

# NIA 20 2014 Spring Assembly

March 29, 2014

Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Gurnee IL  
(Host District 73)

The meeting was called to order at 9:04AM

Robert S read *Why Do We Need A Conference?* by the late Bernard B. Smith from the The AA Service Manual.

The Third Step Prayer was recited.

## New Attendees

Diane L, D10 GSR	Melissa M, D70 GSR	Alex M, D21 Alt Treatment
Darius J, D42 GSR	Tina M, D12 GSR	Pete, D10 Special Needs Chair/GSR
Dana T, D10 GSR	Richard Z, GSR/PI Chair D61	Jim M, PI Coordinator, GSO NY
Tavi G, D22 GSR	Jennifer H, D42 Alt Literature Chair	Steve K, D52 Corrections Chair
Robin H, D10 GSR	Linda L, D70 GSR	John H, D21 GSR
Tim K, D91 GSR	Stacy, D10 Alt GSR	Clarice H, D42 Alt GSR
Bobann D42, Alt DCM	Bob D42 GSR	Craig D, D43 DCM
Beth, D10 GSR	Luty S, GSR	Barb W, Area 75, Registrar
Dana M, D28 GSR	David D10 GSR	Pete Past DCM D36, Area 75
Tiffany J, D73	Mary, D61 Special Needs Chair	Dave, GSR
Sarah R, D28	Mike B, Alt GSR	Kevin D42 Literature Chair/GSR

## Anniversaries

Chuck S, 14 years	Kelly L, 15 years	Andrea A, 1 year
Erbano, 1 year	Craig D, 16 years	Lee O, 23 years
Carl T, 10 years	Maggie, 2 years	Mike V, 5 years
Joe S, 15 years	Susan L, 24 years	Bill B, 16 years
Michele, 4 years	Marilyn F, 20 years	Jennifer H, 1 year
Melissa M, 2 years	Christy B, 28 years	Alex M, 1 year
John C, 18 years	Ernest L, 27 years	John P, 16 years

Twelve Concepts – read by Carl T

Robert - with no comments/questions, Winter Assembly Minutes will be accepted as submitted.

## Treasurer's Report, Janet N reported:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Contributions/Income:	\$21,455.79	\$25,803.51
Expenses:	<u>\$11,830.88</u>	<u>\$14,501.44</u>
Excess of Income over expense	\$ 9,624.91	\$11,302.07
Current checking account	\$15,276.08	\$16,960.69
Current prudent reserve	<u>\$16,860.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
Net Assets	\$32,136.08	\$31,960.69

NIA received \$3,399.81 in contributions for the Remember November Birthday Plan. I sent one check representing most of the balance for \$3,364.81 and will send the remaining \$35.00 next month. Thank you to all groups and individuals that participated.

## Can Contributions

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$1,095.45 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$1,810.18.

Green Can Fund: no activity

*2014 Primary Purpose Register*

The 2014 primary purpose register 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.

Operating Committee Report – Steve M reported the committee met for the first time February 23, 2014. Steve was elected as chairperson; Eva C was elected as secretary. We reviewed our duties as a committee. We received a request from the Area Corrections chair for funding for pink can labels and literature. No money amount was given. It was unanimously agreed these funds would come from the Area Corrections budget. We agreed to meet again at the Spring Assembly Conference. An inventory was taken on who would be attending. The committee is comprised of four DCMs and three area officers; making a quorum.

Questions/Comments: None

Finance Committee Report – Judd W reported the Finance Committee has met three times. We elected a chair (Mike) and Secretary (Amy). We discussed month end projections for expenses and excess funds; at the end of February, we had \$9,200 in excess of prudent reserve and normal expenditures. Based on perceived risk of the Spring Conference not being self-supporting and incoming expenses, the committee was uncomfortable recommending NIA forward the entire amount to GSO and decided that a \$4,800 contribution would be reasonable at this time. The committee met again and discovered the Spring Conference will be self-supporting and discussed possible increase in contribution. Would prefer to forward \$4,800 and revisit in June.

Questions/Comments: Robert - you are suggesting a \$4,800 contribution at this time? Judd – yes

The Finance Committee is going to make a contribution to GSO in the amount of \$4,800; however, it's your money so please let us know what you think.

Robert – according to guidelines, it is the authority of finance committee to make that decision. It is open for discussion.

Manus S – speaking as a member of finance committee, we have assigned members of our committee to coordinate with service chairs to assist with activities they may need money for and to help them write motions to request money; assignments are as follows Judd – Corrections and CPC; Manus - Treatment and Grapevine; Mike – Public Information and Literature; Amy Special Needs and Answering Service. Service chairs can be expecting to hear from us; we would like to help make the process easier.

Lee, DCM D64, currently serving as DCM of D64 – I'm still deeply hurt by the lack of trust in god that the financial servants in this area demonstrate. The fact that we are going to sit on \$16,000 dollars over prudent reserve which is virtually untouchable; and the fact that just last year we got down to within \$800 of prudent reserve and that was a cause for panic and because of that we are going to sit on more money. I think that's a crime against the fellowship that we are going to sit on this money.

Betty G, I have a passion for AA. I need money in order to get what I need to carry the message. I was told if I order this or do that I might not be reimbursed. I didn't quit but I sure did feel like it.

