

## Monthly Meeting Minutes District 11 January 5th, 2023

**Location:** Hybrid via Zoom

**Meeting time:** 7:00 pm

**Attendance:** \_33; 19 in person\_\_

**Committee members:** \_16\_\_

**Groups represented:** \_16\_\_

**Guests:** \_2\_\_

**Read Twelve Traditions:** \_\_Matt S\_\_

**Read Concept of the Month:** \_Steve K\_\_

**New GSRs or Alt. GSRs present:** \_ Kelly D\_\_

**New attendees present:** \_\_Vern\_\_

**Anniversaries:** \_Matt 2 years!! ; Rick F 37 years!!! ; Carol 24 years!!! ; Sid 12 Years!!!\_\_

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### **DCM Report: Isidro B. - DCM**

It's 2023! I hope everyone had a great December and holiday season!

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, District 11 hosted the NIA 20 Winter Assembly. There were so many members of District 11 present! Thank you to everyone that helped throughout the event, and even though there were some technical difficulties at the beginning, I think the event was a success!

The following items were discussed/voted on at the assembly.

- The Area Chair gave a report on the losses incurred by the 2022 Illinois State Conference/East Central Regional Conference and what the Illinois State Conference Policy Committee has proposed to the other areas on how to handle the deficit. (See attached report for more detail)
  - After some discussion regarding the concern that the Area 20 Assembly is not being asked how they would like to handle the situation, a written floor motion was provided to the area chair. The chair reviewed it and agreed to hold a sharing session at the Winter Committee Meeting to further discuss and potentially bring a motion to the Spring Assembly.
- 2023 Area Budget – Passed
- 2023 Area Calendar – Passed
  - District 11 will be hosting the 2023 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop
    - April 1, 2023 – Location TBD
- Finance committee recommendation to forward \$10,000 to the GSB – Passed

Attached are reports/supporting documentation from the area assembly.

- 2022 ISC Loss & Proposal
- 2023 PPR
- 2023 Area Calendar
- Treasurers Report\_2022 Winter Assembly
- Delegates Report-Slide Deck\_2022 Winter Assembly
- Chair Report\_2022 Winter Assembly
- Alt Chair Report\_2022 Winter Assembly
- Alt Delegate Report\_2022 Winter Assembly
- Finance Committee Report\_2022 Winter Assembly

I attended the Legacy of Service: Concepts Study. We had a great meeting, with great discussion about Concept Nine. Our next meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm via Zoom. We will be starting at "Concept Ten".

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, Erik our Alt. Area Delegate asked me to be a panelist on the Service Orientation Workshop on January 21, 2023 at the Winter Committee Meeting. This workshop is held annually at the Winter Committee Meeting for incoming GSR's and DCM's to learn about their role in Area Service. This workshop is designed to answer questions about the GSR and DCM position and discuss how we do our Area business. If you are a new GSR, I highly encourage you to attend this event. This event will also be virtual, so you can even just attend the workshop itself.

Below is a list of some upcoming service events:

01/12/2023: NIA 20 Grapevine Monthly Workshop

- 7pm via Zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81285102211?pwd=QXZNYTdXeHV0ZWYrTyt6eFFTT2NhZz09>

01/19/2023: Legacy of Service: Concepts Study (Winter Assembly Planning Meeting to follow)

- 7:30pm via Zoom
- Meeting ID: 970 0499 1067 / Passcode: 639187

01/21/2023: NIA 20 Winter Committee Meeting / Service Orientation Workshop (Hybrid)

- In Person: Lord of Life Church, 40W605 IL Rt 38, Elburn, IL 60119
- Virtual (via Zoom): 816 5201 2696 / Passcode: Freedom
- Doors open @ 8am, committee meeting starts at 9am
- Workshop: 10:30am – 12pm

Please remember to mention to your groups that there are still many open positions on the District 11 Committee. The current open positions can be found on the agenda for the upcoming district meeting, district website, meeting minutes, or through your General Service Representative. For past minutes, financial reports, district literature, and to learn where a group can send their contributions, please visit our website [www.aa-nia-dist11.org](http://www.aa-nia-dist11.org).

