

2014 Winter Committee Meeting

January 25, 2014
Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL
(District 11, Host)

Call to Order

Quite Time

3rd Step Prayer

New Attendees:

Michelle F	Louis, GSR, Elgin	Laurie, D43 Answering Service
Chris V, D40 DCM	Sue B, D62 GSR	Thomas, GSR
David B, D41 Alt Corrections	Maryann, GSR, Elgin	Grant K, D61 Treasurer
Ron D62 GSR	Kyle W, D11 Alt Answering Service	Diane, GSR, St Charles
Linda L, D22 PI	Judy P, D11 PI	Rafael, D20 DCM
Steve, D40 PI		Reyes, D20 Corrections

AA Anniversaries:

Kelly L, 15 years	Doug, 16 years	Amy L, 5 years
Michelle H, 16 years	Pete, 2 years	
Carol H, 15 years	Mike, 27 years	

Twelve Concepts of World Service: Read by Jeff L

Announcements for today: Carol H - lunch will be served at noon

Robert S - you can register for the 2014 Spring Conference today!

Approval of 2013 Fall Committee Minutes: Robert S called for comments or corrections; there were none. Fall Committee Minutes approved.

Officer Reports

Area Chair - Robert S

My time has been taken up with putting together the administrative committees, building my email list of all the current Trusted Servants for the Area and going through the documents that were transferred to me from the outgoing Chair. There were a lot of documents transferred. I believe that I am beginning to get a handle on all of the documents that I am responsible for, which is to say I don't have a clue yet.

I have always heard that you learn how to do the job about the time you are ready to rotate out. I think that I will be no different.

Treasurer – Janet N

This report is being presented as of January 23rd, 2014. The following is our financial status as of this date:

	<u>1/23/2014</u>	<u>1/23/2013</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u>
Checking acct balance	\$12,641	\$4,186	\$5,651
Contributions (cash inflows)	\$8,514	\$4,969	\$84,379
Expenses:	\$1,525	\$6,441	\$82,526
Net Contributions/Expenses:	\$6,990	(\$1,472)	\$1,853

Not many expenses have been submitted for 2014 yet, as is reflected in our cash balance. In 2013 \$26,000 was sent to GSO as a contribution from Area 20.

Can Contributions

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$276 YTD in contributions in 2014. In 2013 we received \$6,096 and spent \$5,605 on literature.

Green Can Fund has collected \$0 YTD in 2014. In 2013 we received \$19 and spend 166 on literature.

2014 and 2013 Primary Purpose Register

The 2014 Primary Purpose Register to date and the 2013 PPR final are 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 the opportunity to serve you as your NIA 20 Treasurer.

Question by Cheryl V, does contribution to GSO include \$6000 for the delegate? Janet: Yes

Alternate Area Chair – Marilyn F

Welcome to Everyone!

On January 5, 2014 I attended the first 2014 Big Book Conference Planning Committee meeting in Wheaton. Jeff L. is the Chair and most of the Chair positions were filled. They need more volunteers to fill the Alternate Chair positions.

On January 12, 2014 I attended the 2014 Spring Conference-Assembly Planning Committee meeting in Gurnee. They are well on their way to being ready for the conference which is on March 28th through the 30th at the Holiday Inn, I Gurnee, IL.

I have emptied out the storage locker that Allen J. was using and took an inventory of the supplies that the Area has.

Secretary – Nicole E

As a reminder to the Committee, please submit your written reports to me at: NIASecretary64@comcast.net. If you need a new or replacement badge, please let me know.

Alternate Secretary – Tina R

Registrar – Dawn B

Alternate Treasurer – Judd W

The address for the NIA Treasurer for the Panel 64 rotation is: Northern Illinois Area, Ltd., P.O. Box 51, Lake Bluff, IL 60044.

Contribution envelopes are available. Please complete the form on the envelope when making contributions to NIA so we can correctly account for your contributions.

Summary of contributions received from 1/6/2014 through 1/21/2014:

District contribution \$4,825.00
Group contribution \$3,687.52

Pink Can contribution \$275.50

Grand Total \$8,788.02

Delegate – Cheryl V

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Since rotating in to Delegate in January, I have been inundated with information. I almost feel like a brand new GSR who has received their blue packet of information. I actually started getting information in December as I was copied on e-mails from our East Central Regional (ECR) Trustee, Bill F. Additionally Rich passed on e-mails starting in September after the election.

On December 26th I received my Communication Kit from Mary C at the Conference Desk at General Service Office (GSO). This packet provides a variety of information to begin my trip to the 64th General Service Conference, including seven forms that I need to fill out and return in a timely fashion. My committee assignment packet took a side trip to visit with Bill R, Panel 63 Delegate in Area 22, Northern Indiana. Seems a post-it-note was not quite marked correctly. However, both packets arrived on the same day, as if they had both been sent as intended. I have been given the privilege of serving on the Literature Committee at the General Service Conference. The information for the committee includes 52 pages of light reading. I am particularly happy to serve on this committee. I've long thought that there is confusion about the role of the local literature chairs, both in meetings, Districts, and perhaps even here at the Area. We tend to think this role is strictly about the sales of literature. But much of our work in this committee should also be about educating membership about all the pieces that we have, along with reviewing the content and relevancy of the pieces.

My conference buddy, Carolyn W from Area 79, has contacted me. This area encompasses British Columbia and the Yukon Territories in Canada. For those of you who think perhaps we have to travel a bit to make Assemblies or visit Districts, Area 79 covers over 900,000 square miles, with 150 islands and 5 mountain ranges. They have 2 Assemblies a year, with an average attendance of 300 people, some who have to travel by plane or ferry. We have it MUCH easier.

I will attempt in my reports to update you on information from all the aspects of General Service that arrive in my mailbox and e-mail inbox. In doing this, I am going to try and organize it in some manner... but at this point have no clue how that will look. My intent is to summarize all the information in a concise manner. While I will be forwarding some e-mail as soon as I get them, my thought is to refrain from forwarding others until after I give my report. In this way you can decide which you want to read in entirety and which to simply file or delete.

General Service Conference (GSC)

I have sent out the Preliminary Agenda for the 64th General Service Conference. A printed copy is on the table with all the other reports. The final agenda should be available on the dashboard around February 14th. Once it's available I will download onto a cd and turn it over to AMOT to make copies for us. They have performed this service for us the last two years at least. Once the copies are complete, Kelly will be distributing these throughout the Area along with copies of the final agenda.

Our Pre-General Service Conference Workshop will be held on April 12th here at Lord of Life. In addition, I have had my first request to visit a District to discuss these items. Please contact me to make similar arrangements. And know in advance, I will be strongly suggesting that all your GSRs try their best to attend the Pre-GSC Workshop.

