/21/2020

On August 1 we had a corrections workshop that kind of took on a much bigger life than we had initially thought. As we started to get responses it became apparent that we were going to need a “bigger boat”. And I just want to thank the Area for the use of this room and in particular Carmela for making it possible to accommodate all 145 participants.

So, the workshop was focused on how we as corrections volunteers are continuing to carry the message inside while not being allowed to go inside. A lot of great ideas were shared from around the country. What proved to be most exciting (at least for me) was the participation of facilitators within the jails and prisons who joined us.

And I think as a direct result of those gentleman joining us, we are about to implement WebEx meetings out at Sheridan prison on Saturday mornings. Our initial thinking is to make these meetings speaker meetings. What Bill K and I spoke about briefly this morning is the fact that this format will allow us to bring in speakers from anywhere around the country. And as a result of this workshop we met some folks who had been incarcerated and got involved with AA on the inside. It's our hope that these types of speakers will resonate with the guys out at Sheridan and provide tangible evidence that they can in fact walk down a different street upon their release.

The other thing which was shared that was very impactful was we need to try to utilize whatever technology any given facility may have in place. This makes things a lot easier for the jails and prisons. The less we try to make them conform to what is comfortable for us like Zoom VS WebEx or whatever they may have the better. We are currently trying to do this within Kane County.

Speaking of Kane County, we began to go back inside on August 10. After our second meeting we were once again locked out as the result of a case of Covid cropping up in the jail. So, we have been not been able to get inside since that time. Volunteers are still going in to DuPage County jail. However, there is a need for new volunteers since some have opted out due to Covid. Anyone interested should fill out a form online at [justofdupage.org](http://justofdupage.org) or contact Dennis Leonard at [dleonardconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:dleonardconstruction@gmail.com). I'm not sure about other counties.

Lastly one way we can continue to help members who are incarcerated is via the Pen Pal initiative. This has actually taken on some traction. I know of at least 5 people who have signed up and are working with folks in various prisons around the country. If anyone is interested in participating please visit the Area website and go to the Corrections section and you will find the form there or you can send me your email in the chat window and I'll be glad to provide you with the information on how to get involved with this.

I will post the contact information I mentioned in the chat column and that's about it from me. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Respectively submitted, Scott M.



## NIA Literature committee report from Fall assembly - 19SEPT2020

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NIA 20 Fall Assembly Breakout session: Literature

Total attendees: 2 - Phil M and Kim T

Discussion notes:

Literature sales are down but literature is available electronically as well - The Big Book that counts is the Big Book you use and read. If it's on your phone or Kindle, the format is secondary - just read the book!

Continue to reinforce that we are responsible - giving \$8.11 each to GSO helps AA be self-supporting, which is even more essential if AA cannot rely on Literature sales to close the financial gap.

Safety and AA: AA has issued guidance on safety matters and these articles and service pieces are available on aa.org. Online platforms present new ways for disruption to occur. Additionally, groups may have questions about safety topics in general. Note that safety in this context doesn't specifically mean health or COVID19-related safety. These materials were available pre-pandemic and provide guidance about safety in a variety of areas.

Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-209\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-209_en.pdf)

Safety Card for A.A. Groups: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-211\\_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-211_SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf)

Shared in the Zoom room: District 90 online group 8n8 has posted an electronic version of the Newcomers Packet to their website, with links to pamphlets plus a download link for a ZIP file of all posted pamphlets. Credit to Randy C for sharing! <https://www.8n8aa.com/newcomers/>

Respectfully submitted  
Kimberly T  
NIA Area 20 Literature Chair

"You must be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatma Gandhi



## **2020 NIA 20 Fall Assembly Area Treatment Chair Report**

This has been an interesting summer navigating the intersection between COVID-19 and carrying the message to the alcoholic within treatment facilities and area health care/hospital systems.

Each facility offering treatment services to the alcoholic, from detox centers to independently operated recovery home programs and the full continuum of treatment care in between, operates just as autonomously as we do. This has made trying to address the needs of each with a common solution challenging for AA volunteers, treatment center management and staff and most importantly – the AA newcomer. But it's a challenge we are still working on and continue to address by reaching out to each of these treatment systems with "pleasantly persistent patience", by sharing ideas with each other through conferences and panel discussions, and presenting creative virtual and socially distant solutions.

This has become somewhat easier in some areas as the state of Illinois moves through the Restore Illinois Reopening process. Treatment centers that would not entertain having any volunteers returning back in April are now formulating plans for reactivating small teams of volunteer returning in the late fall. Some have already begun in person volunteer meetings on a small scale. Where the opportunity is much needed is in Bridging the Gap services. Pre-COVID, men and women who were being discharged from treatment had the advantage of being exposed to A.A. meetings while in treatment and/or being introduced to BTG before they left. In conversations with local treatment center leadership, even something as simple as providing them with a list of A.A. members who would be willing to either connect their patients with Zoom meetings or the "new" in person meetings would be very helpful.

In love of service,

Lisa S.  
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.  
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair