

NIA 20 2013 Winter Assembly

Lord of Life Church, December 14, 2013
(District 61, Host)

Call to order; Kelly

New attendees

Chip, CoChair Corr 61

Ken R, GSR Batavia

Daniel P Dist 70 Sec

Diana K GSR

Caitlin, GSR Hope Factory

Desiree, GSR Mon Bb Study

Joe B, Incoming 61 DCM

Beth, GSR Mon BB St Charles

Mary GSR Wed 12 GV in Elgin

Al S, GSR Thu Geneva

Sue B, GSR Dist 62 Sat Open, Sp Needs

Kelly F, GSR Dit 61 Geneva

Bret O, GSR Tues 6pm Batavia Dist 61

John Conway Corr Dist 41, GSR

AA anniversaries

Robert, 16

Ed, 10 years

Jerry 12

Kristen 10 years

Cheryl 27 years

Joe M, 22 years

Keith B, 21 years

Bob, 2 years

Sharon 3 years

George S, 33 years

Desiree, 2 years

Ray M, 19 years

Daniel P, 4 years

Erik L, 26 years

Nicole E, 23 years

James F, 3 years

Bill E, 32 years

Twelve Concepts of World Service ; John

Announcements ; Betty

Approval of Fall Assembly Minutes : Tina, Motion to Approve, Robert 2nd, approved

Treasurer Report Mike F,

This report is being presented as of December 10th. The following is our financial status as of this date.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Contributions/Income:	\$73,369.34	\$65,418.15
Expenses:	<u>\$65,343.66</u>	<u>\$65,345.79</u>
Net Contributions/Expenses:	\$8,025.68	\$72.36

As you can see we are well ahead of last year's contributions compared to expenses.

Can Contributions

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$5176.20 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$5,274.12 on literature.

Green Can Fund: has collected \$18.57 YTD. We have spent \$165.65 on literature.

I have sent contributions to GSO for \$18,000 YTD.

2013 Primary Purpose Register (Basic)

The 2013 PPR Basic Budget to date is attached to this report.

If you have any questions regarding this information or the attached financial reports just give me a call or send me an email.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the fellowship these past 14 years.

Questions and Discussion;

: question Robert S, am I to believe that the 8k is money we are not going to spend? Mike, no, we have to send 6k for our Delegate to go to GSC in 2014. Kelly, Is there a sheet for proposed budget for 2014. Mike; no. Tina, on PPB2 for GSC, we haven't given to them yet? Mike, yes, end of December. Dan L, why do we still have pink can money? Mike, because it carries over, it doesn't go back to zero every year. Judd W, total over Prudent reserve is 18k plus the 8k, minus 6k for GSC? How much over prudent reserve will be at end of year? Mike, 8k over now, minus 6k for GSC.

Motion to approve, Jeff L, Joe second, approved

Delegate Report , Rich H.

Hello Area 20,

Good morning everybody.

Been having a difficult time getting started writing my final report as your Delegate. Of all my responsibilities from the last two years, writing my reports to all of you has always been my most difficult.

But I will miss the most is getting out and communicating with all of you FACE TO FACE, here at our Assemblies or where ever the journey has taken me. These last two years have been an experience I will never forget. Of course being at and voting at the General Service Conference two times ranks high, but, I have to say standing there in unity based on our principles with a few special individuals that I may never see again, I promise never to forget. Being able to share with you, all of the correspondence coming from our three Corporate Boards, (General Service Board, AAWS Board and Grapevine Board) and from our two offices, (GSO and Grapevine). Information that I am sure you will all agree should be available to all members, not just a chosen few. And I am very sure that not everybody reads everything that I send out, but it is obvious that people are reading it because I get thank yous, comments and questions from most everything I send.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL BOARD WEEKEND MEETING:

All literature from AAWS can now be purchased on-line.

E-books are now available, a total of 11 titles in three languages will be available through Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Apple iTunes. Our Big Book (English) would have been available around December 1st, to be followed by Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (English) to be followed by all of our book titles in all three languages on an approximate one-title-per-week scheduled over the next several months. The Big Book is estimated to be priced at \$5.99. And all e-books to be less expensive than their hard copy counterpart.

Our Pocket Big Book (Abridged Version) will be available in Large Print sometime after the first of the year.

You can now place your orders for the 75th Anniversary Big Book, to be delivered to you around April 2014.

I had reported to all of you that after what I felt from the Conference and from communications with our GSO Publications Director that I was unhappy with a \$12.00 price tag on the 75th Anniversary Big Book. Well, I had written a letter to our General Service Board, and it was read at the AAWS board meeting. Now of course nothing I said would have changed anything, but my voice was heard. It is important for all of you to be sure that you know that your voice should always be heard in Alcoholics Anonymous. And I also learned some stuff about the mechanics of our literature pricing.

There are 70 Big Book Translations with 18 new translations pending.

GSO Financial Report: Through September 30th. Gross Profit from Literature sales is \$6.1 million and ahead of budget.

Contributions are \$4.9 million and ahead of budget. Combined Gross profit of \$11 million. With total operating expenses of \$11.2 million, which is less than budgeted. And all in all doing very good considering the year started with a \$600,000 negative budget.

Grapevine Financial Report: Through September 30th, a net income of \$254,241 and is far ahead of budget.

LaVina Financial Report: Through September 30th a net loss of \$103,650. But LaVina Subscriptions are on the rise. And have passed the 10,000 mark.

MY ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST ASSEMBLY:

Sept. 21- Flying Geese Service Workshop in Crystal Lake

Oct. 19- Area Committee Meeting

Nov. 2- District 23 Grapevine Workshop in Hanover Park

Nov. 10- Illinois State Conference Hotel Walk Thru, Crown Plaza Chicago O'Hare

Nov. 13- Delegate Report, Districts 62 and 64 in Montgomery

Nov. 15-17, East Central Regional Forum in Fort Wayne Indiana

Nov. 23- Traditions Panel at Soberfest and sit in on ISCYPAA Panel and encourage involvement in AA Service Structure

Dec. 6-8, Concepts Weekend Retreat Workshop, in Westfield, Wisc.

Dec. 11- Conference Call with our Trustee and Delegates and Delegates Elect from our Region

You can now submit your articles or stories to Grapevine via your phone and a 7 minute audio recording. Visit

www.aagrapevine.org, and click on AUDIO GV

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

Service Committee Breakout Meetings

Special Needs:

Jeff L, Chair

5 in attendance. Mary from Dist 61 shared information on requests for signing and money available to help pay for signers. Discussed sight impaired and bed ridden and how to make them aware we are prepared to help them in any way.

Secretaries & Registrar

Dawn B, Secretary

6 in attendance. Talked about online District Secretary's handbook and asked for useful tips from previous District Secretary to incoming.

PI

Ed C, Chair

Went over PI workbook from GSO, turned over to Jim W, incoming PI Chair

GV, Jim H, Incoming Chair

2 in attendance. Discussed service for new GV chair, also discussed value of breakout sessions for bringing in new ideas for GV reps from Districts.

GSRs

25 in attendance. Talked about motions on the agenda, service structure, had Registrar talk about need for meetings/new gsr to register groups and update groups.

DCMS

Cheryl V, Alt Delegate

Workshops are a new priority. Service orientation a must. Advisory motions book available for purchase. "Compilation of Actions that are online NIA20"

Outgoing DCMs gave a little esh talk to incomings. Cheryl spoke to vision. Building relationships Area to District to Group. "Experience mentoring willingness". Kelly explained hope for working with others within the service structure of Area 20, all districts and groups. Robet spoke to the need of committees to know and adhere to their responsibilities and function effectively. Accepted volunteers for appointed committees.

Answering Service

Matt J, Chair

3 in attendance. Talked about possible ideas for incoming rotation. Gary and myself will remain available for incoming Chair/Alt Chair. Gary and I would like to thank the fellowship for the awesome experience of being Area 20 Answering Service chair and alternate chair.

Area Business

1. Bids for the 2014 Big Book Conference

District 40, Jeff L, bids for the BB conference. We have a committee in place, location, speakers on standby, caterer bids, registration proposal. Question from Ray, you've got a \$5 figure for lunch, why haven't be priced lunch on a break even basis? Jeff; when we get actual pricing prob closer to 8 dollars. Voted and approved that District 40 will host.

2. Bids for the 2015 Spring Assembly Conference : None

3. Proposed 2014 NIA Calendar: Dist 40 will host BB conf, not 23. Date Oct 25. Dist 61 will host winter Assembly. Calendar approved by Assembly vote.

4. Primary Purpose Register

QUESTIONS; TINA ON PPB11; WAS WAS REDUCED? MIKE, IT WAS UP HIGH BECAUSE WE HOSTED IT THIS YEAR. PPB12 YOU HAD 6K, SPENT3K. MIKE; IT WAS TO COVER ALL AREA COMMITTEE IF THEY WERE TO SHOW UP. PPB2, IS THAT BASED ON FLAT FEE? MIKE, NO, GSO HAS A MIN REQUIREMENT FOR SUPPORTING DELEGATES EXPENSES. WILL BE PAID FOR NEXT YEAR. MIKE H MOTION TO ACCEPT, ROBERT 2ND, MOTION PASSED

5. Motion from Report & Charter ;MOTION:

MOTION:

It is moved that a Service Orientation Workshop be held at the NIA Winter Committee Meetings. That a bulleted item be placed under the section entitled "Scheduled Committee Meeting Agenda Items" which reads:

January (Winter) Committee Meeting
 Provide a Service Orientation Workshop

This section is currently on page 41 of the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Handbook (Unabridged). This is true of both the version on the web and the most recently printed version.

An additional bullet point should be added to the responsibility section of the Alternate Delegate that reads:

Organize and coordinate orientation workshops for both January's Winter Committee Meeting and as outlined in the Service Handbook section entitled "Orientation Workshops."

WILL NEED 2/3 MAJORITY TO PASS

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION;

Carol H, is there a budget attached to this for financial support for this? Robert; there is no financial, it's part of the committee meeting, no finances. Beth, What is the difference between what happens at committee and assembly? Kelly, this will be more of a combination of the two. Larry S, can I answer? What they are talking about is holding an orientation at committee so you can get a larger view of what happens in service structure. Joe S; can you address format? Similar to Assembly? Robert; I haven't put the full agenda together yet, I'll be doing it after holidays. Robert; we are going to have organized sharing sessions about responsibilities. Mary; My group asked if group members can attend? Kelly, yes all members of the fellowship can come. Ern; The handbook says we are to have 4 of these a year, will this take place of them? Or is this an expansion? Robert, no, this will not take the place of those. This is a once a year for people who are new in service positions.

Robert; the grammar in the bulletpoint should not have "both". Cheryl, it was worded that way bc Alt Delegate would do both. Discussion; Joe, this is geared for all incoming service people. It makes sense to educate. Bill, GSR, 4 workshops budgeted for the year and this would be an addition? Robert; yes. I speak against the motion since they already have 4 opportunities. Marcia, so they other ones are available if you ask for one. DCMS need to request them in their district.

VOTE; 68 in favor, 6 against. Motion passes.

6. Motion from Finance Committee

MOTION:

It is moved that under Finance Committee Guidelines on page 67 of the Northern Illinois Service Handbook, version 06/15/2013, the paragraph at the top of the page be stricken. In version 01/01/2012 the paragraph is the last full paragraph on page 60. The paragraph reads:

Schedule and conduct an annual PPR meeting at least three weeks prior to the Fall Area Committee Meeting. Attendees should include the Treasurer, Delegate, Officers, Standing Committee Chairpersons, and alternates for all previously named, and should be open to other interested members of the fellowship. During the meeting the Finance Committee records all issues that may impact the PPR for the coming year. The Finance Committee works to resolve all issues and reports their resolutions at least one week prior to the Fall Area Committee Meeting.

The Finance Committee should meet at a time and place of its own choosing or by whatever means it finds suitable, prior to the Fall Committee meeting to adjust or amend the Primary Purpose Basic for discussion, if any, at the Fall Committee meeting followed ultimately by consideration at the Winter Assembly.

Janet presenting.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION;

Barbara H, why did you change to register to basic? Janet, basic only encompasses items that we're changing. Rob M, Why were certain parts excluded from the original? Janet, we have a meeting, then we discuss, then we discuss AGAIN at committee. It's redundant. It sounds like it's a private meeting? Janet; a Finance Committee is, but it's open. Tina; I thought the meeting before winter committee was open? Janet, yes, it is.

Discussion; Cheryl V, I oppose this, I think having Finance meet "secretly" does not serve the Area well. Larry S, I'm in favor, the only thing finance looks at at this is the basic. Nothing precludes anyone from attending. All their going to do is make a recommendation at the Assembly. Joe, I'm not opposed to the motion bc of the mechanics, I'm opposed to it mainly bc of the wording of the motion that may lead people to think it's a private meeting. It needs to sound more open. Heather; We spent the last year and a half arguing about how more things should be done electronically, to save money. The final decision still lies with assembly. These will only be recommendations. Robert; I oppose this as it comes off as sounding very self serving and private. Robert; The service manual guidelines sets forth this committee and their responsibilities to oversee the register. The finance committee brings the report to the area. To change a ppb takes an act of the Assembly. The finance committee meeting is a closed meeting, people can come, but it's a committee meeting doing their job. Mike F, we don't DECIDE anything at this, we recommend what we THINK the area will spend. Those numbers change. We are not deciding ANYTHING. These are just

recommendations that the ASSEMBLY votes on. Marcia; the wording is throwing people off, take out "at a time and place of their own choosing" etc. Ray, I am troubled by the notion that finance committee meetings are closed. Judd; this language is from a time when we had service comm budgets being discussed. That is not done anymore.

VOTE;

27 FOR 39 AGAINST. MOTION FAILS, AS 2/3 MAJORITY WAS NEEDED. Minority opinion; Larry; I can't speak for finance committee, if finance needs to submit a 3rd time, I will rewrite it based on what just took place. Richie, nobody ever talked about how we used to do these, there was never any big meeting to begin with. Remember this meeting is just talk, not decision making. The assembly ultimately votes. Nate; I want this to happen, I don't want to be in a meeting that things are regurgitated. Manus, I don't understand why this is a motion. Take the wording out that it is bothering people. Janet we're not trying to keep it secret. Does anyone wish to change their vote? NO

7. Motion by Joe S.

MOTION;

It is moved that the following bullet points be added to the 'Purpose and Guiding Principles' section of the 'Procedures for Planning the Spring Assembly Conference' found on page 101 of the NIA Service Handbook, starting after the second bullet "The Assembly is a business meeting...", as the third and fourth:

- For those AA members solely attending the Spring Assembly and corresponding committee breakout sessions, Saturday morning, the Conference registration fee is waived.
- AA members that wish to attend any non-business portion of the Conference are required to pay the registration fee.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION;

Larry S, This space is not free, this space is paid for. Who's going to control who goes in and who doesn't? Every one of you that is a GSR has a home group, and it is their responsibility to fund your activities. Cheryl; I understand that GSRs should come to assembly, but I've also seen conferences cut it very close money wise. We need a better solution than this. Mike H, this isn't the best motion. The GSRs shouldn't have to pay to go to an Assembly. Maybe the Area should pay for the hotel assembly space. Jim, we need to get people to service orientation to let them know what they should do. Carol, I've never once had my group pay for my registration. The area should pay the expense for the room at Assembly at Spring Conference. Rich, We shouldn't have our GSRs have to pay for assembly. We currently pay rent for 3 assemblies, not spring assembly. You should never pay admission to come and vote. Bob P, I don't think the motion is worded well. Dan, we are a program of honesty. We need to trust that a GSR will not go to conference after attending assembly. Tom, the point was to increase attendance, and having at a Conference was an attempt to do that, and now we want to put a barrier up. The principle is that we would be sending a message that affluent groups count more than non affluent. Rob, it could be better worded. Phil, groups and districts send money to the area to pay its bills. Having an assembly is an area function, why aren't we paying for it?

MIKE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT; Should be "conference fee is not required" instead of "waived". Desiree seconds the motion.

JOE ACCEPTS FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO CHANGE IT.

VOTE;

MOTION PASSES

MINORITY OPINION; LARRY, IT ONLY SAYS GSRS IN THE WORDING. YOUR GROUP NEEDS TO PAY FOR YOU TO ATTEND. I THINK THIS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MANAGE. CHERYL; I THINK THIS NEEDS TO BE REWORDED.

ROBERT; CONFUSING THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN CHARGING FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO ASSEMBLY.

BACK TO DISCUSSION;

JOE; MY MOTIVE IS TO TRY AND REPAIR DAMAGE FROM A MEDIOCRE JOB THAT THIS ISSUE WAS NOT PLANNED OUT FROM THE START. TINA, MY GROUP WILL ONLY GIVE ME MILEAGE. NATE, THE CONFERENCE NEEDS TO BE PAID FOR BY ATTENDEES. DOES THE ASSEMBLY NEED TO BE IMBEDDED IN THE CONFERENCE NOW THAT WE'VE RUN INTO THIS ISSUE? ROB; GSRS CANT BE FORCED TO PAY FOR ASSEMBLY. GARY; I THINK REVISED MOTION IS EXCELLENTLY WORDED. BETTY; MAN NEXT TO ME LEFT BC HE'S TIRED. EVA; IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ASSEMBLY IS FREE IN OUR DISTRICT. STEVE; TOPIC OF HOW TO REGULATE THIS HAS COME UP. WE NEED TO TRUST THAT OUR SERVANTS WILL BE HONEST. MARCIA, HOW MANY NON PAYING GSRS CAME TO ASSEMBLY? DOES ANYONE KNOW? WE DON'T KNOW. CAN THE CONFERENCE CHARGE AREA FOR THE ROOM RENTAL FOR ASSEMBLY?

VOTE AGAIN;

MOTION PASSES 51 TO 14

8. Motion from Electronic Equipment Committee ; Robert

Motion; Provide computer to concepts editor with publishing program

Projected cost; 1500

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION;

None

VOTE; MOTION PASSED

9. Motion from Literature Committee The NIA Literature committee, after discussion of the matter, recommends that the Area 20 Delegate send correspondence to GSO requesting that pamphlet P-49 (Bridging the Gap) be revised. This pamphlet currently addresses Bridging the Gap only in terms of treatment facilities. The desired revision would be to rewrite this pamphlet so it is sufficiently broad in coverage to include "Treatment", "Corrections" or any other institutions where "Bridging the Gap" may apply. A draft copy of a letter that the delegate can use as the basis for their correspondence and a copy of the current P-49 pamphlet are attached as background material.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION; GARY, IS THERE A PROPSAL AT ALL FOR THE WORDING OF THE LETTER? RICH, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED RICH WRITE IT. THE LETTER IS ON THE AGENDA. ROB, IS THERE A PROPOSED CHANGED? CAROL; THIS WAS PROPOSED AT BTGWW SO THEY CAN CHANGE THE PAMPHLET EVERYWHERE TO REFLECT CORRECTIONS. WE'RE ONLY ASKING THEM TO LOOK AT IT AND PROPOSE WHAT CHANGES WOULD BE MORE INCLUSIVE. CHERYL, I'D LIKE TO ASK RICH TO PERHAPS EXPLAIN PROCESS OF HOW IT GOES THROUGH COMMITTEE SO THE NEW PEOPLE UNDERSTAND IT. BETTY; READING FROM THIRD PARAGRAPH LAST SENTENCE IS KEY. BARBARA; I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WORDING BE **"IT IS MOVED THAT AREA 20 DELEGATE SEND CORRESPONDENCE". * THIS IS THE WORDING CHANGE** RICHIE, THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT THE LIT COMMITTEE CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN A DELEGATE. JOE; LAST PAGE SAYS "IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP AND HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE YEAR CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY IN THE AA PROGRAM"..THAT'S A VERY EXPLICIT REQUIREMENT.

VOTE; MOTION PASSED

10. Election of NIA Treatment Chair

Betty Green will stand. Joe Snider nominated Ed Canady. Ed declines.

Betty is NIA treatment Chair

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Conference Reports

1. 2013 NIA Big Book Conf. (D62),

None

2. 2014 Spring Assembly Conference (D10,11&12) , Bob P, Chair

The planning committee appears to be on schedule according to the suggested target dates as set forth in the "Area 20 Procedures for Planning the Spring Assembly Conference". The planning committee meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Joy Lutheran Church, 749 S. Hunt Club Road, Gurnee, IL 60031. All committees are active with Chair and Alternate Chair positions occupied. District 73 has begun to attend the planning meetings to prepare for hosting the Assembly portion of the weekend.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Gurnee, IL on March 28th, 29th, and 30th, 2014. Registration will be from 4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Friday and 8:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M. Saturday. The room rate is \$89.00 per night either Double or King accommodations. The Holiday Inn is at the Gurnee Mills – Great America exit off Interstate 94.

The Program Committee has secured all A.A. speakers, completed their schedule and has accomplished assigning meeting rooms. The final room setup arrangements will be made with the hotel by January 5, 2014. The Alcathon schedule has been determined and the committee is filling time slots. Al Anon has finalized their program and has all Al Anon speakers secured. The Alateen speaker is being sought. The Decorations, Banquet, Special Needs, Literature, Hospitality, and Registration committees are all busy and fulfilling their commitments. The Registration Committee reports: 44 Registrations received with 39 banquets, 11 box lunches, 13 ice cream socials. The Holiday Inn – Gurnee has received 5 room reservations.

8000 flyers were printed – English on one side, Spanish on the other. 7000 flyers have been distributed throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. 2000 more flyers will be ordered. The flyers have been distributed electronically as well. Registration tables have been set up at Area 20 Committee Meetings, Assemblies, and Conferences. The committee chairs Bob Pierce and Bill Woolridge will be visiting Area 20 District meetings to promote the Assembly Conference.

The 2014 Spring Assembly Conference budget was based on the following:

600 registrations @ \$20.00 per registrant

300 banquets ** @ \$35.00 per banquet meal

250 hotel rooms @ 250 “room nights” (One complimentary room will be given to NIA 20 for every 25 “sold” rooms. These will be used to house our speakers.

** The food and beverage commitment is \$8500.00. Ice cream social, box lunches (as well as banquet meals) will apply towards this commitment.

The bank balance as of December 8, 2014, was \$3578.31. All bills have been paid. No major expenses have been incurred as yet.

The conference website address is: www.niaspringconference.com On line registration (Pay Pal only) is available. Registration Committee has received positive feedback regarding the ease of use of the website in registering for the Spring Assembly Conference.

3. Delegates Past and Present Conference, Rich H
Feb 7, 8, 9 of 2014 is date. Had meeting during lunch.

4. 2014 State Conference

Hosted by 19, 8/22 to 8/24, planning has been busy.

Committee Reports

Report and Charter, Jim W;
Nothing to Report

Treatment, Chris D:

Activities within the treatment committee have remained steady since my last report at the fall assembly in September. At that time, we were just coming off the frenzy of activity that had occurred as a result of the national Bridging the Gap conference that had been held in Schaumburg. As a result of that conference I received many inquiries from individuals (and districts) asking how they might begin a program to carry the message to alcoholics currently enrolled in, or soon to be released from, local treatment centers. Local interest in this activity was also heightened because our own Carol H. (District 11) had been elected as the National coordinator for the Bridging the Gap conference for the next two years. I know you all join me in congratulating her and wishing her luck.

In other news, I have had contact with GSO on a couple of occasions asking for assistance in answering inquiries made by professionals within our Area. In those instances I was able to forward the request to the appropriate people within the Area due in large part to the updated Area Treatment roster that is maintained by the Area. This list is a great resource for those looking for assistance within a local community and is updated regularly by most districts. I have made contact with most of the people on that list and everyone I have spoken too was willing to be BTG contact within their district. A huge debt of gratitude goes out to all those district chairs (and others) who continually offer to be of assistance in this area of service. A particular thanks goes out to Eva K. (D62) who just last week helped me address a BTG request for a Plainfield resident being released from a California treatment center. It's truly inspiring to know that after a call from a California BTG coordinator to me, then a call from me to her, and then from her to a local volunteer, that the BTG cycle was completed! I've watched this cycle be repeated many times during the last two years and am honored to have been able to play a small role in the "bridge".

In closing I'd like to thank the Area for giving me the opportunity to be of service these last two years and apologize that I'm unable to be at today's assembly. While serving, I've witnessed many instances of true caring by a great many fellow alcoholics whose only desire was to have a chance to carry the message to the newcomer or the still struggling alcoholic within the treatment center. I wish the incoming committee and Chair the best of luck in the upcoming rotation and remain available to help in any way I can. I just received the latest 2013 Treatment Committee Workbook which contains among other things, a complete list of all of Area Treatment, H & I, and Bridging the Gap chairs from across the country. It will be my great pleasure to pass this on to the next committee chair.

Corrections; Bill W.

I would rather be talking with an alcoholic yet to find our ways than to write a report. Many things have nipped and tugged on my life this fall and winter and very little of it AA. No matter what happens my sober life will always be with giving of myself for our twelve step work. I look forward to possibly helping the next chair get an Area Corrections Conference started so we can talk of that Twelve Step and encourage others instead of spending Assembly days arguing about money.

I have filled three Corrections Correspondence requests as well as encouraged a couple of groups to undertake a Corrections Literature project. An upcoming IDOC Summit of Hope is scheduled for Rock Falls February 20, 2014. All of you with Red shirts, lets go.

As I move on to my next Area position of alt CPC, I know I will never walk away from Corrections. This is probably our closest form of old time Twelve Step work we have. Hopefully second to answering service.

I will not be present to give this report as I have a Twelve Step commitment with a Corrections function in Chicago.

CPC, Joe S:

Your CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) Committee presents the following report for this Winter Assembly:

1. Recently, Carmela had the privilege to participate in a service committee panel at Soberfest. Thank you Carol H for the invitation – it is always enjoyable to talk about service.
2. Congratulations to our present co-chair who has been elected as CPC Chair, Panel 64 for Area 20 and to Bill W as our new co-chair.
3. District 70 staffed a Rockford health fair on 9/14/2013.
4. Joe S spoke about CPC activity in District 73 on 9/20. District 73 has also been active in the education sector.
5. How have we been spending your dollars in the basket? Details are below
 - a. PPM26 (CPC Work books and Workshops) 3 events have been held to date.

PPM26	CPC Work Books & 4 Workshops	CPC Workshops & Work Books will be used to facilitate participation in the process of showing examples of how to effectively communicate the process to follow in an effort to inform the professional, the CPC committee member, and the patients and/or clients of the professional. (\$1,000)	\$1000.00	\$649.92	2011 expenses (\$250.00 = facility rent) 2012 expenses (\$399.92 = rent 60, literature 139.08, and mileage 200.84)
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It has been an absolute pleasure and gift to serve the Area in CPC work. We hope to always be as willing to serve as you have been gracious and accepting of our quirks, enthusiasm and presentations. We look forward to seeing great work continue in Area 20. If we can be of service in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Districts, please reach out to us anytime – we are happy to serve!

Officer Reports

Chair Kelly L:

Thank you district 62 for hosting today's Assembly meeting. The service manuals will be updated after today's assembly and sent to Phil G. to have them printed and to the NIA Web Administrator Tom S. to have on the web site. Robert S. and I shared a ride to the State Conference Policy meeting for a walk through of the facility for the 2014 State Conference. The facility has ample room to cover all the activities.

I attended the NIA Big Book Conference in Montgomery. It appeared there was good attendance with many, many volunteers helping throughout.

I have completed the CDs with all the documents and reports for the last two years and gave one to our incoming chair Robert S. and will be giving the other copy to Ray M. our archivist.

I met with Cheryl V. to talk about ideas and duties that I would be doing as the alternate delegate.

Attended the East Regional Forum and obtained many new numbers of what is going on with the fellowship and the General Service Board. I am not a big numbers person but I liked some of the numbers I heard there. Alcoholics Anonymous has presence in about 175 countries. The Big Book is presently translated into 70 languages and there are 18 in the works. The translations are in 45 countries. There are books and literature that are translated into 92 languages. There were many other numbers presented but the coolest is that 34,495,491 Big Book s has been sold in all three languages.

It was good to see a lot of members from our Area. Some were first time attendees and got there on a scholarship or funded from their districts and also many regular attendees from our Area. Our past Regional Trustee Pam R. stepped up to chair the Forum because of an unexpected emergency with the new incoming East Regional Trustee Bill F.

The Panel 64 officers had a meeting November 30th to be sure we are all on the same page. I have heard many times about how things are being handled at the General Service Office that we are in good hands. I feel the same about the Panel 64 officers; NIA 20 is in good hands.

Respectfully submitted

Kelly L.

Area Chair

Panel 62

Registrar, Marilyn F:

Fellowship New Vision database

Fellowship New Vision database (FNV) was developed by the General Service Office and released for use by the areas in May, 2007. FNV is a web based tool and because of that, updates are immediate. FNV also provides each area, via their Area Registrar, access to update certain area information directly into the database. Because FNV is an online-real time database, what is entered by either the areas or the GSO Records department is available for immediate use.

Four times a year the Alternate Registrar will be sending to the DMC and the District Secretary a document of all of the groups in their district. The last column is where updates can be entered. GSRs can update group information by working with their DCM or district secretary or by completing a group information change form which they can find online at

<http://www.aa-nia.org/forms.html>.

Group information includes group name, group number, area, district, history dates, meeting locations and times, and complete group contact information. District information, on the other hand, includes district service positions and contact information for those elected to those positions and Area information is similar to district information but at the area-level.

This information is the key to communication throughout the A.A. general service structure. GSO uses group information to send information kits to new GSRs, copies of Box 459, the GSO quarterly newsletter, and GSO quarterly reports. Similarly, the area uses the information to send to the group Concepts, the NIA newsletter, and area assembly meeting minutes. This information is also used by GSO to send information kits to District and area-

level committee chairs to help orient them to their service positions and by area service committee chairs to communicate with their district counterparts.

On November 10th & December 8th, 2013 I attended the 2014 NIA Spring Conference Planning Committee.

It has been a real pleasure to serve Area 20 the past 2 years as Area Registrar. I thank all of you.
Respectively Submitted: Marilyn F.

Since we will be sending minutes via e-mail, please check with me or your DCM to be sure that your e-mail is correct in FNV.

In FNV the Registrar can search for groups or individuals and do instant updates.

It is no longer necessary to send group information updates to both NIA and GSO. All information update requests can be sent to the area registrar at registrar@aa-nia.org.

New e-mail address for the Area Registrar

The new e-mail address for the Area Registrar is: registrar@aa-nia.org.

Information updates since 01/01/2013

All update requests that were received before 12-08-2013 have been processed in FNV.

Total for 2013	
Group information	127
New groups	29
Folded/Inactive	53
Group contact information	199
District contacts	92
Area contacts	16
Total updates	516

We will continue to send welcome letters from the area to new GSRs. The packets include the following:

- a welcome letter from the area
- a snapshot of the group's information from FNV
- NIA contribution envelope

Since 1/1/2013 the Area Registrar/Alternate Registrar have sent 151 new GSR group packets.

Secretary, Dawn B;

My report is the minutes. I thank you all for allowing me to serve this past rotation, and I look forward to the next.
Thank you very much.