Robert S – service committee chairs you have people you can go to who can help with writing motions and obtaining funds.

Delegate Report, Cheryl V

Cheryl advised that Sonny M, Panel 52 Delegate to the General Service Conference was recently diagnosed with a fast form of cancer. He is home from the hospital and in good spirits, taking it one day at a time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

At 3 months into rotation, I've discovered that I need to look at my e-mail daily. Each day brings something new. It might be a message from the General Service Office (GSO) about the upcoming conference or a question from someone here

in Area 20. If you have sent me something and I have not responded, or if it looked like I was ignoring you, please trust that I'm trying to get better. It doesn't help that I started a new role at work and some days I leave having "learned myself stupid" for the day and nothing is making any sense after trying to hang on to that curve. My Higher Power certainly has a sense of humor making me a first year Delegate and moving me into Maintenance within a few weeks of each other.

The hardest part in preparing my reports is trying to discern what I should convey. With only 15 minutes of reporting time, it's a challenging task. For instance, the minutes from the February meeting of the General Service Board (GSB) total 64 pages of material. While I'm sure a few of us are interested in all of it, there's no way I can boil all of that down to 15 minutes, much less also report on other topics. If you are reading this report for the first time you'll see that I've tried to break it down into sections.

#### *Box 459*

If you haven't read your copy of the Spring edition of Box 459 (News and Notes from the General Service Office of AA) you might want to. You'll find an article in there from our Area. I'm not going to give away the surprise....

#### *General Service Conference (GSC)*

I've had 5 invitations to Districts for presentations on the Conference Agenda items. So far I've logged visits to Districts 10, 23, 40, 61 and 79. Hopefully I have generated some interest in the various motions we will be discussing along with imparting information on what the conference looks like. If any of you DCMs here today would like a visit, please let me know.

In these visits I've provided the preliminary schedule of that week so that all might have an idea of what the trip is about. Here it is for your reading pleasure.

Saturday 2:00 pm – 9:30 pm

- Hospitality, 1728 Group (Class A Trustees), Remote Communities Meeting, and Delegates Only Meeting

Sunday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Roll Call, Keynote Address, Presentation/Discussion: Living in the Heart of AA, Joint Trustee & Conference Committee Meetings, Opening Dinner

Monday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Conference Committee Meetings, General Service Board Report, AAWS Board Report, AA Grapevine Board Report, Panel 64 Delegates Area Service Highlights, Presentation/Discussion: Finances, General Sharing Session

Tuesday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Conference Committee Meetings, Panel 64 Delegates Area Service Highlights, Presentation/Discussion: Living in the Heart of AA, Delegates Only Meeting, General Sharing Session

Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:30 pm

- Inventory: Second Year of three-year Inventory Process, Presentation/Discussion: AA Archives, Regional Luncheons for Delegates, Trustee Elections, Committee Reports & Discussion, General Sharing Session

Thursday 9:00 am – 9:30 pm

- Committee Reports & Discussion, Presentation: 2015 International Convention, General Sharing Session

Friday 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

- Committee Reports & Discussion, Inventory Reports/Discussion, Farewells by Rotating Delegates, Adjourn 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference

Saturday 8:30 am – 10:00 am

- Closing Brunch, Farewell talks by Rotating Trustees
- Visit to Stepping Stones

2014 Inventory Questions:

*General Service Board/Corporate Boards (AAWS & AA Grapevine)*

11. Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?
12. Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?
13. Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?

*Leadership*

14. How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?
15. What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?

*General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update*

GSO Staff member Mary D has announced that she will retire at the end of September. Many of us have met Mary, as she has been one of the staff visitors to our conference in the past. She will be missed. When the request for resumes arrives, I will forward it to the Area Committee so that it can be cascaded out. For those of you who might now know, any member of AA can apply for these positions, provided of course they meet the minimum requirements. It's an interesting interview process, to say the least. While most positions now days require interviews with multiple people, I think the General Service Office tops the list with roughly about 9-12 interviewers. In addition you are asked to tell your story as part of the process. I recently interviewed where I work, and I have to say the idea of telling my story to the other people that I would be working with wouldn't have made that process easier.

*General Service Board (GSB) Reports from the February Board Meeting*

*General Service Office (GSO):*

*2013 results:*

Gross sales = \$12,837,500 (higher than budgeted and 2012)  
Gross Profit from literature = \$8,104,800 (higher than budgeted and 2012)  
Contributions = \$6,898,800 (higher than budgeted and 2012)  
December contributions of \$850,000 – highest month ever recorded  
Total expenses = \$14,910,680 (less than budgeted but more than 2012)

*2014 Budget:*

Budget sales = \$14,706,000  
Includes general increase in selling prices of books and booklets (effective 10/1/2014)  
Budget contributions = \$7,000,000  
Budgeted expenses = \$15,928,516

*Grapevine:*

*2013 results:*

Average printed circulation = 77,126 (2012 = 83,258)  
Average on-line circulation = 5,175 (2012 = 5,535)  
Total gross profit (magazine & other) = \$1,993,516 (greater than budgeted and 2012)  
Total costs & expenses = \$1,688,811 (less than budgeted and 2012)

*2014 Budget:*

Average printed circulation = 73,401  
Average on-line circulation = 4,561  
Budget profit = \$1,382,118  
Budget costs & expense = \$1,852,902

*La Vina:*

*2013 results:*

Average printed circulation = 10,145 (2012 = 9,157)

Total gross profit (magazine & other) = \$62,405

Total costs & expenses = \$206,078

*2014 Budget:*

Budget profit = \$65,165

Budget costs & expense = \$212,425

*Reserve Fund:*

2013 balance = \$15,302,000 (represents 10.93 months of operating expenses)

The GSB recommended a motion to transfer \$1,500,00 from the Reserve Fund to the Pension Plan.

*Highlights from AAWS (AA World Services, Inc.); March 14, 2014*

AA World Services, Inc. (AAWS) Online Stores represent 40.23% of sales for 2013

Digital Publishing: Currently *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the *Twelve & Twelve* (English & French) are published by Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple iTunes stores. The French translation is being worked on.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Alcoholics Anonymous – 100,000 books ordered by pre-order deadline. Preorders will start shipping on or about April 1, 2014, and finish by April 15, 2014.

For the two months ended February 28, 2014, total gross sales were reported at \$2,114,739.

*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 January the topics were:

- 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

February and March slowed down a bit because of distribution of conference agenda so they were on:

- Mileage Reimbursement
- Passing the Basket at District & Area functions
- Corrections

I initiated the one on Passing the Basket after Bill Elliot, DCM from District 28 asked the questions of me. I've forwarded those results back out to all the DCMs. The results from the Corrections sharing were sent to Dan LaFond our Area Corrections Chair so that he could distribute to his committee.

*International Convention: July 2-5, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia*

I am starting to receive communications regarding the 2015 International Convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of July 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have never been to one of these, it's an experience you try to enjoy. The theme will be *80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free*. I received and forwarded out the Frequently Asked Questions, one of which was about when registration forms will be available, September 3<sup>rd</sup> this year is on-line registration. As you can imagine, with 40-50,000 people descending on the city, the hotel rooms will book quickly. Registration will be \$100 in advance, and \$110 on site.

One of the questions that comes up with any conference, including this one today, is about why we need to pay to attend. Putting on a conference of any size requires funding. Our little conference this weekend for roughly 600 people has expenses that need to be paid. Several thousand dollars are required to pay for the various things like coffee, meeting rooms, printing, etc. Can you imagine what it costs to host an event that uses multiple hotels and a stadium? Here's the question and response for the International:

Q: Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an AA event.

A: Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary and, as responsible AA members, "we pay our own way." The International Convention is paid for by those AAs who participate in it.

### *Upcoming Events*

Please remember to attend the NIA 20 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Lord of Life Church in Elburn. This will be your opportunity to discuss the agenda items and to give me a sense of how your Groups think about the motions.

### **Business Items**

Accept Bids for 2015 Spring Conference – There were no bids. Marcia S reminded that there is a conference advisory committee that is available to help with hotel negotiations; the Alternate Chair is the Area liaison should you need help. Robert – with no bids, there are two options. Option A is no spring conference, Option B – the Area take on the responsibility itself with the committee and all DCMs participating.

Robert asked for a sense of the Assembly.

Option B is the sense of the assembly. Robert will be contacting DCMs.

Additional discussion occurred at the end of the assembly:

Cheryl V - last year at the Spring Assembly Tom B asked District 10 to host the 2014 Spring Conference. Is there any DCM in this room who's willing to stand on behalf of their district and host? Perhaps, the DCMs from D20 and D79?

Manus S, DCM D22 – I will make this commitment and will take the proposal back to district that we find another district to partner with and we aim toward hosting 2015 conference. Will present to district next Sunday.

Joe L, DCM D61 – I spent the last couple months encouraging GSRs to come to the Spring Conference and participate; only appropriate that D61 will extend itself to collaborate with D22 to plan the spring conference.

D20, would like to help. Anything we can do, please let us know.

Robert reviewed who has voting rights at the assembly.

### **1-Motion to create new position – Alternate Web Administrator**

Robert S presented the motion

Responsibility would be:

To perform tasks as assigned by the Web Administrator.

Qualifications: Computer literate and have the necessary technical skills to maintain a website.

Has access to a personal computer, Internet access, and a scanner.

Length of Service: Two year term being appointed in odd years by the Area Chair

Voting: The Alternate Web Administrator would only vote in the absence of the Web Administrator

Background: The Web Administrator is a technical position that requires knowledge of website design and management along with domain and hosting information, passwords and how our site is set up. It would be extremely advantageous to have a second person that knows this information and is "in training" to rotate into the position with minimal disruption to the site administration.

This would require revisions to the NIA Service Manual as follows:

Page 47 – Adds new position with description

Page 39 – Adds “or Alternate Web Administrator, when Web Administrator is absent” to voting members, last bullet point

Other items as designated by the Report & Charter Committee

Questions/Comments: John C, Report and Charter Committee – the committee met in February and found the performed tasks as defined in the motion are already in the NIA service manual. What is missing is the actual position. We found problems with the motion – specifically, that the Alternate Web Administrator would perform tasks as assigned by administrator – which sounds as though the Web Administrator is a boss. We find the responsibilities should be stricken from the motion as they already exist. Robert S - you would strike the responsibilities part of motion? John yes...since responsibilities are spelled out in the manual.

Rob M – is this a voting position being elected as opposed to being appointed?

Robert S – there are several appointed positions by the chairperson that have a vote. This would be like other appointed positions.

Terry W, Panel 54 Delegate – I have a problem with the qualifications. There’s no mention that this person, who will administrate the website, be especially versed in our traditions, such as anonymity. I believe it should be mentioned in the qualifications.

Bill B –page 78 of online version of the NIA service manual includes all of the duties/qualifications.

Robert S – the qualifications would be the same as Web Administrator, as written in the NIA service manual

Jim W - PI chair – the Web Administrator works closely with PI. We will continue to talk about anonymity in our breakout sessions.

Cheryl V, Panel 64 Delegate - the qualification for all NIA trusted servants, according to the service manual, is an understanding or familiarity of the service manual and basic AA service structure.

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

Length of Service: Two year term being appointed in odd years by the Area Chair

Voting: The Alternate Web Administrator would only vote in the absence of the Web Administrator

Qualifications & Responsibilities to be determined by Report & Charter using what is currently in the NIA Service Manual.

Vote: a 2/3 vote is required

In favor: 110

Opposed: none

Motion passes. That motion will be presented to Report & Charter to be incorporated into the manual.

**2-Motion to fund up to 6 people to attend East Central Regional Conference**

Presented by Cheryl V

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.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
PPMxx	2014 East Central Regional Conference	At the request of Area 55, NIA has been invited to participate in the 2014 East Central	Mileage, lodging, banquet & registration for trusted servants who are expected	Reimbursement authority: Area Treasurer Appeal body: Operating Committee Guidelines: reimbursement	\$ 3000.00

		Regional Conference, this will include up to 6 people.	to attend and participate in the named conference.	not to exceed \$500 per person.	
--	--	--	--	---------------------------------	--

### Background

Area 55 standing Delegate requested that all Areas in the East Central Region participate in the ECR Conference. Here is a portion of the letter he sent:

*The purpose of this note is to determine if there is interest in your Area for some special workshops/sharing opportunities for the officers in our region (making for a more regional event). We would like to expand the program in a way to bring together our respective panel members/officers to share with each other about what works, what does not work, how to improve, resources available, building relationships and other related topics.*

*My thinking is that there could be rooms/times made available for the treasurers/ finance officers to gather for a workshop and brainstorm/share their experiences. The same could be done with the registrars/secretaries/office managers and mailing secretaries or any other combination of panel members/officers.*

This motion would cover the expense of Area officers: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar. Should the other Areas not be able to participate, there is a chance that Area 20 might be invited to provide panel participation. In that event, this PPM would cover reimbursement for those members instead.

Mileage is approx. 300 miles at \$0.40 a mile equals roughly \$120

Hotel estimated at \$100.00 per night (probably less, but no flyer found on Area 55 website at this point to verify)

Questions/Comments: Rob M – has there been a request for additional participation that you anticipate? Cheryl – yes, they are hoping for a couple of chairs.

Rich H, Panel 63 Delegate – states current chairs and officers, in no case does it state to bring extra people should other Areas not be able to participate. Would we remove that since it's not being asked for us to do anything extra? Cheryl V – at the time we wrote this they didn't have a firm commitment from other Areas. Should we be asked, I wanted to provide panel members.

John C, Panel 58 Delegate – mileage should be doubled; it's actually 600 miles round trip. Cheryl – it should be \$240 for reimbursement.

Lee O – whose budget does this fall under? Is this really a move for \$6,000 because an additional \$3,000 will have to be provided for Primary Purpose Finance the following year? Cheryl V – this is a single primary purpose motion; it will not be ongoing or added to the Primary Purpose Basic; it is specific to this conference only.

Ernest L – will this be enough money? Robert – the money part is an estimate and does not limit us to \$3,000. Under Primary Purpose financing, we decide what we want to do and do it regardless of what it costs. Cheryl V – I beg to differ; I'm saying not to exceed \$500. We could extend only as necessary. Our philosophy is to be somewhat self-supporting in our endeavors. I would entertain a friendly amendment to extend beyond \$500 if the sense of the assembly is that we should give them \$600.

Rob M – from discussion at the committee meeting there would be drive sharing so that would decrease individual cost of travel; should work out without adding additional funds.

Vote: simple majority

Majority in favor; motion passes

### Minority Opinion:

John C Panel 58 Delegate - getting back to the point that Area 20 should not be supporting extra members of NIA attending in the event other Areas are not providing their contribution. I don't agree that we hold up 13 other Areas lack of participation. I think the motion should be about for 4 people and not 6.

Lee O - Nobody has said better than Robert. With Primary Purpose Finance we decide what we want to do and we do it. What's the point of all this if that's the case?

Would anyone like to their change vote. None. Motion carries.



### **3-Motion by the Delegate for the Reimbursement of Printing Costs**

Presented by Cheryl V

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

#### **Background material:**

At the 2012 Winter Assembly it was moved and passed that reports to the reports other than the Treasurer's be distributed in a digital manner only. This motion was presented at a time when NIA20 was facing the possibility of dipping into its prudent reserve to meet standing obligations of the operating budget.

The financial climate of NIA20 has changed with Groups and Districts sending donations.

Past practice has allowed verbal reports of all the above stated members at Committee Meetings and Area Assemblies. This has allowed DCMs and GSRs to take notes so that they may report back to their Districts and Groups. The current Area Chair has allowed that there will be times that verbal reports might not fit into the agenda timing. Should verbal reports not be given, it would be in the best interest of the Districts and Groups to have printed reports available.

It was estimated in 2012 that the savings from not printing would be estimated at \$1000. This would be the same amount that would need to be increased to PPB3 & PPB4 to cover the costs of these reimbursements.

Should this motion pass, it would be retroactive to the 2014 Winter Committee Meeting and cover the Spring Assembly.

This would allow those members who choose to print reports to be reimbursed. It does not guarantee reimbursement should this motion fail.

#### **Additional Background:**

At the Committee Meeting on January 25th in La Fox, Panel 58 John C raised the question regarding a necessity to change the Primary Purpose Register (PPR) to reflect this expense. Upon review of the proposed PPR it is noted that:

- PPB3 Assembly expenses was set at \$6500 for 2014 with actual 2013 expenses of \$5,037.82
- PPB3 Committee Meetings expenses was set at \$2000 for 2014 with actual expenses of \$1,191.41

This indicates that adequate funds to cover these costs are already covered.

PPR is not about the money it's about the activity. Do you want written reports, from the web or wait to receive by mail?

#### **Questions/Comments:**

Heather S - the reason for us not printing hasn't changed. Just because we're in a better fiscal position doesn't mean we should stop being mindful of how we spend money. If this has been effective to cut costs, we should continue to do that. We should continue to be good stewards of the money donated by the groups.

Barb H, D21 DCM – can you clarify whether this motion is an attempt at prodding people who should be submitting reports into actually submit them?

Cheryl V - not exactly. Reports have been submitted but are not getting up on web where any GSR or any AA member can get them.

Rob M – there has not been enough research to decide whether we should continue to distribute electronically over printing

Bob P, Spring Conference Chair – speaking for either the minority or majority of the cyberly challenged, I think printed material is important. Just like we don't know what we say in a meeting and how it affects somebody. We don't know where these printed reports go, but very little gets thrown away. Might be read or carried back by a GSR to a group or might be discussed and talked about. I'm not a fan of it posting these reports to the web; I think we should print this information.

Carol H, DCM D11 – doesn't address the problem that Area chairs are not providing reports electronically. We need to be financially responsibly, but provide a limited amount of printed copies. Maybe in this process we do some background education on how this is going to work versus just going back to printing reports.

Beth, D20 – where do we get these printed reports? Where do we find them if they are not available on the web?

Cheryl V - really what this motion is about. Motion is to start printing again - not electronically sending. Then anybody who attends the Assembly or Committee meetings would have a copy.

Murray, Alternate GSR – I'm not sure what you're asking me to vote on. The Chairman just told us the Treasurer can do whatever he wants to do under PPB. I don't understand what we're voting on. Cheryl V – in Winter 2012, we voted not

to reimburse for printed reports. Now, we are suggesting we go back to reimbursing for printed reports. If the Assembly says no, we cannot do whatever we want.

Kelly L, Panel 64 Alternate Delegate – it is stated under the responsibilities of Area officers and alternates they must submit a written report at assemblies and committee meetings. Maybe we should add that they should also be submitted to the web master.

Manual S - when the Primary Purpose system was originally discussed, it was sold to NIA with the idea that we would no longer have endless discussions about spending \$500; that all of that would be eliminated. Here we are talking about it. For heaven's sake, let's go back to the old budget system. It worked better. No one understands this stuff. I do. I understand it because I studied it. But I much prefer the old system. We need printed reports, let's get it done.

Rich H, Panel 62 Delegate – I ask that the retroactive section be removed from the motion. Retroactive is not what we do in AA. I think it is a terrible word that we should not be trying to pass off at our assembly. We do actions at the time we do actions. Can we remove that paragraph? Cheryl V - are you asking for a friendly amendment? If so, then no. You will need to make a separate motion.

Ray M - Point of order. A motion is exactly what it says. Background material is not part of a motion. We have ambiguity, and need to clean up. But if it is part of motion needs to be stated in motion. Cheryl V – Ray you are correct, and I will clean it up.

Terry W - What is being printed now? Cheryl V – the treasurer's report, agendas, and limited minutes. Terry W – is the purpose to allow every committee's report to be printed and reimbursed? Cheryl V – Yes. They can print now but are not reimbursed. Terry W – so they can be printed and handed out the Assembly? Cheryl V – Yes, at the Assembly and committee meetings. Terry W - there are 1,000 groups in Northern Illinois. If assembly represents 10% of groups we serve, printing is not an effective way to get this information out to them. I get much more of my communication electronically. This is the amount of communication I've gotten this year (holds up a stack of paper). This took almost a half ream of paper. Do you know how much waste this is?

