

2015 Winter Assembly  
December 12  
Lord of Life

8:00 Registration

9:00 Call to Order

Quiet Time

Serenity Prayer

New Attendees

Anniversaries since September 19<sup>th</sup>

Twelve Concepts:

Announcements

Approval of Minutes from Fall Assembly

Treasurer's Report

Finance Committee Report

Operating Committee Report

Delegate Report

Break Out Sessions

New Business:

2016 Area Calendar

2016 Primary Purpose Register Presentation

Bid for 2016 Big Book Conference

Motions:

1. Bridging the Gap Committee Motion:

Motion: To have Cheryl V., our current Area 20 Panel 64 Delegate, submit this motion to the General Service Office- Conference Coordinator and to the staff at the desks of Treatment/Special Needs and Accessibilities, Corrections and Literature, prior to the December 15, 2015 deadline, to revise the pamphlet P-49 (Bridging the Gap) and add this item to the 2016 General Service Conference Agenda. This pamphlet currently addresses Bridging the Gap only in terms of Treatment Facilities. The desired revisions would be to update this pamphlet to sufficiently encompass all areas where this activity may occur and to include "Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities and Institutions" where Bridging the Gap may apply.

See Background on page 3

2. Corrections Committee Motion:

**Motion**

The Corrections Committee moves to allocate funds from the NIA 20 treasury to provide needed literature to SIA 21. This literature will be used by the SIA 21 Corrections Committee. The literature will go to Jails, Prisons, and Penitentiaries that they currently take meetings into.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
<i>Unsure</i>	Provide Literature for SIA 20 Corrections Committee	25 – Cases of Soft Cover Big Books 25 – Cases of Inmate to Inmate 4 – Cases of Spanish Soft Cover Big Books	NIA 20 Corrections Committee will order the literature and have NIA 20 Treasurer pay for the order	Reimbursement authority: NIA 20 Treasurer upon approval from the NIA 20 Assembly	\$ 5,529.40

See background on page 9

Sharing Session on the Area paying for meetings being hosted by Districts

Old Business:

- Report from Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend
- Report from National AA Technology Workshop

Conference Reports:

- 2015 State Conference
- 2015 Big Book Conference
- 2016 Spring Conference
- 2016 State Conference

Officer Reports:

- Alternate Delegate
- Alternate Chair
- Alternate Treasurer
- Secretary
- Alternate Secretary
- Registrar
- Alternate Registrar

Committee Reports:

- Answering Service
- Archives
- Archivist
- Bridging the Gap
- Corrections
- Concepts
- Conference Advisory

Cooperation with the Professional Community  
Electronic Equipment  
Grapevine  
Literature  
Public Information  
Report & Charter  
Special Needs  
Treatment  
Web Administrator

Background material for Motion 1:

Back ground material: This request is the result of a motion which passed at the 2015 Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend business meeting held in Park City, UT on September 13, 2015. We were asked to take this motion back to our respective areas and obtain their support in favor of this motion. A previous motion was submitted on December 14, 2013 at the Area 20 Winter Assembly to recommend, the Area 20 Delegate send correspondence to GSO regarding BTG pamphlet as submitted by the Literature Committee. This new recommendation, originating from the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend, which was attended by members of this local committee, is to include all three committees effected by this change, Literature, Corrections and Treatment / Special Needs and Accessibilities. A copy of a letter previously submitted by Rich H. our Panel 62 area 20 Delegate should be used as the basis for their correspondence and a copy of this letter and the current P-49 pamphlet are attached as background material.

December 28, 2013

Subject: Request for revision to Bridge the Gap pamphlet P-49 Warm Greetings from Area 20  
At the request of the Area 20 Literature Committee, our Area 20 Assembly has voted on and asked me to pass on the request that the Conference Literature Committee revisit the revision of the "Bridge the Gap" pamphlet (P-49) to be more inclusive than Treatment Facilities.

Our Area members who are active in our local Bridge the Gap endeavors whether they be under the auspices of our Area, District, or Groups- would like to have a pamphlet which is sufficiently broad in its definition of "bridge" that can be used by the Bridge the Gap Committee regardless of whether the majority source of the bridge the gap activity is "Treatment", "Corrections", or some combination of institutions.

A similar request was made of the General Service Office in regards to the two pamphlets which are included as a part of the Corrections workbook materials (F-162 and F-163), and because of this request, two pamphlets were developed which now refer to both Pre-Release Contact and Bridge the Gap, and are sufficiently generic that they are being used by several local Bridge the Gap committees regardless of whether the local use is "corrections" or "treatment" oriented (F-183 and F-184). However, these service pieces are specifically aimed at the AA prospective volunteer or the AA on the inside about to be released. The Bridge the Gap pamphlet is directed to anyone, AA member or not, who might be interested in this service, and is used by our Bridge the Gap Committee in their presentations to professionals.

