

Monthly Meeting Minutes
District 11
September 3, 2015

Location: First Congregation Church
421 Pierson St, Crystal Lake

Meeting time: 7:30pm

Attendance: 32

Committee members: 8

Groups represented: 20

Guests/Alt GSRs: 4

New GSRs present: Jose R. for the Living in the Solution group

Anniversaries: Kim T. celebrated 7 years

Officers Reports:

Secretary's Report: Kelly B. Secretary, OPEN Alt Secretary

Motion made to accept minutes, seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed.

Please send written committee reports to secretary to be submitted into minutes.

Email: secretary@aa-nia-dist11.org

DCM Report: Carol H. DCM, OPEN Alt DCM

Hopefully everyone received a copy to the district job descriptions document to take back to your groups and to help us look at better ways we can prepare our committee members to accomplish the work that they have set-up to do and allow others who are thinking about joining a committee or becoming a committee chair to understand what is expected of them in these positions.

This month is been an interesting one with my last weekend attendance in Bloomington Normal at the 2015 Illinois State conference with several members of the 2016 conference committee members. I attended several breakout session and I spoke on a panel about on the safety and respect in the home group. The featured speaker that weekend was Clement who currently serve at the General Service Office at the corrections desk but is moving to his new position to cover the literature desk, the rotation of the service desk staff takes place the weekend of September 14, 2015. We spoke briefly to some of the members of this year's conference committee in preparation for next year and learned a lot of valuable information. We have made a hotel selection for the 2016 IL State Conference, it will be held at the Pheasant Run resort in St. Charles Illinois, which is the same place that we had the 2015 NIA Spring conference. We have almost of our committee chairs in place for the planning committee however almost every position needs an alternate. Our next meeting will be held at the Lake Zürich police station in Lake Zürich on Sunday, September 14th at 1 PM. We encourage all to attend the planning meeting and get involved.

On September 19th we'll have a very important assembly in Silva, IL as we hold the elections for the 2016 - 2017 NIA Committee chairs and alternate as well as our next delegate and alternate delegate to represent NIA 20. The assembly is approximately 3 hours from the Crystal Lake area so there are several of us that are going to make the trip down on Friday evening and stay in a hotel to be there bright and early the morning. If you're interested in carpooling to the assembly and if you're available to go the night before please let me know and we can make arrangements to ride together. This is also very important for GSR's to attend the assembly because their votes are the one that will determine who holds the positions within the area for the next two years.

As we begin to look through the job descriptions for the committees in district 11 keep in mind that we do this in preparation for our own district elections to be held in December this year as the rotation is very important to the overall process of carrying on the message of AA. We ask that the chairs begin to look at how they may

assist in standing for the open position and have been vacant. I ask that current chairs that are rotating out will consider rotating into other positions. The 2016 budget will be presented at the October meeting so we can vote them in at the November meeting. We ask that all committee chair reviews their activity for the year and determine whether the budget for next year any adjustments. Thank you all for your service.

Treasurer Report: Pat C. Treasurer, OPEN. Alt Treasurer

I want to bring up the topic of our prudent reserve in the future. It is supposed to cover our expenses for three months and as of right now our prudent reserve is \$6000. This seems like a lot of money to have sitting around and seems to be against AA guidelines. Next month I would like to talk about what our prudent reserve should be and bring it back to the groups.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP NO	NAME	TOWN	AMOUNT
699065	MENS PRIORITY BB SC	Crystal Lake	60.00
643018	Freedom Farm	Harvard	60.00
695658	Into Action	Wanderer	<u>115.00</u>
		Total	235.80

EXPENSES

WEBMASTER	(23.49)
ANSWERING SWEVICES	185.00
CORRECTIONS	513.00
DCM HOTEL	186.85 STATE CONFERENCE
WORKSHOP	163.00
COFFEE	<u>13.15</u>
TOTAL	1037.51

Cash position August 31, 2015

Balance Bank 8/31	7156.80
Add Outstanding Deposit	281.00
Less Outstanding Checks	<u>7437.80</u>
Less Prudent Reserve	<u>6000.00</u>
AVAILABLE CASH	1437.80

Committee Reports:

Answering Service Report: Dave G. Chair (Absent), Bill B. Alt Chair (Absent)

The month of August we had 59 total calls which included 20 Meeting Info; 28 First time caller wanting to speak to a volunteer; 12 hang up calls. We had five days with zero calls. We are still getting sign-ups for local response calls. Please keep circulating the sign*up sheets. Thanks.