Chris D, 40 DCM - I'm time challenged, last thing I can think of is looking for a website to look for and print. Today I was given these copies and I can hand off reports off to individual committees.

Robert S – if you have something new to say, let's limit our time to that

Larry S, Panel 56 Past Delegate – To me this is simple. A year ago we took a cost saving action and decided not to print reports. We print them so you can hand to someone who isn't here. Now we have \$15,000 in bank and we spend half an hour talking about whether or not we should start printing reports for the same people we've been giving them to for 20 years.

John C, Panel 58 Past Delegate - wondering if Report & Charter should discuss this item offline and come back with a recommendation because there are missing responsibilities in the NIA handbook that will clarify this and help the Assembly make a clearer decision. Robert S – that sounds like a good idea

Ray M – Call the question

Second, Call the question by Manus S

Move to voting for this motion

Vote: simple majority

Majority in favor; motion passes

Minority opinion – none. Motion carries.

### Appointed Committees:

Operating	
Cheryl V	Delegate
Robert S	Chair
Nicole E	Secretary
Steve M	D72
Eva C	D91
Jenn M	D23
Chris O	D70

Finance	
Janet N	Treasurer
Judd W	Alt Treasurer
Mike H	D12
Manus S	D22
Amy L	D62
Larry S	Past Delegate Advisor
Report & Charter	
John C	Past Delegate
Bill E	D28
Kevin B	D22
Paul P	D12
Jamie R	D79
Lisa S	Member At Large
Jim E	D70
Electronics	
Ed R	
Barbara H	D21
Marilyn F	Alt Chair
Conference Advisory	
Ray M	
Marcia S	
Bob P	
Michelle H	

Questions/Comments:

Rich H - which of the conference advisory committee are 2 year and which are 4 year terms? Robert S - Marcia and Ray are 2 years and Bob and Michelle are 4 years.

Dan L – should those appointees be members that currently attend meetings and reside in our area?

Rob M – are you asking if they can be appointed as non-members of AA?

Cheryl V – our 12<sup>th</sup> Concept advises we should not be punitive; I believe this question is punitive. I don't think we ask anyone if they qualify for AA. You qualify if you say so. We are asking someone to serve our Area for four years. If they're willing to do it, I think we should accept it. Robert S – nothing in the qualifications states you should have to attend meetings or reside in the Area.

Ray M, Area Archivist – regarding appointed positions, although the Chair appoints those positions they are put out to the Assembly. If there is someone you don't like, you have the option to vote someone out. Residency is not a requirement.

By a sense of the Assembly, the appointed positions were approved.

Larry S - I may be out of order. We need to talk about 2015 Spring Conference. I think we need to do a Spring Conference and I don't think it's the responsibility of the Area. We get more people involved faster by doing conferences than any other activity. If the Area has to do it next year, they will have to do it every year after unless someone out there steps up. I would be very disappointed if we don't put on a Spring Conference.

Marcia S, Panel 50 Past Delegate – I'm more disturbed that we weren't given an opportunity for questions/discussion before we voted. The majority of people did not respond so the majority of people abstained. I'm in favor of not having it if we don't have people to step up and do it. We should have opened it for discussion before we voted.

Heather – I have a problem with it because if Area is hosting we need to change the guidelines. The guidelines state one or more districts within the Area host. I think changing the guidelines requires a 2/3 vote. Robert – that is correct.

Saying the area would host is inappropriate. Either a district or multiple districts must step up or there will be no Spring Conference next year.

Tina R – Maybe we need to take the Assembly out of Spring Conference.

Robert S – we need to move on with the agenda. It can be brought up as motion at the next Committee Meeting.

### **Conference Reports**

Conference of Delegates Past and Present -Rich H reported: On the weekend of February 7-9 2014, Area 20 hosted the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present.

There were 96 registered AA members at \$25.00, Al-Anons and Guests did not need to register. 96 Banquets sold at \$36.00, 58 meal packages sold at \$59.00. With a positive net balance of \$1,467.28. We did achieve our room block numbers with the hotel. All Hospitality snacks and beverages were purchased through local group donations. Thank you to those groups for contributing. There were many volunteers from Area 20 in Facilities, Treasurer, Registration, Hospitality, Greeters and Sound System. Thank you to the many that volunteered their time. There was no registration fee at this Conference for those that volunteered.

The main purpose, through the eyes of a newer member to this group, is to prepare our first year Delegates for their upcoming first General Service Conference. With the focus being, the Delegates crafting a Mock Agenda Item, and presenting this Mock Agenda Item to the body of Past Delegates. Only those that are Delegates and Past Delegates can participate during the weekend.

Myself and three others presented a motion to the body of East Central Regional Delegates and Past Delegates to change the format of this weekend to present and discuss the real General Service Conference Agenda Items as we do at our Area 20 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop. We also asked that this event be open to all AA Members, and that all that attend may enter their thoughts on the Agenda. We also hope to have General Sharing Sessions and Panel Discussions.

This process is slow with only one annual meeting and could take a while to change. And may or may not change. I personally saw much less opposition than I expected. If you would be interested in attending such an event if it were to occur, talk to each other. But more importantly talk to your Delegate. This event will be in a different location annually somewhere in our Region, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, or Ohio. Some of us believe that an event like this would be better for preparing our Delegates, long before they are Delegates.