**Alt DCM Report: OPEN- Alt. DCM**

- NA

**Secretary's Report: Mike M. - Secretary, OPEN - Alt. Secretary**

- Motion to accept November Minutes.

**\*\*Motion to accept the minutes as sent, \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_. Passed.**

**Please send written committee reports to the secretary to be submitted in minutes.**

**Email: [secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org](mailto:secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org)**

**Treasurer's Report: Clint K. - Treasurer, Keith B. - Alt. Treasurer**

- Available Funds, minus \$4000 prudent reserve: \$5,299.14.
- Income from Individual Groups: \$1,098.50.
- Expenses incurred: \$1,601.97

1. I attended the Winter Assembly Treasurer break out and learned that there are several considerably more cost-effective options than our answering service. None of the other treasurers knew a lot more than that. I was told that it is seamless to the caller as it goes through a hierarchy of numbers on call and the caller talks immediately to a live person. It would be my suggestion we investigate some of those.

2. It seems like we should be discussing sending some money on. Thus far the budgeting process has revealed large expenses are anticipated. We have paid for Zoom and the PO Box which are one time charges per year.
3. Keith's report includes all deposits he has made. For the first time in my tenure, one of the deposits had not cleared the bank at month end. It will be included in next month's report.
4. Any Questions?

**\*\*Motion to Accept Report: \_\_Ryan\_\_, 2nd- \_Karen\_\_\_\_. Passes.**

**Keith:**

- All Tradition 7 Contributions arrived with enough information to properly credit your groups. Thank you.
- When sending your contributions, please use the pre-printed envelope or a copy of the contribution form available to download at our district website. If your treasurer is using a Bank Check or Money Order, have them put the group number and name in the memo space.

**~Pass the Basket~**

Carol: What's the \$68 soberfest fee?

Clint: My fault, but it'll get figured out.

Lisa: it's for the workshops.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Accessibility Report:** OPEN. - Chair, OPEN- Alt. Chair

- NA

**Answering Service Report:** Mike N. - Chair, OPEN - Alt. Chair

- 26 total calls were received.
- 22 calls were forwarded. Thank you to all that responded!
- 4 calls were not forwarded.
- Most were asking for meetings, a few no reason for calling, an auto telemarketer, a couple hang ups,
- Thank you again to our stand-by/go-to volunteers!

**Archives Report:** Rich H. - Chair

5. Old Timers Brunch is Sunday, February 19, 2023 at the Wauconda American Legion Hall. Doors open at 9:00am, brunch from 9:30 – 11:00am. Speakers at 11:00am. Speakers are Carol H. and David C. \$6.00 Contribution at the door. I received and deposited the \$1,000.00 Seed money check from District 11 Treasurer. Seed Money to be used for upfront costs of food and supplies leading up to the event. Flyers are currently being distributed.
6. I will be out of town during the Old Timers Brunch and the days leading up to it. Clarence has agreed to the days before the event purchases and Chair the event. I, with the help of others are doing everything possible to make this job as easy as possible. Thank you Clarence for doing this.

7. There have been some changes to the volunteers list. I will have contact with these people as we approach the event.

Carol: do you need more volunteers.

Rebecca, is doing some stuff, Harry is involved. Carol steve rick,

**CPC Report:** Ryan - Chair, Todd K. - Alt. Chair

8. During the month of December the CPC committee has gained one new member and hopes to continue to grow to better serve this district and the groups in it. We are nearly finished with Woodstocks Attorney/Lawyer professional business's and plan to move to Mchenry in the near future. I hope everyone had a great holiday and rings in the new year with greater success to serve God!