Information Type		TOTAL CALLS-69
Meeting Information-20	Norm/Kairos Prison Ministry-0	Call Response Times 0-10 Minutes - 61 11-20 Minutes - 2 21-30 Minutes - 0 Over 30 Minutes - 6
Open Me Information-3	11 Hour Class Info-1	
Reading Mat. Search-0	Shopaholic Info-1	
Speak AA Member -28	Spanish Speaking -0	
Referred Another Dist-1	Alano Club Add M;CL;-0	
Speak to NA -0	Hang Up/Will Call Back-12	
No One at Listed Mtg-0	Web-site-0	TOTAL CALLS - 69
Al-Anon -2	Where send Contributions-1 Needs Ride-0	

Calls Per Day

Monday Day-11
Monday Night-1
Tuesday Day-12
Tuesday Night-0
Wednesday Day-7

Wednesday Night-0
Thursday Day-6
Thursday Night-1
Friday Day-8
Friday Night-1
Saturday Day-15

Saturday Night-1
Sunday Day-5
Sunday Night-1
TOTAL-69

Archives Report: Clarence J. Chair

Mary F. requested that I bring old schedules that are formatted by day to show what the format was like before we choose to vote on changing the current format.

Corrections Report: Bob D. Chair , Cheryl B. Alt Chair (Absent)

Both men and women still need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering email to the corrections email and Bob or Cheryl will call to approve you as a volunteer. You then will be approved through the jail. We have 2 to 3 new women volunteers. Some of the men volunteers have bailed throughout the summer. I recommend promoting volunteering at the jails at your home group. I also ordered and delivered four cases of books. They are being kept by the guards instead of in the library. I have been soliciting people to take position at the end of term and have been getting a good response so things will be taken care of in the future for corrections.

Pat – Do we have business cards?

Bob – They are in the library, I delivered a whole box of 100. Let me know if we need more. The person doing the printing is doing it for free, but we have money in the budget to pay for them.

Pat – I know of a lady interested in going through the 12 steps

Bob- The men are almost done with the step program and then we can probably start doing that for the women, will need inmate name and number and then will contact the lieutenant.

CPC Report: Nikki O. Chair (Absent), OPEN Alt Chair

No report

Grapevine Report: OPEN Chair, OPEN Alt**Hospital & Treatment Report:** Tina M. & Bob M. (Absent) Chair, OPEN Alt

No report

Literature: Bob M. Chair, OPEN Alt Chair

This month I am ordering newcomer packets. They went fast since I last ordered them 6 to 8 months ago. Anyone wanting literature come to the district and ordering through us will save money for literature. Special needs just put in an order for 12 x 12s. If you have old literature in your garage or anything please bring it and it will be distributed.

Bob D. – Do you keep a supply of big books or inventory for the district?

Bob- I haven't started it yet, and was told it wasn't a good idea. It only takes 3 to 4 weeks to get the order.

Bob D. – I call the district literature chair in Barrington who keeps an inventory so when I need books and forget to order.

Carol H. – Our literature doesn't have a budget for it and that's not the purpose in our district

LCM Report: Mary F. for McHenry (Absent), Brenda O. for Harvard (Absent), Pat C. for Cary & Fox River Grove, Bob M. for Woodstock (Absent), Karrie T. for Crystal Lake (Absent).

We are preparing for the possibility of changing the order of the meeting schedules. Clarence is bringing some old copies of the schedule in the old format. Nothing else to report.

Newsletter Report: Rebecca W. & Mary C. Chair

Rebecca reported that she will not be able to fulfill commitment of the newsletter as she is no longer in the area as often.

Public Information Report: OPEN Chair, Alt Chair OPEN

No report

Schedules Report: Esther M. Chair (Absent), OPEN Alt

Carol H.- I have discussed the possible meeting schedule change with her and we talked about possible remedies if change is made. Do we want to vote on this now? Should we change meeting schedule to a format that is listed by days instead of location.