2014 Spring Conference -Bob P, Conference Chairman reported: Registered 630 people; 222 rooms (250 contracted). Banquet is sold out. Made all of our numbers; not aware of any surprises. A year ago I was scared but people did step up; we had well over 40 attendees at our first planning meeting. A final report will be presented after completion of the conference.

2014 Big Book Conference – Jeff L reported: the “Save the Date” flyers are printed and available today. The flyers are printed in English and Spanish. We will be taking registrations this weekend; payable with checks only today.

We have our bank account set up and received the seed money; we are also in the process of setting up Pay Pal for on-line registrations.

We will have a speaker and two 45-minute breakouts before lunch and two 45-minute breakouts and a speaker after lunch. There will be four rooms for panels with one being available in Spanish. The DCMs from districts 20 and 79 are invited to our next planning meetings so we can coordinate with them for their panels.

Our Literature Chair has been in contact with CASO and will be putting together a literature order.

The refreshment committee is in the process of getting estimates from two caterers and should have a report by our next meeting.

At this time all our Chair positions are filled except we still need an alternate Treasurer.

### **Committee & Appointees Reports**

Answering Service – PPM 7, 8 – Terry B reported that Rob M, alternate Answering Service chair, printed 200 copies of How To Find AA In Illinois. Rob M – reported the printing costs will be charged to PPM 8 at approximately \$54. We sent introductory email to all identified district Answering Service chairs. If you would like to have a workshop, please let us know.

Questions/Comments: Robert S – we need to know of the 4 workshops presented in PPM7 how many have been done? Terry – I don't know; Rob M reported 1 was done, 3 still left to be done.

Judd W – PPM7 expected to finish at end of 2013; we need to know when you expect the expenses to stop. If you want to do more workshops, should we plan for the end of 2014? Do you want to do the 3 workshops before the end of the year? Terry B – yes.

Corrections – PPM 10 - Dan L reported PPM 10 was completed by the previous chair with projected cost of \$160 and total spend of \$234.

It has been an eventful start to the year for the Corrections Committee. In February we attended an event hosted by Illinois Department of Corrections called the Summit of Hope. We put through a rather large order with the GSO for Big Books, Twelve and Twelves, and Daily Reflections to distribute to the prisons. Pat and I have also been working in conjunction with the CPC and Treatment Committees to help develop a Bridging The Gap standard to give to the different districts to help with the reintegration of people from treatment and prison/jail into the community. This is a fantastic time of growth and service for the Corrections Committee.

The Summit of Hope Event was a great learning experience for Pat and myself. It is an event that happens multiple times a year all over the state geared towards those fresh out of prison or jail. We were one of about one hundred vendors. What was nice to see is that district 91 had a table there as well to help the local people get meeting lists into their hands. The majority of the vendors were from companies offering services, i.e. banks, schools, insurance. The host was so impressed with the information displayed and the interaction with the parolees and probationers that he asked for us to be part of future events in Northern Illinois.

The Corrections Committee made a \$1373 order for Big Books, Twelve and Twelves and Daily Reflections in late January. Those books were distributed to 3 different facilities, Sheridan and Statesville Prisons and The St. Charles Juvenile Facility. Please keep the Pink Can Money coming in so we can get books to more inmates at other facilities in Northern Illinois. There are new Pink Can Labels and NEW Pink Can specific envelopes to be put into use. Remember, there is a new address to mail any Pink Can Money to so please start using the new labels.

We are proud as a committee to be working with other committees to develop an area wide Bridging The Gap standard. The goal is to get contact information for meetings and alcoholics into the hands of those leaving confinement back into society. It does not matter if that person is fresh out of treatment, jail, or prison. It is of great service to those wanting to remain sober to have someone to call or somewhere to go when getting out. Their chances at staying sober greatly increase with this information in their hands. We will continue to work in this and hopefully have a complete program in the coming months.

Coming soon, by the fall, our hope is to have an area wide corrections workshop. We already have a district willing to host, and are waiting for the Summer Assembly to have the funds approved to make it happen. Please keep your eyes and ears open for the motion to make this happen.

CPC – PPM 26 - Joe S reported –no activity on PPM 26. Joe to provide Judd W with information on PPM 26 and when they plan to complete.

Now, we have 2 weeks to review our literature, in order to be of service to our Fellowship. This year's Pre General Service Conference Workshop is April 12, 2014. If you would like the background material for The Agenda, email us at [CPC@AA-NIA.org](mailto:CPC@AA-NIA.org).

- The CPC workbook can be downloaded, read, reviewed and printed from [AA.ORG](http://AA.ORG).
- Read and consider changes to pamphlets, including "If You Area a Professional", and "AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional".
- Review contents of CPC kit.

*Recent Events:*

March 26, 2014: The NIU Healthfair was a success. This event allows hundreds of students, members of the DeKalb area community, and numerous professionals to learn more about AA, and where to find us. It happens every spring, and, thanks to a hardworking NIA Delegate from panel 48, AA has been there reaching out to help our friends for nearly 2 decades.

In Northern Illinois, there must be more of these 1 day mini conferences, and we can serve there.