Alternate Treasurer; Janet N;

The contributions report is attached to this memo. The summary of the numbers are as follows:

Group Contributions \$ 45,592.37

District Contributions 16,994.35

Conference Contributions 10,744.51

Total: \$ 73,331.23

Please let your groups know that the NEW address to send contributions to the NIA Treasurer is:

NIA Treasurer

Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.

P.O. Box 51

Lake Bluff, IL 60044

This email is effective starting January 1, 2014.

Please indicate your group number on your donation. If you know of a missing group number on my report, and have the group information, please contact me.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to NIA 20.

Alternate Delegate, Cheryl V;

Greetings and salutations to everyone!

Doesn't it seem like only yesterday we were starting out this rotation? And do any of the rest of you feel like you didn't get done half of the things you had hoped? I don't think I am unique in that I come to my service with the idea that I would like to make things better, to do my part to insure that the doors of AA stand open and ready when the next drunk walks toward them. We must be doing something right as they are still finding their way. A question might be; are we doing enough? Is there more we can do to help the man or woman who still suffers? Obviously the answer is yes, there is always more. As long as people continue to die from this dreadful disease, there will always be more we can do.

Since our last Assembly in September I have been very busy. First and foremost, I have been working with Rich and Kelly to try and make our rotation changes as easy as possible. I have met with several of our NIA past Delegates to get their thoughts on what it means to be a Delegate and to represent not just NIA, but AA as a whole. We in Northern Illinois are blessed with people who have stayed active and accessible for those of us who are walking the path behind them.

The newly elected Panel 64 officers have met to discuss what we can do to better support the Service Chairs, DCMs and GSRs in our Area. We will continue to meet regularly throughout the coming rotation to help us help you. Of note, these are not official meetings in any way. They are simply our way to bring unity to the officers and find ways to better serve within the Area. There will be no voting on any matters regarding the Area, nor discussion of what motions should or should not be brought to the Area. There are other Areas which have these types of meetings, and we thought we would give it a try and see if it brings any benefit to us.

In terms of "what I did on my summer vacation" ... Since our last Committee Meeting I was asked to say a few words at the District 10 & 12 Fall Breakfast since Rich was not able to attend. I attended the East Central Regional Forum in Fort Wayne and had a wonderful time. And I recently returned from a Concept's Retreat held north of Madison. The retreat was wonderful, although the trip back in the snow storm left me a bit exhausted. We made it home with only a slight delay in Janesville. Unlike our Regional Trustee who didn't get home until Tuesday. Luckily it was car trouble and they weren't in any of the accidents that happened that day.

While at the Forum I was invited to attend dinner with the currently seated and newly elected Delegates. As in our "normal" meeting after the meeting in AA, I learned much around the table. How to get around, what to pack, what to expect in terms of sleep (very little) and other things that I wouldn't even think of. While I know many of them from various other Regional events, it was good to sit and talk about the GSC. I would be lying if I didn't admit that it seems

a bit overwhelming and that I don't have at least a few fears in stepping up to this next adventure. But I know that I have some great people to help me on this path.

Among the tidbits I picked up at the Forum... I clarified in my own mind who the 135 voting members of the General Service Conference are. I had figured out most of them from the Service Manual, but had a couple holes. I learned that when the staff at GSO rotates, they create a rotation memo for the next person. Makes good sense to me, and I think it's something we should define how to do in our Area. I found out that in 1958 the GSC voted to remove the word "honest" from the Preamble... as in "an honest desire to stop drinking." One of the things I've received so far for my new role is a copy of the Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1951-

2012 where I looked up this action. I found the notation under Literature. One other note I made is regarding the ability to make on-line contributions to AA. It seems that many groups and members aren't aware of this yet. Additionally, the web site donation ability has freed up one staff person to do other work. And in my spare time, I have some light reading to attend to. I recently finished reading AA Comes of Age which was recommended by a past Delegate as being an important piece to read in preparation to being a Delegate. Fascinating stuff, but you need to persevere to get through it at points. I think my favorite part was some sharings from one of the early Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic) and Chairman, Bernard Smith. That a non-alcoholic could care so much about our fellowship when his own life doesn't depend on it leaves me in awe. Next up is to reread Language of the Heart, again recommended by a past Delegate. My e-mail box and snail mail box are starting to become active with all types of items. Of course I'm reading the 2013 Conference Report like all of you are, right? I was copied on the meeting minutes from the Board Meeting in New York from November. Interesting stuff there, as I'm sure Rich will be reporting. Plus I've been invited to participate in the monthly conference call for the Regional Delegates and our Trustee, Bill Farnsworth. This time I just listened, but my guess is I won't stay quiet for long... as you all well know. It has been an honor to serve you as Alternate Delegate. I have to admit, it's been one of the easier "jobs" I've had in the Area. It was wonderful leading the DCM break-out meeting and getting to know some of you better. As I finish up this rotation, I know that I have done my best, and I look forward to continue to serve you as Delegate. What an awesome privilege you have granted me. Service? WooHoo!

Open Mic
Adjournment and Close

5. Motion to have a Service Orientation Workshop held at the January Winter Committee Meeting

Motion: It is moved that a Service Orientation Workshop be held at the NIA Winter Committee Meetings. That a bulleted item be placed under the section entitled "Scheduled Committee Meeting Agenda Items" which reads:
January (Winter) Committee Meeting

- Provide a Service Orientation Workshop

This section is currently on page 41 of the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Handbook (Unabridged). This is true of both the version on the web and the most recently printed version.