General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update

On January 9th, Staff Coordinator Julio Espallat sent a memo stating that Clement C has been joined GSO as a Staff Member on the Corrections assignment. Clement's prior work experience includes working as a Manager of a Television Station that broadcasts original programming about the St. Louis public schools and as a Substance Abuse Counselor for several non-profit organizations. Clement holds a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University.

Grapevine & La Vina

The Grapevine is 70 in 2014. The AA Grapevine Board will meet on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in New York City. Upcoming topics are the "Prison Issue" (Feb. 5), "Special Hispanic Issue" (March 10), "Getting Sober Later in Life" (April 10) and "My Favorite AA Slogan" (May 10). On the subject of did you know... Did you know that if you order subscriptions in bulk you get a discount on your subscription price? If your group or District orders between 2 to 19 issues you will receive a 10% discount off your subscription price. Want 20-39 issues? Get a 15% discount. And if you are very bold and order 40 or more issues you will only pay \$23.18 per year. The Language of the Heart was translated to Spanish in 1995, but has now been revised to faithfully reflect the original English language edition written by Bill W. La Vina is now offering a weekly quote that can be found on the web site or e-mailed directly to you. Upcoming topics for La Vina include May/June: Women in AA, July/August: The Annual Prison Issue, September/October: I am Different...Could I be an AA?, and November /December: Doing Service During the Holidays.

e-Book Project Update

- Fourth Edition Big Book was delivered to Apple on Friday, December 13, and it is expected to be available on iTunes by the end of December.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition (English) is now available via Barnes and Noble and Amazon.
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions will be available from all three vendors very shortly.
- Over the next few months, our entire catalog of A.W.W.S. titles will be offered as e-Books through the major third-party vendors for the various platforms and e-reading devices and in the three languages of our General Service Conference. (English, Spanish, and French)
- The A.A.W.S. Board met and made a decision to discontinue all further sales of our proprietary iOS6 A.A. reader app, effective immediately. We will continue to support the app for current customers for a period of time – the end date yet to be determined.

East Central Regional (ECR) Forum Final Report

The final report from the 2013 ECR Forum has been sent out to attendees. I believe Rich forwarded these out to members of the Area. If you did not receive it and would like to, please let me know and I will send along. The next East Central Regional Forum, which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 13-15, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel. One suggestion that I have heard of in our Area is to have your Group set aside \$2 each week to support your GSR to attend a Forum. Perhaps your group can consider this idea also.

General Service Board (GSB) Reports from the November Board Meeting

These reports were forwarded on to you by Rich on 12/29/13. However I will highlight the financials here.

G.S.O. Financial Results:

Gross profit from literature sales was \$6,136,000 compared with \$5,823,300 budgeted and \$5,940,800 last year. Gross Profit was \$313,000 greater than budgeted.

Contributions of \$4,873,000 were \$94,000, or 2%, more than budgeted and \$194,000, or 4.1 %, greater than last year.

Total revenue (gross profit from literature, contributions and interest earned on cash flow) was \$11,009,400, \$406,000 (3.8%) more than budgeted and \$388,800, or 3.7%, greater than the same period last year.

Total operating expenses for the period of \$11,207,000 were approximately \$135,200 less than budget and \$682,200, or 6.5%, greater than the first nine months of the prior year.

Total personnel costs were approximately \$82,000 less than budgeted, but \$499,000 more than last year.

A.A.W.S. year-end projections and 2014 Budget:

Current expectations are that sales and Contributions will continue slightly more than budgeted through the end of the year, and that expenses may be slightly less than budgeted as well. The bottom line anticipates less loss

than budgeted. Work on the 2014 Budget is progressing. Current estimates indicate a sizeable loss for 2014, before considering any literature price adjustments (last increase was 5 years ago on 7/1/2009), the results of the 75th anniversary edition or the impact of additional eBook sales.

Grapevine: Financial Results:

Average circulation for the nine months was 82,900 compared with the nine-month average last year of 89,800 and a budget of 84,100 copies. Magazine income was \$26,000 greater than budgeted with direct costs \$45,000 less than budgeted. Gross profit from the magazine of \$1,124,491 is \$19,000 less than last year, but \$71,900 greater than budgeted. Other publishing income exceeded the budget by \$13,000, while direct costs were \$13,000 less than budgeted. Total gross profit of \$1,475,148 was approximately \$97,500 greater than budget and \$34,000 more than last year. Interest income added \$8,500 to the total gross profit, resulting in total income for the period of \$1,483,648, compared with \$1,389,880 budgeted and \$1,453,049 last year. Total costs and expenses of the magazine of \$1,229,407 were approximately \$140,107 less than budget and approximately \$21,000 less than last year. Net income from operations for the nine month period was \$254,241 and compares with a budgeted income of \$20,366 and a \$202,869 profit for the first nine months of last year.

The La Vina Magazine incurred a \$103,650 loss for the nine-month period, which was \$10,000 more than budget and \$23,000 more than the \$80,062 loss incurred last year. Average circulation for nine months of 10,020 was 800 copies greater than budget and 900 copies greater than last year as well.

Reserve Fund:

The Reserve Fund Investment report noted that as of September 30, 2013 the Reserve Fund had a balance of \$15,293,134 for the purpose of computing the number of months of operating expenses. The Fund is currently earning approximately 1%, and represents approximately 10.7 months of combined budgeted operating expenses.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) motion

I contacted Steve, the G.S.O. staff member on the Treatment/Special Needs-Assignment, regarding the motion presented at our Winter Assembly and forwarded to GSO on December 28, 2013. The request is being forwarded to the trustee's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities which meets on February 2nd. This committee will decide if this item will go on the final agenda for the General Service Conference.

Delegate's Sharing

During the course of the year, various Delegates look to find information from other Areas to address needs or concerns in their Area. In early January Homer M, Panel 63 Delegate from Area 51, North Carolina, assembled an e-mail list of all 93 Delegates to aid in the facilitation of these efforts. So far this month we have had requests for sharing on:

- Area Service Manual/Area Guidelines
- Accepting Electronic Payments
- Affiliation, Anonymity and Distress
- Hospitality Rooms and Family Members
- Wearing multiple hats within Area and Districts at the same time
- Archivist Information

If this keeps up, I'm going to be on my computer a lot! If anyone would like to read these sharing's, please let me know and I will forward the information along.

Upcoming Events

The Northern Illinois Spring Assembly Conference, hosted by Districts 10, 11 & 12, will be held on March 28-30 at the Gurnee Holiday Inn. Sunday morning speaker and GSO Staff will be Jim M from the Public Information Desk. This will be the first time that the new conference procedures will be followed to fully incorporate the Assembly into the conference. You will hear a full report later by conference chairperson, Bob P, but here are some numbers that you need to keep in mind: The budget was based on receiving 600 registrations, 300

banquets and 250 hotel room nights. And keep in mind; current guidelines are that all Area Standing Committee members and Area officers are expected to participate in the conference. In “return” for this participation these members may submit for reimbursement of expenses under PPB12.

Alternate Delegate – Kelly L

I would like to welcome all the new Area committee members, district committee members and GSRs. Welcome back to all the Panel 63 members who did not rotate out of their positions. I am looking forward to working with new and last year’s DCMs. Since officially holding the alternate Delegate position I have been working with Area 20 members which have held or hold service positions to put together today’s Orientation Workshop. If any or all of these presentations are what you would like to share with your districts please let me know. That can be a good start with putting on workshops within the districts.

The printing of the GSR handbooks and the unabridged version of the Service handbooks was the closure of my responsibilities as Area chair. All the information from the past two years as Area chair was handed over to our Area Archivist Ray M. and our Area Chair Robert S.

Last week I did have the opportunity to be included on a Regional conference call held by our Regional Trustee Bill F. Nothing really pertained to my position but it was neat to hear what new Panel 64 delegates were going through and the questions they had. I am registered for the Conference of Delegates Past and Present and am looking forward to gaining more information of what happens at the General Service Conference.

Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving you as Area 20 Alternate Delegate for the next two years.

Approval of Administrative Committees

Operating Committee

Cheryl V, Delegate; Robert S, Area Chair; Nicole E, Secretary; Steve M, D72 DCM; Eva C, D91 DCM; Kieran M, D23 DCM; Suzie H, D52 DCM

Finance Committee

Janet N, Treasurer; Judd W, Alternate Treasurer; Mike K, D12 DCM; Manus S, D22 DCM; Amy L, D62 DCM; Larry S, Past Delegate Advisor

Report & Charter Committee

John Conway, Past Delegate; Bill E, D28 DCM; Kevin B, D22; Paul P, D12 Alt DCM; Jamie R, D79 DCM; Lisa S, Member at large

Conference Advisory Committee

Ray M, Past Delegate 2 year term; Marcia S, Past Delegate 2 year term; Bob P, 4 year term; Michele H, 4 year term

Electronic Equipment Committee

Ed R; Barbara H, D21 DCM; Marilyn F, Alt Chair

Archivist, Concepts, and Webmaster appointees remain as is until end of term

Orientation Workshop

Kelly introduced the topics and presenters for the Service Orientation Workshop
General Service Structure/Conference

Past Delegates, Tom B and Ray M presented A Study of Our Service Structure, *Our Freedom to Serve*

NIA Service Structure/Assemblies, Conducting Business, Primary Purpose Finance

Marilyn F presented on the role of the GSR

Robert S presented on the Committee Meetings and Assemblies
Cheryl V presented on Conducting Business and Writing Motions
Judd W presented on Primary Purpose Finance

NIA Structure/Committees, Registrar

Carol H presented on AA Service Committees

Kelly L presented on the role of the DCM

Dawn B presented on Registration

NEW BUSINESS

1 Motion by Web Administrator for Alternate Web Administrator

Motion: It is moved that the Area create the new appointed position of Alternate Web Administrator.

Presenting: Robert S

Mike H seconds the motion

Questions: Rob M asks if there will be a sobriety requirement for this position. Robert- no, since not a requirement for the Web Administrator.

Cheryl V asks whether this will be a voting position. Robert will reach out to the Web Administrator and get questions answered before the assembly.

Discussion: There was no discussion

2 Motion by Delegate for 2014 ECR Conference

Motion: The Panel 64 Delegate moves to provide reimbursement for up to 6 people to attend the 2014 East Central Regional Conference in Perrysburg, OH on July 25-27.

Presenting: Cheryl V

Tina R seconds the motion

Questions: Kelly L asks to clarify reimbursement is for up to 6 people. Cheryl – correct.

Dan L asks if the Delegate costs are included. Cheryl – as Delegate, I am required to attend but costs won't be covered under this motion; there is a separate line item for Delegate

Jack B – cost is for each person to have a separate room; could rooms be shared to defer cost? Cheryl - no reason people couldn't share; we can also carpool, but I don't think we should make sharing a requirement.

Discussion: None

3 Motion by the Delegate for the Reimbursement of Printing Costs

Motion: It is moved that the Area Treasurer reimbursed NIA Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and Administrative Committee Chairs for the printing of reports to the Committee Meeting and the Assembly.

Presenting: Cheryl V

Kelly L seconds the motion

Questions: John C asks how \$1,000 will be split between PPB3 & PPB4; Cheryl V- probably \$600/\$400;

John C- should it be stated in the motion? Cheryl V – it could be; Robert S - Primary Purpose Register doesn't set specific dollar amounts, it sets activities. Actual figure is not relevant.

Dan L asks whether we should teach committee chairs how to post their reports on the website so we don't need to spend money on printouts. Cheryl V – agree in theory, we should teach everyone how to do it.

However, if we aren't delivering verbal reports it is important for DCMs to be able to take information back to their districts; agree they should be on the web but print if they aren't going to be presented verbally.

Jim W asks what the procedure is for posting reports. Cheryl V - send report by email to the webmaster.

Carol H asks to clarify if the motion only applies to committee and officer reports. Robert- that's correct
Joes S asks to clarify whether committee chairs get reimbursed if they print reports for the meeting; Cheryl V - if motion passes yes; as it stands now, if committee chairs print their reports they will not be reimbursed; if motion passes reimbursement would be retroactive to today
Rob M asks if Robert mailed out reports for this meeting. What would it take to put them on the web? Is printing the right solution? Robert S - if I get reports, they go to webmaster.
Joyce P asks whether committee members have been polled to find out whether they are not providing as a matter of choice or oversight. Cheryl V -since the new rotation, I did not go back to past positions and ask why they did not do their job.
Mike M noticed some minutes were printed out for this meeting. Is that included in this motion? Cheryl V - we previously agreed a small number of minutes would be printed; minutes are not included in this motion.

Discussion:

Terry- all of us do not have computers or some do and can't get to them.
Tom B- we are from an area that supported GSO to the tune of \$32,000 in excess funds last year - a paltry sum in support of our standing committee having the opportunity to reach the people they need to reach.
Joyce - like idea of going paperless.
Bill W, Alt CPC- I have every report in my smart phone. We need to ask what is the preferred method to receive this information.
Mike, DCM- we receive more and more emails saying please print this out. I don't think it's right to be asked to incur this expense. The Area should incur the expense.
Tina R- I agree with the motion. In the past I have handwrote reports because I didn't have a computer. I think this motion is a good idea.
Janet N, Treasurer- NIA has a discount at Office Max for printing costs
John C, Past Delegate- would like to clean up vagueness that it doesn't need to be specific dollar amount. That's the whole purpose of PPR, right?
Robert S- Area states we will do this and think it might cost X; irrelevant of cost we are going to do this.
John C- is \$600/\$400 never ending? Please clean up as to PPB3 & PPB4. Cheryl V - would be happy to. I could add \$600 to PPB 3 and \$400 to PPB4.
Larry S- there is no dollar in Basic register that's in concrete; all estimates. Goal is to talk about activity - not the dollars. We are talking about the wrong issue. The issue is whether or not we want to see these reports and do we wish to see them in writing. It's already been noted we have the money to do this.
Manus, DCM D22- I'm confused. The Chair sent out memo with 17 attachments and asked us to print those and bring today. Not everyone has the time to read it. Present system ain't working. How many actually printed these 200 pages? Respectfully, sending out those reports the day before the meeting ain't gonna do it.

Robert S - Cheryl will revise as she indicates. DCMs, go back to your groups so you can report back at the Assembly.

(Cheryl V - of standing committee chairs, only three reports have been posted on the website)

4 Motion by the Wednesday Concepts Group from Waukegan to read "Why Do We Need a Conference?" At All Area Meetings

Motion: We, the Wednesday Concepts Group from Waukegan, would like to present a motion that "Why Do We Need a Conference?" from page S20 of the A.A. Service Manual be read at all Area 20 Business Meetings, including but not limited to our four Committee Meetings, four Assemblies and our Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

Presenting: Paul P

Tom B seconds the motion

Questions: Judd W asks where would a change be made in the NIA Service Handbook? What change do you want made to document? Paul P- we're not asking for a change to handbook, just asking that it be read at Area meetings.

Tina R asks how did this motion come about? Paul P- our Concepts group thought it would be interesting to read and some people at assemblies don't understand why we meet. We think this explains what our purpose is.

John C- Judd, there is a document that sets the agenda for assemblies; is it not in unabridged handbook? Judd- it is not. Setting the agenda is not in the NIA Handbook. Scheduled items are listed but not the agenda. Cheryl V- John might be referring to a previous floor motion to rearrange the agenda to bring business to the front half of Area meetings and officer reports to back half. Nothing in the Handbook officially sets the agenda; simply historical and traditional.

John C- it wasn't an assembly approved item (was it?) Cheryl V – correct; it came out of the DCM breakout.

Larry S- where in here is the suggestion we change any guidelines? Robert S - there isn't.

Discussion:

Kelly L- I oppose this motion. If we don't have time for regular reports, this is extra reading that will take extra time from regular business.

Larry S- I think this is a wonderful idea; it is why we are here. A lot of us don't understand the Concepts.

Chris, DCM D 40- I think it's a good idea, but this is not really a conference. I think it would be better read at the general service conference.

Jeff G- I think it's a great idea, and maybe we should look at adding to the guidelines.

Robert S- Are there any comments that we don't want this motion?

Rob M- I think it's a great idea but maybe we can scale it down.

Barbara H- This is a nice piece of writing. Wonder how useful it will be to hear it nine times every year. Maybe just read it at the Pre GSC workshop.

Simple majority vote: Robert read who the voting members of committee are

Point of Order: Jeff G- How does this body get to vote for changes at assemblies and the Pre GSC workshop? We are changing meetings that are bigger than this body.

Robert- We are not changing guidelines. Assembly requires us to have a meeting but does not tell us how to do the meeting. This is deciding how to do the meeting. Anyone wiser than me think I'm wrong?

John C- would hate to go against assembly in this body without having historical information.

Robert S- even if we vote here as a committee, we still present to the assembly and it could negate what we are doing today.

Vote:

For - 28

Opposed - 21; Motion passes.

Minority opinion:

Cheryl V - I think the comment about whether we will stop listening if we hear this at each meeting spoke to me. To think a non-alcoholic would think this highly of our organization is extremely moving. We might lose focus if we read it every time and will add to length of meeting

Bill E- I agree with Cheryl that it's a moving piece. This is a business meeting not an AA meeting. I know why I'm here and I know what service means. Seems it will elongate the meeting; a wonderful sentiment but I'm not sure necessary or appropriate.

Based on minority opinion, would anyone change their vote? –Yes

Discussion: None

New Vote:**For - 24****Opposed – 26; Motion fails.**

Robert – I assume this means the Chair can add it in if he wants to but doesn't have to. Response- correct. I appreciate what this body is saying and will take it into consideration as I create agendas.

5 Accept bids for 2015 Spring Conference

No bids were presented

OLD BUSINESS**Conference Reports****2014 Spring Conference Report (D10, 11, 12) Bob P, Chair**

The 2014 NIA 20 Spring Assembly Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center Gurnee on March 28th, 29th, & 30th. Registration will start at 4:00 P.M. The kick-off will be at 6:45 P.M., commencing with the Al-Anon speaker. The room rate is \$89.00 per night for either King or Double room accommodations. The Holiday Inn is located at the S.W. corner of Interstate 94 and IL Route 132 (Grand Ave). This is the Gurnee/Waukegan exit. Gurnee Mills outlet mall and Key Lime Cove's Water Park are close by.

To date the Registration Committee has received: 68 registrations (18 have been received on line). The breakdown is (55) Banquets, Ice Cream Social (14), Box Lunches (12). Based on the trend so far, it is entirely possible the Banquet will be sold out long before the event ... in other words; walk-in registrants may be disappointed if they want to attend the Banquet. The Registration Committee is implementing a means of "cutting off" Banquet registration when the maximum of 320 guests is reached. Volunteering on the website is encouraged; all four committees have received responses to volunteer as: 1. Greeter 2. Registration Table 3. Alcathon 4. Hospitality Room. The conference website is: www.niaspringconference.com The Registration Committee has received positive feedback as to the ease of use of the website when registering for the Spring Assembly Conference. For historical perspective: The 2013 Spring Conference held in Rockford sold 236 "room nights", 328 Banquets. There were 654 registrations, 50 % of those registrations were WALK INS. Registering early will be much appreciated by this committee.

The Holiday Inn – Gurnee room rate is \$89.00 per night. The hotel has received 16 (32 "room nights") reservations. The contract calls for selling 250 "room nights" for March 28th & 29th; the minimum we can sell without penalty will be 188 room nights. The contract states: "One complimentary room will be given to NIA for every 25 rooms actualized." The complimentary rooms are the rooms in which we will house the speakers, signers, and translators. At present, we will need 6 rooms for (4) speakers, (2) signers, and (1) translator. [The signers have agreed to share a room.] CUTOFF DATE IS: February 28, 2014. AFTER February 28th, the hotel is free to sell rooms to the public. Conference attendees can register after February 28th at the same rate of \$89.00 per night but our potential for loss will increase. NIA 20 will be responsible for unsold rooms below 188 rooms. The committee does not know how to make this clearer.