**Corrections Report:** Steve K. - Chair, Michelle D. - Alt. Chair

- All meetings have been attended by our volunteers.
  - The 2 cases of big books supplied by Area 20's Correction Chair and "Pink Can Fund" have arrived.
  - 4 new male volunteers have been approved and badged; 2-3 more are in the process.
  - 2 new female volunteers have been approved and badged; 1-2 more are in the process.
  - We are attempting to get a count of how many Big Books are currently in the MCJ library.
  - Lt. Brooks approved that AA volunteers can bring softcover Big Books from the storage locker to the meetings, and allow inmates to keep the book if they need one.
  - Beginning to facilitate the approval of other literature and pamphlets to be brought to the meetings for inmates to keep.
  - GSR and district attendees, PLEASE continue to announce that there is a need for male/female corrections volunteers.
  - Thank you for allowing us to be of service
  - Steve and Michelle are always looking for volunteers.
- 
- Application process at McHenry County Jail
  - 1) log on to McHenrysheriff.org
  - 2) click on corrections tab
  - 3) find and click on "About the jail"
  - 4) click on Inmate Programming.... Then scroll to the bottom where it says "Jail Volunteers"
  - Read the handbook and take the test....

<https://www.mchenrysheriff.org/corrections/about-the-jail/>

**Look at the bottom of this page. Click the "Next" button to get started.**

Richie: maybe not enough Big Books sitting in the locker, if we can now give them to the inmates.

Michelle: I will stock the locker. Primarily english translation only.

Client: I don't think everyone's on the same page right now. Lt brooks said something different.

Michelle: I have discussed with him 72 hours ago. But this might be new. Be assertive.

Carol: has a lot to do with who's on duty.

Randy: What's the process?

Michelle: I'll touch base with you when i'm not at the podium!

Steve: I suppose all of us could bring this info back to their groups!

**GSR Orientation Chair Report: Emily P - Chair**

- I won't be able to attend this month's district meeting as I will be attending the Pentatonix Christmas Show with my family having way more fun instead! This is me reminding myself to send you a report although the report will be basically nothing. Good Night!
- If you are a new GSR, and you're like, "I don't know what you're talking about"
- I am here. For your support, in any capacity that is needed.
- No other report.
- If anyone else is confused, needs assistance, or just wants to chat about what the heck general service is all about, we can schedule a phone call (847) 691-1540 or email me at [e.berg01788@gmail.com](mailto:e.berg01788@gmail.com).

**Grapevine Report: Karen W- Chair, OPEN - Alt. Chair**

- I attended the December Area 20 Virtual Grapevine Workshop. There were four participants, and there is going to be a Grapevine Workshop in March 2023, sponsored by the Rockford group.
- There are 2 website links for the 2023 Carry the Message Project and You Tube sites:

[https://www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message?utm\\_source=DQ&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GVDQ&utm\\_id=Daily-Quote](https://www.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message?utm_source=DQ&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GVDQ&utm_id=Daily-Quote)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL32cyZpp2liD4te4ctFKcG2Ddmq9xUuUb>

- I attended the Area 20 Winter Assembly in McHenry IL. During the breakout session, I was asked to be a panelist for the 2023 Spring Assembly in March 10-13, 2023. A national Grapevine representative will be on the panel and also the previous Area 20 Grapevine Chairperson, Ted S.
- I ordered 34 Grapevine books on December 27th from the Grapevine Store. The total is \$373.50-most all of the 2022 Budget.
- I plan to contact all of the District 11 groups this month to ask:
  - a. Do they have a Grapevine representative?
  - b. Would they want a visit by me or a Grapevine rep to describe the benefits of Grapevine and receive a year print subscription for Grapevine or La Vina.
  - c. Can they forward old copies of Grapevine for prisons and treatment facilities?
- I have received the Grapevine Rep packet from AA Grapevine.
- I will not be able to attend the virtual Grapevine workshop next Thursday, and I am looking for someone to attend for me.
- Anyone is invited and the link is as follows:

Topic: NIA 20 Grapevine Workshop (2nd Thursday of every month) Jan 12, 2023 07:00 PM