An additional bullet point should be added to the responsibility section of the Alternate Delegate that reads:

- Organize and coordinate orientation workshops for both January's Winter Committee Meeting and as outlined in the Service Handbook section entitled "Orientation Workshops."

Background Material

In January 2010 and 2012 a Service Orientation Workshop was held in conjunction with the NIA Winter Committee Meetings. This activity was well attended and seemed to be well received. It gave newly elected trusted servants at the Area, District and Group level an opportunity to better understand the AA Service Structure and their role in it early into their new rotations. It also provided the opportunity for any questions to be asked regarding the AA Service Structure and what the responsibilities are for each position in the structure.

In both years, the previous panel of Area Officers hosted this event. This custom could be continued although expanded to any member of the Area Committee who has a broad knowledge of the service structure. Because this event is a Service Orientation Workshop we would like to see everyone in Northern Illinois Area 20 invited to the event. If this activity were approved arrangements would be needed to use a space larger than normally needed for a committee meeting to accommodate the expected attendance. In 2010 and 2012 this meant the use of the sanctuary at Lord of Life.

While NIA rotates every two years, there are Districts that rotate on the other year. For this reason, it is suggested that the orientation happen every January. This would also help those people who are elected to positions that are vacated between normal election times.

6. Motion from the Finance Committee on the Finance

Guidelines

Motion: It is moved that under Finance Committee Guidelines on page 67 of the Northern Illinois Service Handbook, version 06/15/2013, the paragraph at the top of the page be stricken. In version 01/01/2012 the paragraph is the last full paragraph on page 60.

The paragraph reads:

Schedule and conduct an annual PPR meeting at least three weeks prior to the Fall Area Committee Meeting. Attendees should include the Treasurer, Delegate, Officers, Standing Committee Chairpersons, and alternates for all previously named, and should be open to other interested members of the fellowship. During the meeting the Finance Committee records all issues that may impact the PPR for the coming year. The Finance Committee works to resolve all issues and reports their resolutions at least one week prior to the Fall Area Committee Meeting.

Replace with:

The Finance Committee should meet at a time and place of its own choosing or by whatever means it finds suitable, prior to the Fall Committee meeting to adjust or amend the Primary Purpose Basic for discussion, if any, at the Fall Committee meeting followed ultimately by consideration at the Winter Assembly.

Rationale

This language is a holdover from our previous, more traditional budget model which required that annual budgets be approved for specific Area Committee members. The meeting was held prior to budget discussions at the Fall Committee meeting so that budgeted trusted servants could present their budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. With the advent of Primary Purpose Finance the meeting as defined here is unnecessary for the following reasons:

1. There are no budgets for individuals.
2. Spending is linked to activities approved by the Assembly.
3. Even with the change of Trusted Servants in a rotation year an activity remains a part of the Primary Purpose Motions and may be followed through with by the new servant(s).
4. New activities can be proposed at any time. There is no advantage to making such proposals at a particular time of year.

7. Motion to Add to the Procedures for Planning the Spring Assembly Conference

Motion: It is moved that the following bullet points be added to the 'Purpose and Guiding Principles' section of the 'Procedures for Planning the Spring Assembly Conference' found on page 101 of the NIA Service Handbook, starting after the second bullet "The Assembly is a business meeting...", as the third and fourth:

- For those AA members solely attending the Spring Assembly and corresponding committee breakout sessions Saturday, the Conference registration fee is waived.
- AA members that wish to attend any non-business portion of the Conference are required to pay the registration fee.

Background Material

-2011, 2012, 2013 NIA held Assembly at Spring Conference

-2013 Summer Assembly: passed Spring Assembly Conference Guidelines as proposed by Service Structure VII Committee.

-2012 Spring Assembly voted 131:2 to combine Spring Assembly and Spring Conference, "to begin in 2014."

-Ad Hoc Committee Service Structure VII, appointed by our chair in 2012, met approx. 30 hours/close to 20 times over a year to discuss combining Spring Conference with Assembly, and simplifying those guidelines for SAC planning committees.

-2011 Survey Summary (online) :fellowship needs more service education opportunities" (question 14). Survey was administered at Spring Assembly, and also online.

-2010 Fall Assembly approved motion to hold 2011 Spring Assembly at Spring Conference.

-2007 Ad Hoc Service Structure Committee (first) suggested two conference-style Assemblies per year, as weekend long conference.

8. Motion by the Electronic Equipment Committee

Motion: It is moved that the area provide a computer, to the concepts editor, for the purpose of creating the concepts newsletter and that this computer be equipped with Microsoft Publishing software.

Background:	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected Cost
<p>The concepts editor has been given the responsibility to produce a newsletter and requires a computer with the Publisher program in order to do this. The current editor has been using his personal computer since becoming the editor but is unable to continue to do so. Furthermore future editors will require a computer and it would be prudent to be able to pass the computer to the next editor rather than trying to transfer the program itself and all related documents stored on a non-area owned computer. Item # PPM#</p>	Purchase a Laptop	Purchase a laptop computer with Microsoft Publisher software and mouse for the Concepts Editor to use for publishing the newsletter	To help the Concepts editor to publish the NIA newsletter	Reimbursement authority: Area Treasurer	\$1,500.00