The 2014 Spring Assembly Conference budget was based on:

600 Conference registrations @ \$20.00 per registrant (A.A. Speakers, (1) Al-Anon Speaker, signers, translators have free registration)

300 Banquets @ \$35.00 per Banquet meal (this is a pass through, no revenue) (A.A. Speakers, (1) Al-Anon Speaker, signers, translators do not pay for the Banquet)

250 hotel rooms @ \$89.00 per "room night" (One complimentary room for every 25 sold rooms.) (A.A. Speakers, (1) Al-Anon Speaker, signers, translators do not pay for a room.

The Food and Beverage commitment is: \$8500.00. This figure is made up of: Banquet sales, coffee sales, Box Lunches, and Ice Cream Social.

District 73 is on board with their plans for the Assembly portion of the weekend. As of our January 12, 2014, planning committee meeting, all committees are active, the agenda has been set, the program is finalized, and the Printing Committee is hard at work putting the Conference program on the website. It is hoped the initial program will be posted on the Conference website by early February. 11,000 bi-lingual flyers have been printed and are being distributed far and wide. There have been several e-mail "blasts" as well as mailings and personal drop offs of flyers. Bob Pierce and Bill Woolridge are visiting Area 20 District meetings in order to promote the Spring Assembly Conference. Registration tables have been set up at Area 20 Committee Meetings, Assemblies, and Conferences.

The committee meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 2nd Sunday of the month at: Joy Lutheran Church, 749 S. Hunt Road, Gurnee, IL 60031 This committee is scheduling a meeting with the 2015 Spring Assembly Conference Committee immediately following the final speaker on March 30th. This meeting will be held in Holiday Inn's Ruby Room (the Al-Anon Room). It is this committee's hope a 2015 Spring Assembly Conference is held. This committee has worked hard and enjoyed the journey so far. We are anticipating a successful conference.

As of January 10, 2014, the bank balance is \$4186.02. All bills have been paid with no major expenses having been incurred. We are anticipating paying for (2) air fares at this time.

In order to ensure a successful event: This committee encourages EARLY registration for the 2014 Spring Assembly Conference. In addition, this committee stresses the importance of registering

Cutoff date for hotel is Feb 28th.

2014 Big Book Conference Report, Jeff L Chair

We had our first meeting January 5th at First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton. We have all the Chair positions filled but have a few alternate positions open. We came up with a theme "Into Action 75 Years...Going Strong. Our Treasure has opened an account and will be using the District 40 P.O. Box for Registrations and will be depositing the seed money as soon as we receive it. There has been a preliminary flier made up and we will vote on it at our next meeting. Our PI chair will be translating the flier into Spanish. We are hoping to have a Save the Date flyer for the Spring Assembly Conference. So far all the chairs have been busy doing what needs to be done and recruiting volunteers to help out. The Greeters and Facility Chair has made their own flier asking for volunteers. We are still unsure how many panels we will have but did have a walk through on Jan. 19th at Parkview Community Church where the conference will be held on October 25th. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd.

2014 Conference of Delegates Past and Present Report, Ray M

ECR Delegates Past & Present Conference will be held Feb 7-9 at Hyatt Regency Schaumburg. This event is an opportunity to see how the General Service Conference functions; volunteers for the conference will meet for 20 minutes during lunch today.

Standing Committee Reports

Archivist, no report

Concepts, Phil G reported:

The Winter Concepts has been mailed and is available online. Spring Concepts is in process. Deadline for the Spring edition is March 10th. If you wish to make a submission and cannot make the deadline, please contact us at concepts@aa-nia.org.

We appreciate receiving district minutes, DCM reports and news of your district and group activities. It is from this information that we write the "Area Beat" and Calendar sections of the newsletter. Concepts is produced by and for service minded people in NIA 20. It is a place to share experience, strength and hope, to express ideas and concerns about AA service and to welcome others to your district and group functions.

Concepts reaches about 1,400 people in Area 20 on a quarterly basis. For those GSRs that do not attend Area Assemblies or District Meetings (about half of the 1,100 registered GSRs), Concepts is the only channel for news of the Area or the District and it is the only place to learn where to send funds to the Area. Concepts is available on the web and the Concepts Calendar is updated monthly on the web. Please keep us updated so we can keep you all updated.

Web Administrator, Tom S reported:

- The Domain (AA-NIA.org) has been renewed, next expiring Jan 2015
- The Website hosting has been renewed, next expiring Jan 31, 2015
- Invoice to NIA is attached.
- Districts 21, 22, 23, 41, 43, 62, and soon District 72 enjoy free webhosting for their websites courtesy of NIA area 20.
- The website has a section for anonymity protected reports and meeting minutes located under "information". All Committee Chairs and Alternates should check the website for their reports.
- The website continues to have "password protected" capability although the only use for it now is to protect the phone numbers found on the "Concepts" calendar and newsletters.

Literature, no report

PI, Jim W reported:

I have been contacted by the GSO PI Coordinator Jim Malone. There were three attachments to his email, detailing the most recent PI activities at the GSO level:

1. A PI activity update, including:

- a. Anonymity Online - An article discussing the various safeguards to preserve the anonymity of AAs in the digital realm.
- b. Documentation of the airing of the Spanish PSA "Tengo Esperanza".
- c. An invitation for video submissions targeting young people.
- d. Notification of the press release to a handful of national magazines that the 75th anniversary edition of our book Alcoholics Anonymous officially comes out in April 2014.
- e. GSO is providing a complimentary PI kit for new area PI chairs and a workbook for district chairs.
- f. For those rotating out of the area position should make sure that the replacements information is submitted to the registrar.

2. The actual press release for the 75th anniversary big book: "Carrying the Message of Hope and Recovery for 75 Years: A.A.'s Basic Text, Alcoholics Anonymous, Reaches Another Milestone."

3. SM F - 197 Anonymity Online - An article detailing the various safeguards to protect the anonymity of AA members in this digital age. Using the BCC feature for emails is a good example.

I have provided limited hard copies of these three above-mentioned items at the PI display here today.

Jim M is the GSO Representative for the upcoming Spring Assembly Conference (SAC). Since there is a PI portion to the panel, Panel – Reaching the Still Suffering Alcoholic (PI, CPC, Corrections, Treatment), at the SAC and Jim is the PI Coordinator at the GSO, I will be contacting him to inquire if he would be a participant of that panel.

I have collected contact information from the PI trusted servants at this meeting (except Linda) and will forward all relevant and pertinent info to them.