- Literature: Jake - Chair, OPEN - Alt. Chair**

- LCM Report: Sue C.**

- ## District 11 Minutes for December, 2022

- The Harvard Alano club had a meeting and will be eliminating some of the meetings held there
- Question to the Treasurer
- The budget was set and designed so that no AA member needs to have out of pocket costs. Can we have an explanation on how to do this
- PI, Treatment and LCM have been trying to have a large order placed with no avail placing large orders is how we can save on costs for literature and shipping
- In the literature guidelines given by GSO
- First line 2nd page states
- The literature chair duties
- Order literature for District activities as needed
- I would like to see us all work together and start on this much needed project
- Clint replied that we can place the order
- Each committee will need to sign off on their portion
- And the treasurer will then pay GSO
- Thank you Clint for your service

Richie: That's a lot of books. When they do arrive, can you give us the monthly distribution. (who gets what).

Sue: There's books for all 3 committees.

Richie: Just counted in and counted out.

**Public Information Report:** Courtney J - Chair, Georgene R. - Alt Chair

Courtney:

- No report. N/A

Georgene:

- Like what Sue was saying, we met a few weeks ago. LCM, PI, and TS.
- We're contacting GSO to get more information to get blurbs in radio stations and newspapers.
- Sue had sent me some links for PSA's .
- I have a list of schools, in mind, where Courtney and I will work on.
- Sue, Courtney and myself plus Mourine and Monica meet to make a plan for PI, LCM and Treatment on how to better serve our community.
- I am planning on contacting GSO to get information in regards to how to run an add in the newspaper and how to get a blurb on the radio.
- Also , I have a list of addresses and phone numbers for schools that I will give to Courtney. She has volunteers to work on this list.
- I will keep you posted at our next meeting.

**Schedule Maker:** Nataé S. - Chair

- The schedules are on the back of the room.
- We'll reprint once a quarter.
- Email changes [schedules@aa-nia-dist11.org](mailto:schedules@aa-nia-dist11.org)

**Sue:** We had that meeting. And went through the format. Online only says "Online". YOU'RE FORMAT IS BAD. There's no context

**Nate:** What format are you talking about?

**Sid:** this should be discussed outside the meeting.

**Hospital & Treatment Setting Report:** Maureen O. - Chair, Monica A. - Alt Chair

- On December 15 both Monica and myself met with NIRC staff to discuss how AA can be of service to both of their treatment facilities. We were given a tour of their inpatient and outpatient campuses along with information and descriptions of what services each facility provides to the community. They expressed a great need for volunteers and a need for consistency with those volunteers. We are waiting to hear back from them, as they were to provide us with specific days and times volunteers are needed as well as what days and times are currently being covered. A follow up letter was sent after the meeting, however, the holidays have likely very busy time for them.
- On December 17 Monica and I participated, via Zoom, in a meeting with the District 11 LCM, and several other district 11 committee chairs and co-chairs, to discuss ideas of how we can be more effective in the community.
- A letter from TS, offering and briefly describing BTG services, will be emailed to counseling facilities in the next week. We will continue to look into other providers in the area that we may serve.

They're looking for more volunteers or opportunities.  
Michelle reaches out.

**Webmaster:** Harry - Chair, Kate - Alt. Chair

- All good on the Western Front! Nothing to report other than the typical website updates, meeting adds/changes and uploads.
- Also, several months ago I updated the website to reflect the new GSR business meeting address here at first church. I've received an email from Sue stating that she still sees the old location info, but I have been unable to locate the old district meeting information on the website. So, this week I force cleared the serve cache in the hope that it clears up the issue on Sue's phone. If anyone finds the old information (first United Methodist Church Woodstock) please bring it to my attention.
- Take a look and see if you can find it, send me the entire link!

**Workshop:** - Lisa - Chair, OPEN - Alt. Chair

- All is quiet on the Workshop Arena/Front
- There is some talk of running the workshop at the spring conference this coming March, although that has not been solidified. I think it would be great to run it again because it was really good and a lot of people put forth effort to make it that way. I am certain that there are more people that would benefit from learning about the three legacies.
- Our spot at the spring conference , 2-4pm spot , three legacies workshop.