Raised hands for those whose groups are for. Two opposed.

Minority opinion Nick C for Serenity Seekers: Our group felt like keeping it by city would be best as we know what town we're going to be in. Kim T for Winners and Beginner: Our group also liked being able to find it by town. Melissa N. (non GSR): I went to a treatment center and didn't know where cities were and it was easier to know what town to go to.

Based on minority opinion any change? Bob D. changed

New vote. All in favor of changing schedule 21. Opposed 4. Passed by 2/3 majority vote.

Bob D. – Question. Did we ever get the interactive schedule back on the website?

Sean T.– We never meant to as it is hard to maintain. May be able to do so in the future

Bob – How do other districts do it with their interactive schedules?

Sean – No idea they may use same database, but with out current schedule it does not work. There are many different ways to do it and looking around on other sites I did not see a lot of examples of a smooth running active schedule online. You are able to do same search by searching within the pdf.

Carol H. – The schedules will be changed so that they are breakdown into day of the week, then time, then location. Any other discussion?

Nick C. – The other thing our group really liked was that the location was nice and big compared to the old schedule were the location was small. If can be worked out that location is bigger that would be good.

Carol H.– Esther takes hours manipulating the schedule to try and getting all the meetings to fit. She will make it as large as possible, unfortunately we are limited by space. It costs a lot more money to change the way we do our schedules as other districts do. Changing that will take more discussion about making that change in the future if that's wanted.

Special Needs Report: Bob K. Chair, OPEN Alt

As of last month I started working with people at Deer Path which is a facility for physically and mentally handicapped people ages 25 to 55. We were asked to come in a couple months ago and had a meeting with them. I just ordered some 12 x 12s and will be looking into starting an open meeting there.

Webmaster: Laura M. Chair (Absent), Sean T. Alt

Based on discussion at meeting, I will continue to look into other options for posting the District meeting schedule online. A couple people expressed desire for the previous "interactive" schedule which I did not intend to recreate, but I may find something comparable. Ideally whatever I come up with will continue to use the same data file as is used by the schedule maker so that the data stays consistent between print and online (this was inherent problem with the way the old interactive schedule was updated, so it often did not match the printed version).

I do not yet know how to transfer the data from schedule maker to the website in an interactive search that does not involve reconstructing the data contents to make compatible. Because the file does not translate exactly, the data editing is meticulous and subject to errors.

I was asked by Beth G. last week if she could submit a "sober experience" story to post on the website. At 1st I said sure, and then realized we didn't actually have an outlet for that. I mentioned option of sending to Grapevine (others at meeting suggested Area "Concepts"). In any case, the story could be submitted to our newsletter if that gets back off the ground and the newsletter would be posted on the site. We could also create a completely new newsletter online. I could help get the information online, but moderating and editing the newsletter and/or stories would need dedicated committee to ensure adherence to the principals and traditions of AA (as well as any legalities – copyright, permissions, etc). Number of visits per day is relatively constant roughly averaging 50-60 visits per day.

The keyphrases are the search terms people use that bring them to the site. Not surprisingly, most searches that found our site included "AA" and the town or zipcode for meetings, as the meeting schedule is the most

visited page. The stats available show us the most downloaded items and most visited pages. Which of course means where people go on the site most. Again not surprising, the data shows that most visits and downloads are related to the meeting schedule, and then many visiting the events page, and a scattering of old documents. Top 5 Downloads (August total downloads: 58)

	Hits	Bandwidth	Average size
JULY2015WebScheduleDist11.pdf	1,158	1.77 GB	946.82 KB
P-33_I_t_Sure_Beats_Sitting.pdf	31	142.23 MB	4.59 MB
12_20_APRIL_MAY_2009_2_WEB.PDF	27	28.34 MB	1.05 MB
29_DEC11JAN12_WEB_FINAL.PDF	27	33.91 MB	1.26 MB
2013NewGroupInformationForm.doc	26	1.21 MB	47.50 KB

Top 5 pages-url visits (not including home page. there were 73 different pages visited)

	Viewed	Average size	Entry	Exit
/meeting-schedule-district-11/	771	11.99 KB	121	449
/wp-login.php	765	3.22 KB	67	68
/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php	155	88 Bytes	15	6
/meeting-schedules-nea-20/	146	11.60 KB	10	37
/events/	103	19.02 KB	4	11

Other stats help us know how people find the site (what equipment they use and what search engines) Generally speaking, most people likely use a computer with Windows and browse with Google Chrome or Internet Explorer. There is a large percentage that uses mobile devices (iOS Apple/Android phones/tablets).