Last thing, my email at aa-nia.org is publicinformationi@aa-nia.org an extra "i" at the end.

CPC, Joe S reported:

Our role in CPC work is trying to help our friends recommend us. These friends are professionals, who come into contact with real or potential alcoholics in their workplace. They are members of healthcare professions, such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, and students. They include members of the clergy, and divinity students. They are social workers, employee assistance providers, human resource workers, and union representatives. They also include professionals in law enforcement, the legal and judiciary system, and substance abuse centers. Just to name a few....

In short, anyone who comes across problem drinkers at work has an opportunity to recommend their patients, clients, and contacts to AA.

Our job is to inform them what AA does and does not do, and how to find us.

The CPC workbook can be found online at AA.org, at this link:

<http://www.aa.org/catalog.cfm?origpage=244&product=102>

How best to help?

You can find an introduction at AA.Org, under Resources for Professionals at this link:

<http://www.aa.org/subpage.cfm?page=242>

The Area 20 webpage has information at AA-NIA.org, under Committees menu, at this link:

<http://cpc.aa-nia.org/committee.htm>

Cooperation with the Professional Community, your Area CPC Committee, has no activity to report at this time.

We look forward to serving our Area Fellowship and visiting every district this year.

CPC@aa-nia.org

Bill W -- CPC Co-Chair. WHWoolridge@msn.com

Joe S --CPC Chair 630-327-1115, thetraditionaljoe@gmail.com

Special Needs, Urbano reported:

HELLO EVERYONE MY NAME IS URBANO AND I AM AN ALCOHOLIC, FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A SERVANT OF THE AREA 20. SPECIAL NEEDS CHAIRPERSON, I DID NOT DO MUCH, I ONLY DID SOME CHANGES TO A SPECIAL NEEDS DISPLAY. I AM GIVING SOME HELP TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE OF THE SPRING CONFERENCE/ASSEMBLY.

I HAVE BEEN IN MY DISTRICT 20 TO MOTIVATE THE SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS, AND I INVITED THEM TO THIS COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE ORIENTATION WORKSHOP. I VICITED DECEMBER 27th AT HOME TO AN A. A. WHO IS CANCER , ON 28th DECEMBER WE VISIT AGAIN AT THE HOSPITAL, I READ SOME STORIES OF LA VIÑA, WE ASKED AND HE ANSWERED INCOERENCIAS, JANUARY 5th OTHER AA MEMBERS BROUGHT HIS LAST MEETING TO HIS HOME ... TUESDAY JANUARY 7th HE PASSE AWAY ON JANUARY 11th WE BURRIED 37 YEARS OF SOBRIETY.... HE WAS MY SERVICE SPONSOR. SUNDAY JANUARY 12th I SPOKE IN TWO NO-AA MEETINGS, A 8:00 AM WITH AN ASSISTANCE APPROXIMATELY 20 PEOPLE AND OTHER 11:00 AM WITH AN ASSISTANCE APPROXIMATELY 30 PEOPLE. I GIVE SOME PAMPHLETS SUCH AS : IS AA FOR YOU ? , INFORMATION ON AA SHEET, AA AT A GLANCE, PROBLEMS OTHER THAN ALCOHOL A MESSAGE TO TEENAGERS, AA FOR WOMEN , AND THERE AN ALCOHOLIC IN YOUR LIFE. THIS WAS IN GROUPS OF SAN JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HARVARD. THEY INVITED ME FOR ATTENDING AND SHARING COUPLES GROUP ON FRIDAYS NIGHT. TUESDAY JANUARY 7th AT 6:00 PM. TOOK TO ALCOHOLISM INFORMATION COUNSELING IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, WITH TREATMENT CHAIR OF DISTRICT 20, AND TUESDAY JANUARY 14 TO SAME COUNSELING WITH TWO OTHER AA MEMBERS ONE FROM GROUP EL PODER SUPERIOR IN WOODSTOCK AND ANOTHER FROM THE GROUP LANGUAGE DELCORAZON IN SCHAUMBURG, WE DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR TO GIVE TO HER CUSTOMERS AND FUTURE CUSTOMERS ALSO WE GIVE A BOOK 12 AND 12. WE ARE PLANNING TO GO BACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I DO NOT KNOW IF THESE ARE SPECIAL NEED SERVICES, BUT THEY CALLED ME AND ASK IF I COULD COOPERATE AND I SAID YES...

Treatment, no report

Operating Committee, Harrison H, Operating Committee Chair reported:

December 16 – Received request from Rich H (via Kelly L) for: Funds up to \$250.00 to be used in the Hospitality Room for the Conference of Delegates Past & Present that will be hosted by Area 20 in February 2014.

Operating Committee members were polled with the following results, as of December 31, 2013, Ayes = 5, Nays = 0, No vote = 2.

Since there were no actual objections the request is presumed to be approved by substantial unanimity. The request and results of the committee vote were sent to the new Area Treasurer on January 13, 2014.

Finance Committee, no report
Electronic Equipment, no report
Report and Charter, no report

Grapevine, Jim reported:

I will meet with Jeanne today and take over the area Grapevine stuff.

I was asked to bring the stuff to the Spring Conference. After I inventory, I will know if I need more stuff.

I did buy a purple shirt as the one Richie offered me would not fit.

I know that I am filling the boots of some of our area's most dedicated servants that have been the past Grapevine chair and I plan on keeping my feet going.

Corrections, Dan L reported:

There has not been much happening since becoming Chair. I have started the process of changing the contact information at GSO. I was not able to completely change it because I did not have the correct info for our new treasurer. This I will get and finish the process.

I have been approached by Steve K. from District 52. He is the new Corrections Chair for that district. He interested in having a Corrections Workshop in District 52. I will be talking with Pat, my Alternate, and make that happen hopefully this spring.

I was approached by Carol H about the possibilities of getting something together with Treatment in regards to Bridging the Gap. I think this is a wonderful idea and look forward to helping develop and implement something that can be used to help those coming out of treatment or jail.

I will have new Pink Can labels soon and will make them available for the Assembly. In the meantime groups and districts can use the envelopes for the Treasurer, just mark the donations for the Pink Can Fund. Corrections is definitely in need of donations.

If your correctional facility is in need of literature [please contact me and I will get it. I have a pending order for Sheridan currently. Please do not hesitate to ask, that is what the Pink Can money is for and I will spend it for your correctional needs.

Answering Service, Terry reported:

I am Answering Service Chair, and have nothing to report at this time. I would however be grateful if I could get a list of all District Answering Service Chairs if such a thing is even possible.

DCM Reports

Dist 10, Mike reported:

On the subject of successful events:

Our PI, Treatment, and CPC committees are collaborating to make sure our cards and displays are maintained at hospitals and police stations. They have come up with a plan to get groups to sponsor a location and maintain card racks. These three committees also plan to produce a workshop when they can.