**GSR Reports:**



Georgene: 3 legacies group has open virtual speaker, Jan 29th. 7pm. Sheldon S from Las Vegas, NV. He's from Common Solutions . Get a flyer.

### **Old Business:**

- Let's look at open positions. Can vote: Committee members and GSR's, and only alternates if their GSR is not present.
- Alt DCM, nominations? none
- Alt Secretary, nominations? none.
- Accessibilities chair, nominations? none.
- Alt Accessibilities chair, nominations? none.
- Alt answering service chair, nominations? none.
- Alt Grapevine Chair , nominations? none.
- Alt Literature, nominations? none.
- Alt Workshop Chair, nominations? none.

Sid: Please check the email I sent that has the Agenda for this meeting, it should also have the position descriptions.

### **New Business:**

- Proposed 2023 budget. We'll discuss it here and vote at the next meeting.  
Correct Answering service adjustment \$4,300 budget.

19 for; no opposed.

- Motion proposed How n Why Group.

Rick: Reads his Motion.effectively, AA has made an opinion on a controversial issue.

Rick: Reads Tradition 10.

Chris: How does it correlate to safety in AA, our common welfare. Page 5 of the service manual. AA does not have an opinion on gender. All genders or backgrounds. Being questioned about their gender makes people feel unsafe, and then violate tradition 3.

Rick: Rather we have taken a position on the subject matter of gender neutral language. My group believes that AA formed an opinion about this.  
Is alcohol, or the use of alcohol, a controversial issue? There are lots of groups that take opinions on alcohol. AA is not for it, or against it.

The sole purpose was to achieve gender neutral language.  
Because we took a side, that's how we broke tradition 10.

Richie: I remember you mentioned something about pronouns on a golf course.

Rick: I was bothered by AA changing their literature.

Rick: If an organization sees that AA changes their literature to

Alexa: It was a unanimous decision. If it starts here, what will change next.

Carol: I know you did a lot of background, was there specifically mentioned something.  
Where would i find the information that says "oh AA is taking a stand"

Rick: review suggested gender neutral language options for AA preamble. Then it was in floor Action.  
Floor action 2 suggested "people". The 4th action took the motion.

Carol: if our membership consists of gender neutral people.

Rick: yes we're welcoming to everybody. But we're changing the language based on a subject outside issue.

Emily: Our preamble was written by the grapevine. We have pamphlets and then we have actual Big Book.

The Preamble is something regularly read at meetings.

At what point are we updating versus changing our literature?

Rick: we change the book in the back.

Clint: is the preamble a "conference approved" literature. If it's conference approved it changes how i view it.

Karen: it was discussed at the assembly.

Steve: grapevine is separate from AA right?  
Yes.

Steve: how much of this was the way that the change was made? GSO

Rick: it went through our trusted servants. It went to a floor action.

Sue: I have been in another group and this discussion also came up. The reason is some people don't identify as people. Or other entities. Was any of that brought up?

Rick: just interested in how AA took a stance on this subject.

Harry: if the floor motion, if the words "gender neutral" would you or your group have brought forth this motion?

Rick: I don't think I would have.

Harry: If they had removed the words "Men and women", ...

HArry: we have opened up ourselves to controversy by taking a side.

Angela (Angie) -

Chris V - from the final report, 71st GSC, who authors this ?

Rick: the 71st GSC convenes, it's a wrap up.

There is an electronic version that can be found, that doesn't have Last Names.

Chris R - you talked about the trusted servants making this decision. How does that relate to concept 2? Where we voted them in to perform these duties for us. So as this something that had to be brought back to the groups? Or could they have made that decision themselves.

Rick: The convenes exclaimed about being excited for change. It was a zoom call. Their hearts may have been in the right place, but it breaks tradition 10.

Chris R: What is the definition of a controversial issue?