Changes in conference-approved literature should be supported by a broad AA interest in the change. Because of this, we in Area 20 have obtained the support of our GSRs in favor of this request, which was initiated by a committee of alcoholics using this service pamphlet in their AA service.

Thank you to all who support this much, needed service.

Rich H-

Panel 62/ Area 20 Delegate

Northern Illinois

# BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN TREATMENT & A.A.  
THROUGH TEMPORARY  
CONTACT PROGRAMS

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

P49

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.
- Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Copyright © 1991  
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115

Mail address:  
Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

30M 11/07 (SELLS)

### **Bridging the Gap**

Part of Bridging the Gap between a treatment program and A.A. is the Temporary Contact Program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition.

As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. in treatment, we were too fearful to go.

A.A. experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

The video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous," shown to patients in treatment, emphasizes the importance of having a *temporary contact* as the essential link between treatment and recovery.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.s; insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several A.A. members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

### **Temporary Contact Guidelines**

- Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another A.A. member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.

- Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
- The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in A.A.
- It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area's hospital and/or treatment facilities committees.
- Remember, the goal of both A.A. and the treatment facility is the same — the recovery of the alcoholic.
- Be familiar with the paper "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous," particularly the section on what A.A. *does* and *does not* do.
- In all contacts or activities with treatment facilities, it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

*Try to do  
the following*

- Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a *temporary* arrangement.
- Review the many different meeting formats — cover the difference between open and closed A.A. meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an A.A. meeting schedule.
- Introduce the newcomer to A.A. Conference-approved books (particularly the Big Book), pamphlets and the A.A. Grapevine.
- Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and perhaps help the newcomer find a sponsor.

**Points to  
Remember**

A.A. does not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other welfare or social services.

*The professional treatment facility is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible for them. While we cannot compromise our A.A. Traditions, we should remember that we are there as guests of the facility, and must abide by its rules. We are there to carry the A.A. message to the newcomer, and to answer any questions regarding the A.A. program of recovery and the A.A. way of life. Statements that may be interpreted as medical or psychological diagnosis or advice on medication should be avoided. We are there only to share our experience of staying away from one drink, one day at a time, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

In many cases, months of hard work have gone into establishing a relationship which enables us to be invited into a facility. A careless action could destroy that trust and interfere with carrying the message. If problems arise, inform the local service committee. They may wish to present an A.A. informational meeting.

No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. When we carry the A.A. message to those in treatment, we are just one drunk talking with another. How we look, act and talk may be all they are going to know about Alcoholics Anonymous. Since we may be seen as part of A.A., let our new friends see, hear and talk to a winner!

*If you would like to help...*

If you would like to help in this very important Twelfth Step work and have at least one year of continuous sobriety in the A.A. program, please complete the following information and give it to your group's treatment facilities representative, general service representative (G.S.R.), or mail it to the chairperson of your area or district treatment facilities committee or your general service delegate. In some areas, service committees and temporary contact programs are organized through the local intergroup or central office. Or send it to the Treatment Facilities Desk, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, so that G.S.O. can forward the information to your area, district or other Treatment Facilities Committee.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OR PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP OR MAIL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: DAY \_\_\_\_\_

EVENINGS \_\_\_\_\_

**A.A. PUBLICATIONS** Complete order forms available from  
General Service Office of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS,  
Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

**BOOKS**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (regular, portable, large-print and abridged pocket editions)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE  
TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS  
(regular, soft-cover, large-print, pocket and gift editions)

EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE  
AS BILL SEES IT (regular & soft cover editions)

DR. BOB AND THE GOOD OLDTIMERS

\*PASS IT ON\*

DAILY REFLECTIONS

**BOOKLETS**

CAME TO BELIEVE

LIVING SOBER

A.A. IN PRISON: INMATE TO INMATE

**PAMPHLETS**

44 QUESTIONS

A.A. TRADITION—HOW IT DEVELOPED

MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY ASK ABOUT A.A.

THREE TALKS TO MEDICAL SOCIETIES BY BILL W.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AS A RESOURCE FOR

THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

A.A. IN YOUR COMMUNITY

IS A.A. FOR YOU?

IS A.A. FOR ME?

THIS IS A.A.

IS THERE AN ALCOHOLIC IN THE WORKPLACE?

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DIFFERENT?

A.A. FOR THE BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN ALCOHOLIC

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SPONSORSHIP

A.A. FOR THE WOMAN

A.A. FOR THE NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN

A.A. AND THE GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLIC

A.A. FOR THE OLDER ALCOHOLIC—NEVER TOO LATE

THE JACK ALEXANDER ARTICLE

YOUNG PEOPLE AND A.A.

A.A. AND THE ARMED SERVICES

THE A.A. MEMBER—MEDICATIONS AND OTHER DRUGS

IS THERE AN ALCOHOLIC IN YOUR LIFE?