Districts 10 and 12 are holding their shared breakfast for the Spring at the Ramada in Waukegan. Date to be announced.

Looking for a webmaster to chair our website committee. We are lacking an experienced person to chair this position.

Planning is ongoing for the NIA Spring Conference 2014, at the Holiday Inn Gurnee on March 28-30, hosted by Districts 10, 11, and 12.

United Protestant Church in Grayslake is not available for meetings anymore.

Dist 11, Carol reported:

On January 2, 2014 we had our first meeting with the line-up of District 11 newly elected members and approved our 2014 budget. We created a Literature committee which has not been part of the District 11 committees for the past few years and hope to have the Chair and Alternate Chair position filled soon which is the only committee that has not one committee member yet.

We are happy to report that our PI Chair and committee have already met and began the planning of activities within the school system. Our Archivist is busy planning the annual Old Timer's Brunch scheduled on February 23rd at the American Legion Hall in Wauconda with brunch from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., the Corrections Chair has already passed the baton and all the experience from the previous chair to current one and met as an advisory committee to ensure the continued vision and efforts, and the Treatment Facilities committee are working diligently with the Bridge the Gap Coordinators as the meetings within the Rosecrans Treatment Facility move from their current location.

In the spirit of rotation we will be voting at our next district meeting on February 6th on whether to move from our monthly meeting location in McHenry to another facility in an adjacent town.

We are currently working on preparing job descriptions for all our committee chair, alternate chairs and officers and have finalized several in the past month. The ones that have been distributed to new committee chairs have been well received as some have not yet received their workbooks from GSO and find the documents provided them with additional directions as to how to begin their service commitment in the local environment.

Doug and I also met with our new treasurer to help set up some accounting guidelines for better management of our spending activities and budget. Our plan is to investigate the need for us to become 501c3 compliant. If there are districts that have been through that process and would like to share their experience with District 11 it would be greatly appreciated.

Dist 12, Mike reported:

District 12 AA is busy with a variety projects. In addition, to the Area 20 Spring Conference & Assembly, our members are heavily involved in the annual Tri-County Conference in Kenosha. That's a one day conference sponsored by Racine, Kenosha & Lake counties. Save the date, March 22nd, flyers will be out shortly and our own Terry V. is the keynote speaker.

March 8th is the date for the Waukegan Alano Club's March Madness Membership Drive. It was a big success last year. Our district meeting has moved to the Alano Club because of construction at Vista West.

Saturday, April 26th, is the Bunch-o-Nuts 3rd Annual Fellowship Dinner. Plan to join us if you can. There will a great speaker and it's all free for nuttin.

As always we can use help at the jails, particularly women and Spanish speakers, if you're interested contact me and I will put you in touch with Pete O. Our corrections chair.

Dist20,

Dist 21, Barbara reported:

Our district covers Palatine and Rolling Meadows. We currently have 24 registered groups.

We have just completed a new rotation of service positions. We have filled the positions of DCM, secretary, treasurer, and almost all committee chairs. We have filled only one of our slots for alternates. About a dozen people attended our district meeting earlier this week; three of them were GSRs.

Together with District 28 (Lake Zurich/Barrington) we are recruiting people to staff the hospitality room at the Council of Delegates Past and Present, which will be held in Schaumburg Feb. 7–9. We are also starting to get organized to host the summer assembly.

We have made good progress on formulating a budget for 2014 and should be able to finalize it in February. Because our new chairs have only been in their positions for a couple of weeks, their main focus to date has been on hand-off from their predecessors.

Dist 22, Manus reported:

- I am happy to report that all of our service chair and alternate positions have been filled
- We have appointed 5 LCMs to assist in communication with the 60+ active groups in our district.
- Our LCMs have started to visit their assigned meetings.
- Our district meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month unless the first Sunday falls on Super Bowl Sunday or a holiday weekend in which case they are held on the second Sunday.

Dist 23,

Dist 28, Bill reported:

- A. District 28 had elections in December. The official rotation will begin this month at our Monday, January 27th District Meeting.
- B. District meeting GSR's will be discussing Primary Purpose Funding and, as we are currently well over our prudent reserve, considering a disbursement to NIA 20 and GSO/AAWS for 2014. It seems we will again be making the case for the Traditions and our Third Legacy of Service.
- C. Districts 21 and 28 are sharing host duties for the June Assembly. Currently Palatine High School is the front runner with the application to the School District in progress.
- D. District 28 is also sharing some volunteer responsibilities with District 21 for the February Conference of Delegates at the Hyatt in Schaumburg. If anyone in adjacent Districts has a spare two hours on February 7th, 8th or 9th we would appreciate your service. Carl T. has the sign-up sheet for your block of time.
- E. Our Tuesday Night Real Time Men's Group has proposed a Sponsor Workshop. They will be addressing the District at our January 27th meeting seeking support. I am confident our District GSR's will be very receptive to the idea and provide any assistance necessary.
- F. On a personal note, it seems that our District has been somewhat revived in its interest in service. There is a noticeable spark of energy in service opportunities at the District level. That is a direct result of GSR's and individuals in meetings expressing a desire to do something more to fulfill the responsibilities of Step Twelve. I have had others confirm my feeling. It is by no means overwhelming, but a spark seems to have been ignited.

I would attribute this energy to a year long concerted effort by a few in the District to talk up service at numerous new meetings not normally attended, ask members directly for their help, and jump into many A.A. events themselves and speak of them positively, cheerfully, and with energy. A simple smile can reflect an attitude and inspire effort from others.

Dist 40, Chris reported:

- 3rd Annual DuPage Open February 22nd at Parkview Community Church.
- Planning the 2014 Big Book Conference
- 2014 Summer Picnic- June 29th, Herrick Lake, Warrenville

There are two new meetings:

- Open meeting "Recovery after Relapse", 7:00pm Saturday, College of DuPage SRC Building, Glen Ellyn

- Closed meeting “Snippets from the Big Book”, Friday’s at Noon, St. Paul United Church Basement, Bloomingdale

Dist 41, Jason reported:

Number of Active GSRs: 9

Average Attendance: 19

District Meeting Time: *Third Sunday each month 1:00 PM*

Meeting Place: *Anona East, Villa Park*

- District 41 has a new DCM, Jason H; a new Treasurer, Linda L.; new Corrections Chair, John C.; new Answering Service Chair, Maggie A.; new Literature, Special Needs & Grapevine Chair, Susan H.; a new Bridging The Gap Chair, Debbie M.
- Continued work with Elmhurst Hospital by our Treatment Chair Antonio S.
- New Answering Service system implemented by Maggie A., which is working very well and has a growing volunteer base; Answering Service committee successfully recruiting volunteers from district to respond to callers, give rides, 12th step calls, etc.
- Committee Budgets set for 2014
- Several workshops planned by Lee K.: Three Hour 4th Step Workshop planned for March 23rd, A “Seeking God’s Will In Our New Way Of Living” for June, and “How did we get here? A Brief History Of AA In Dupage County” for September.
- District is chairing and providing speakers for a weekly Crisis Intervention Unit meeting in February.
- Active district participation in Good Samaritan Detox.
- Continued literature distribution to local libraries and hospitals by PI committee.
- District Newsletter publication date of March 15th

District Finances:

December 2013 Opening Balance: \$1,141.56.