Workshop Report: OPEN Chair, OPEN Alt

Old Business:

- **Open Positions**

Alt DCM, Alt secretary, Alt Treasurer, CPC Alt, Grapevine Chair, Alt Grapevine, Alt Literature, Alt Special Needs, PI Chair, Alt PI, Alt Treatment, Workshop Chair, Newsletter Chair

- **Job Descriptions**

Carol H. - Everyone was asked to take a brief overview of two job descriptions back to their group. I have been getting back feedback from groups. If you didn't have opportunity please take them back so we can have additional feedback for every description. So far the following have been looked over by groups: workshop, archives, treasurer, literature, and schedulemaker. We will vote to accept the descriptions in November for the December elections. Send it by email to the committee chair or DCM. We need to know if something doesn't make sense and needs to be made clear.

New Business:

- Beth – I am a writer and was interested in posting a writing on the webpage. I wanted to put the idea out there of having ongoing articles. Do we have something for that on the website? Almost like the newsletter online
- Bob – You could put it in the Concepts which is the Area newsletter which comes out quarterly, there is address for that
- Sean T. – Grapevine is another outlet too
- Carol H.– There are other ways to get the article out, but what doe people think about the idea of having a writer's corner on the website. Bring it back to your groups
- Claudia – It might be a good way to get the newsletter started back up on the website
- Mark T. – I have had long experience with AA technical and if we were to do something, it is a good idea to have it separate from the website. People are using the district site for district information
- Carol H. – We used to spend a couple thousand of dollars for the newsletter, expenses have dropped

drastically that's why we have a high prudent reserve. We would need to make sure that it would be in line with traditions and guidelines. We would have to come up with standards as well. Bring back to your groups to see what their thoughts are

Emily B. – Beth, as a writer would you be thinking of including your first or last name?

Carol H. – We would have to stay anonymous

Kim T. – In my group it came up in a business meeting that we miss the newsletter. It was a great way to get information without having to read the minutes.

Randy – What exactly are we taking back to groups?

Carol H. – A suggestion was made to have a writer's corner on the website for people to submit articles they used to submit to the newsletter. They would be articles based on experience. The newsletter or anything like can happen unless some one wants to participate. The only reason we don't have a newsletter is that we don't have a newsletter chair. We won't have a newsletter until some one steps forward. The newsletter should be done as a committee because it is not a one man job.

Sean T. – people could submit articles to the site and then a moderator would see if it's by the guidelines and appropriate to post.

Open Mic

- Bob M. – I was at a 10 am meeting for patients who are in the emergency room and in the hospital. I was approved to go in through HIPPA. I am trying to introduce that there is hope in AA. Same response from a lot of them that they hate going to AA. At a workshop I attended cyber meetings were mentioned. Is anyone familiar with these? It might help patients build up the confidence for them to go to an actual AA meeting.
Carol H. – I went to meeting at the international that talked about it. There are different sites you can go to in order to access online meetings.
- Mark T. – I brought registration forms for Soberfest. Bring a newcomer. Soberfest's message is that there is joy in recovery. There is also the Alanon fundraiser for Soberfest coming up, see me for details
- Cat – I brought flyers for Night out at the Dole which is on Friday Saturday 19th. It is at the Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake. It is an open AA meeting, doors open at 7:00pm and meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Speakers are Brad K. from Sleepy Hollow and Tim R. from Chicago. They need help setting up, if you can bring it back to your group. Set up involves moving chairs up and down stairs, can use assistance, it has been a struggle to get people to get to volunteer in the past.
- Bob – Big Book workshop in Cedar Rapids, IA from November 6th – 8th. Workshop leader will be Kenny D. from Seattle, WA. Registration is \$15 per person.

The next district meeting is Thursday October 1, 2015 at 7:30pm at First Congregation Church, Crystal Lake.