INSIDE A.A.

THE A.A. GROUP

G.S.R.

MEMO TO AN INMATE

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS ILLUSTRATED

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS ILLUSTRATED

LET'S BE FRIENDLY WITH OUR FRIENDS

HOW A.A. MEMBERS COOPERATE

A.A. IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

A MESSAGE TO CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS

A.A. IN TREATMENT FACILITIES

BRIDGING THE GAP

IF YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL

A.A. MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

A MEMBERS-EYE VIEW OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

PROBLEMS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL

UNDERSTANDING ANONYMITY

THE CO-FOUNDERS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

SPEAKING AT NON-A.A. MEETINGS

A BRIEF GUIDE TO A.A.

A NEWCOMER ASKS

WHAT HAPPENED TO JOE; IT HAPPENED TO ALICE

(Two full-color, comic-book style pamphlets)

TOO YOUNG? (A cartoon pamphlet for teenagers)

IT SURE BEATS SITTING IN A CELL

(An illustrated pamphlet for inmates)

**VIDEOS**

A.A.—AN INSIDE VIEW

A.A.—RAP WITH US

HOPE: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

IT SURE BEATS SITTING IN A CELL

CARRYING THE MESSAGE BEHIND THESE WALLS

YOUNG PEOPLE AND A.A.

YOUR A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

THE GRAPEVINE AND THE GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE

**PERIODICALS**

THE A.A. GRAPEVINE (monthly)

LA VINA (bimonthly)

## Background material for motion 2:

The SIA 21 Corrections Chair, David G, has reached out to NIA 20 for assistance with literature for correctional facilities. After speaking at length with David it was determined that there is a desperate need in his area. SIA 21 currently takes meetings into 22 county jails and state prisons, and into 3 federal penitentiaries. He is asking for help to provide a minimum of one case of Big Books and one case of Inmate to Inmate for each facility. He has also asked for some Spanish Big Books. David explained that SIA 21 is lucky to be able to provide one case of Big Books for half of the facilities each year because of the scarce financial resources SIA 21 has.

The order would be shipped directly to David for distribution to each location.

In 2014 NIA 20 assisted SIA 21 with literature. NIA 20 is fortunate enough to have the financial resources and should continue to use it to help other areas in Illinois.

### **Breakdown**

25 – Cases of Big Books	\$ 3730.00
04 – Cases of Spanish Big Books	\$ 774.40
25 – Cases of Inmate to Inmate	\$ 1025.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5529.40</b>

### Screen Shot from A.A.W.S. Online Bookstore

Prices in your shopping cart reflect all appropriate discounts.

Product	Quantity	SubTotal
 Alcoholics Anonymous (Soft Cover) Item ID: B-30	500 <input type="text"/> <a href="#">DELETE</a>	\$3,730.00
 Alcoholicos Anónimos (caracteres grandes) Item ID: SB-16	80 <input type="text"/> <a href="#">DELETE</a>	\$774.40
 A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate Item ID: B-13	500 <input type="text"/> <a href="#">DELETE</a>	\$1,025.00

[UPDATE CART](#)

Sub Total: \$5,529.40

## **Approved Floor Motion from the Corrections Committee at the 2014 Fall Assembly**

### **Motion**

The Corrections Committee moves to allocate funds from the NIA 20 treasury to provide needed literature to SIA 21. This literature will be used by the SIA 21 Corrections Committee.

The literature will go to Jails, Prisons, and Penitentiaries that they currently take meetings into.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
<i>Unsure</i>	Provide Literature for SIA 20 Corrections Committee	23 – Cases of Soft Cover Big Books 23 – 30 pack of past Grapevine issues 2 – Cases of Spanish Soft Cover Big Books	NIA 20 Corrections Committee will order the literature and have NIA 20 Treasurer pay for the order	Reimbursement authority: NIA 20 Treasurer upon approval from the NIA 20 Assembly	\$ 4,420.00

### **Background**

The SIA 21 Corrections Chair, Dave M, has reached out to NIA 20 for assistance with literature for correctional facilities. After speaking at length with Dave it was determined that there is a desperate need in his area. SIA 21 currently takes meetings into 20 county jails and state prisons, and into 3 federal penitentiaries. He is asking for help to provide a minimum of one case of Big Books and one 30 pack of past Grapevine Issues for each facility. Dave explained that SIA 21 is lucky to be able to provide one case of Big Books for half of the facilities each year because of the scarce financial resources SIA 21 has.

The order would be shipped directly to Dave for distribution to each location.

### **Breakdown**

23 – Cases of Big Books	\$ 2865.80
02 – Cases of Spanish Big Books	\$ 312.00
23 – 30 pack of past Grapevine issues	\$ 1242.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4419.80</b>