Total Donations December 2013: \$966.86

Total Expenses: \$941.17

Closing Balance December 2013: \$1,167.25

Dist 42,

Dist 43, Craig reported:

After one meeting since the changing of the guard we did have what appears thus far to have been a successful response to the latest openings of the district chair positions. We have over the last few years had somewhat of a difficult time getting the positions filled so we relaxed the suggested terms of sobriety on some of the open positions and they were quickly filled with eager and willing members of the program. I suppose time will tell whether or not this was wise but so far it appears to have been positive.

After going over our 2013 budget in the process of creating the 2014 budget it is apparent that we had and have plenty of money to cover all of our committee expenses and still have a large surplus going forward.

Our corrections committee is in good shape and has been enthusiastically handled by Sue V and now passed to Sarah S as the new chair. They have recently purchased and distributed big books to the DuPage County Jail. And our treatment committee, chaired by Richard H., is also very active and alive. They have spearheaded meetings to be brought to several facilities in need of our solution. Richard is currently seeking more volunteers to sign up for the ‘bridging the gap’ program to act as a liaison for those preparing to leave facilities and enter back into society.

On February 22nd we will participate in the 3rd (I believe) annual DuPage Open where Richard Hill will be one of the three speakers.

That is it for now – hopefully in the future we will have more to report as we all settle into our new positions and we continue to carry the message to more and more suffering alcoholics.

Dist 51, John reported:

ELECTIONS/ROTATION: The Elections went well and & the 2014-15 Rotation is off to a great start.

- All the positions were filled except for Special Needs.
- We filled 3 Alternate Positions (DCM, Treasurer, and Archives).
- 1 new position was created – LCM.
- The duties of GSR Updates were transferred to the LCM via the Secretary. Meeting List Updater retains those duties.
- The transition has gone very smoothly with a healthy mix of ‘veterans’ & experienced GSR’s stepping up into District Service.
- The first District meeting of the new rotation was well attended, with a number of New GSR’s & visitors.
- There were a lot of ideas discussed in going forward & everyone is looking forward to a rewarding year of challenges and successes carrying the message in 2014.

Dist 52,

Dist 61, Joe L reported:

I am happy to report that all positions but one were filled during December elections of new District 61 officers and committee chairpersons. I am honored to serve in my new role as D.C.M. We have fantastic, devoted members leading our committees and are excited to begin the work of serving the needs of the District 61 community.

First quarter emphasis is placed on the election of a remaining committee chair while bolstering the ranks of alternate chairpersons. In addition, we want to ensure that our new officers and committee members understand their roles and responsibilities and are well versed in the A.A. Guidelines for their respective positions.

We will be reaching out to members at meetings to discuss the importance of a group G.S.R., reminding our members that *“The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects.”* And *“By choosing its most qualified man or woman as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future—and the future of A.A. as a whole.”*

Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving you as District 61 Committee Member for the next two years.

Dist 62, Amy reported:

When I was granted this position I was asked by several members to: Keep It Simple!!

I was elected as Alt-DCM. When the new term came we had no DCM. I felt it would be easier to find an Alt team mate then finding someone to step up as our DCM.

My biggest challenge is following a very organized and thorough past DCM. Second challenge asking members to fill committee and GSR positions. Some groups have never had a GSR and do not understand the importance. Third challenge that I help our district grow.

Organization is a process. Step by step day by day I will learn more and (hopefully) become more organized. Filling positions; after the crazy amounts of snow are gone I will be going to more meetings in the district to become more familiar with the members, the GSR’s and committee. All I can do is ask members for assistance on this journey. Helping the district grow; walking into this position I know that I do not know everything. I know that I am here to listen and provide suggestions that have been shared with me. Knowing I do not have the answers I have a fabulous service sponsor and sponsor and many members that have filled these positions in the past that can provide suggestions on how to overcome the hurdle.

At this point in my position, growth being important I have asked our district to form a group to write out guidelines for the positions. I have heard from several members they simply do not understand all that is entailed in the position therefore they do not step up, perhaps due to fear of uncertainty. Reading other district's (43 Thank you) guidelines have provided us with suggestions to make this an easier path. I have asked our district to connect with Bridging The Gap. Our district believes it is important to have an AA contact and Bridging The Gap link in our district to reach out to people asking for help when they are released.

I am thankful I am not alone on this journey. I have the fellowship to simply reach out to and ask for assistance. For this I AM GRATEFUL!!

Dist 64,
Dist 70,
Dist 71,
Dist 72,
Dist 73,
Dist 79,
Dist 80,
Dist 90, Jesse reported:

A new slate of officers has just rotated in at District 90, and we are all eager to serve the fellowship and help carry AA's message to the still-suffering alcoholic. The 5th Annual Cabin Fever Speaker Banquet is coming up on Saturday February 22nd in Kewanee, with a follow-up event on Sunday February 23rd. This has been a fun and well-attended event in the past, and we're hoping for another successful event this year.

Cabin Fever info:

5th Annual Cabin Fever Speaker Banquet

221 West 1st Street, Kewanee, IL

Saturday, February 22

5:00-6:00 Fellowship

6:00-7:00 Dinner

7:00-8:00 AFG Speaker Karleen H, Sacramento, CA

8:30-9:30 AA Speaker JR H, Sacramento, CA

Meal & Speakers \$20

(Including Sunday) speaker only \$5

Second Event Sunday February 23, 1:00-4:00

JR & Karleen H present Theater of the Lie, a dramatic look at the 4th step of our program

Russ V 309-286-6471

Craig K 309-738-4151

Dist 91, Eva reported:

- District 91 has started our workshop series.
- 25 people made it through the snow for a workshop on January 18th for the history of AA. We are hoping we can get a workshop rescheduled for April with the Archivist. There is still a lot of interest with the people that made it and the people that did not.
- The next workshop is February 15th on the Primary Purpose with Larry S.
- The March 15th workshop will be on Sponsorship.

Jeff L makes a motion to close

Ray M seconds the motion

Adjournment