Rick: [alcohol debate] people have different sides to it. AA doesn't get in between that.

Chris R: What is a controversial issue, homosexuality is controversial. But there's stories in the back of the book.

Rick: we shouldn't take sides.

Ana M: what is your goal with this motion? District to support you and submit agenda item?

Rick: if district 11 is in substantial unanimity, then we'd go to the area to get a collective conscious. On the next available conference, (74th GSC)

End of questions

Open it up for discussion.

Ana M: i was curious, did you look up your background information. As if this had anything to do with gender equality or LGBTQ+ groups. Rather that it was young people.

Chris R: Our group wanted to talk more about this.

Keith: i think we're putting something there, that isn't there. It's an inside issue. We didn't publish in the new york times that aa has a position on gender neutrality

Chris V: "a discussion marked by the expression of opposing views." this subject counts as controversial.

Richie: if you go to any assembly or conference you will have controversy. AA is the most wide mix of people of the entire world. It's a look internally, something we do to take care of our own members. There were two guys, and someone who suffered from astingmazium, but in reality he was flamboyant. And we were worried about what it would look like to include a queer fellow in the fellowship. But Bill said, well if he wants to stop drinking, he's in.

"Woman are going to destroy AA"

Emily: WE STILL WILL.

Richie: This is us taking a look at our membership. We are NOT taking a stand on an outside issue. We are taking an opportunity to be helpful to our membership.

Lisa: This is very controversial. I'm with you Richie. We should be inclusive. We're making it into it something bigger than it is.

Sid: Preamble printed, "service material", not actually conference approved literature. This topic is not coming to the next GSC.

Last year, in person, the conference decided to take no action.

If the zoom groups didn't know about the issue, that's their own fault.

Steve: had some time to mull this over. I'm really not happy with the change. I want it the way it was when I was there. I don't know how changing it to "People" is going to harm AA in the long way.

Matthew D- in the spirit of the change, it's a more inclusive language option. I think we're creating a controversy where it doesn't exist.

Favor of rescinding the changes made to the preamble in 71st GSC. 13 for

Opposed: 6

Abstained. 3

68%

Minority opinion.

Lisa, 15 to 12. I'm making a different call based on information from here.

Richie: I don't think it's controversial, it's to help our members.

Discussion re-opened.

Chris R - our group hasn't discussed it yet.

Mark D - when this was brought up. There was no discussion to be had, and no one to see other perspectives on this. All we had to go off of, is the motion on the paper, and now I have a lot more items to consider.

Emily: I'm your GSR orientation chair, first time is confusing. You have this conversation with your homegroup, and now you're here and heard more stuff. However, you are a trusted servant, they trusted you to make a decision on their behalf. [I missed her example]  
"Right of decision"

Rick: AA is the most inviting place in history. I don't want to change that. It's something more procedural. It's an issue in society, and that is what makes it controversial.  
This isn't about people feeling bad or getting upset about this specific gender issues (as a subject matter), it's about preserving AA by following the traditions.

Richie: right of decision, concept 3. If you're moved by something, you can change your vote. But then you'll have to go back to your group to be accountable.

Chris R. I would like to change my vote from abstained to opposed.

Sid: do you want to rescind this motion?

Rick: yes. I don't want this to be boarder line substantial. I don't think it's worth it. To take this forward it needs to be the right thing to do. I don't see that happening. I'll answer to my homegroup.

- Motion Rescinded.

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Other new business, I had a conversation with Clint about sending money to Area and GSB.  
Send \$2,000 to GSB, and \$2,000 to area 20. Bring us down to about \$1,500 over prudent reserve.

### **Open Mic:**

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**Meeting Closed at: \_\_9:26\_\_ p.m. , \_\_Sid\_\_ seconds.**

**The next District Meeting is Thursday February 2nd, 2023 at 7:00pm in person and via Zoom:**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 959 6776 4900  
Passcode: District11**

**First United Methodist Church of Crystal Lake (236 W Crystal Lake Ave, Crystal Lake, IL 60014)**