- Call your local college and university and enquire with their Office of Campus Life. We will help with the CPC display and some literature.
- You and your local PI and CPC servants will get a fun experience and make new friends.
- We might "raise the bottom", so it hits one of our fellows sooner than it hit us.

*Upcoming Events:*

June 9, 2014: *Haymarket* Event, Summer Institute on Addictions at Elmhurst College, spearheaded by District 41, with assistance from neighboring Districts. A great conference to display some literature again this year. They will need more local and Chicago-land meeting schedules.

April 2014: Bill W, CPC co-Chair for NIA, and I would enjoy the opportunity to visit our Area's 25 districts and chat about **Helping Our Friends Recommend Us**. We can be brief if the meeting agenda allows for 5-10 minutes.

May 2014: There is still time to put together a CPC workshop.

- talk to you fellows about Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- invite a neighboring district.
- let us join another Area Service Committee workshop for 1/2 day.
- pair up with an Area Officer for General Service Workshop.
- email us at [thetraitoraljoe@gmail.com](mailto:thetraitoraljoe@gmail.com), [whwoolridge@msn.com](mailto:whwoolridge@msn.com), [CPC@aa-nia.org](mailto:CPC@aa-nia.org)

Electronics Equipment – PPM 42 - Robert S reported he purchase a computer for \$399.99. He purchased a software bundle which saved money and included MS Office Pro which the NIA Concepts Editor needs. This concludes PPM42 and my role as Electronics Committee Chairperson.

Grapevine – PPM 23, 25 – Jim H reported: one workshop done under PPM23, but would like to do 5 more. Robert – I ask that you get together with the Finance committee to discuss PPM23 and ask for a revision to that. Please update finance committee on PPM 25.

Treatment – PPM 28, 35 - Betty G reported: A new display board was my first order of business. Grapevine Books for newcomers were purchased for display, "Step by Step", "Beginners Book" and "Emotional Sobriety". Only materials that agree with the message in the Big Book and 12 & 12 will be used in our efforts. Bridging the Gap has been the main focus of your new Treatment Chair, I have spent many hours reviewing what has been done, met with Treatment Alternate, Weezie, Dan La Fond, Corrections Chair, Pat C. Alt Corrections, and Carol H. BTG coordinator on March 1. Joe S., CPC participated via phone. A phone conference occurred between Carol, Pat C. and I going over the BTG statement for our Area.

Special Needs – PPM 31, 46 - Urbano S reported: I have been helping the Special Needs Committee of the Spring Conference/Assembly. I received a call from a mental hospital in Woodstock, IL who requested AA literature/pamphlets for patients.

I have been chairing a meeting on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM at the Forensic Treatment Program in Elgin. They have requested big books and 12&12 (large print). I made an inventory of the service material I received from the past chairperson. We have money to purchase big books, 12&12s, and pamphlets for districts in need of special needs literature. We are ready to host workshops with your District's special needs chair on the topic of serving the needs of AA members with disabilities, or those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Robert - PPM 31 said to be reviewed in 2012. Please get together with the Finance Committee to review and revise motion.

Archives - Jeff G reported: If you would like a district workshop on archives please let me or my alternate, Ernest L, know. Please make sure to visit the NIA Archives display in Room 119. We are participating on a Panel at 1:00 PM, Our Program In Print, along with Literature and Grapevine.

Literature - Francisco reported: We are dividing items with the districts. If somebody would like a workshop, please let us know. Literature is the core of our program, it is not just the big book; there are many other books and pamphlets. We are participating on a panel at 1PM.

PI – Jim W reported: I've been in contact via email with the PI committee chairs that I have met. I need to reach out to the area to contact other PI committee members. I sent an invitation for GoogleDocs to those chairs I've met, where I posted the background information of the PI portion of the GSC agenda, which will be discussed at the pre-GSC in a couple of weeks.

I was connected by our webmaster, Tom S, regarding a non-alcoholic who had contacted him. Apparently, folks that were trying to contact AA were calling his number. There was only so much Tom S could do by removing the erroneous link from the NIA website, but this link went to a directory on the district webpage that still had the error. I tried all the contact phone numbers listed on the NIA contact page and discovered errors as well: bad inaudible messages, disconnected lines, etc. I did manage to speak to someone and he was going to try and rectify the problem.

I plan to include in my reaching out email to NIA DCMs to check their contact info on websites, card, etc. for errors and obsolete.

The collaboration with CPC committee to host the pre-GSC is well underway seeing that it's 2 weeks from today. I have flyers over on the table. I've contacted Rachel to be the Spanish interpreter. We are still looking for help from the fellowship too be servers, guide, registration, etc.

I do have an idea for a workshop - understanding anonymity. Bill Wilson considered this spiritual and practical concept as being vital to AA's survival. It is mentioned quite extensively in much of the PI literature.

Please, all district PI chairs see me after the assembly so I can meet you and get your contact info. Also, for you DCMs, please see me if you'd like me to come out to your district meeting.

Report & Charter – John C reported: committee members were introduced. Met once, four were present. We discussed the issues on the table today. Free conference calling is available for the committee to meet once/month. We are active and we know we have work to do based on today's decisions.

Conference Advisory – Robert S asked members to stand. The committee is available to help negotiate contract with hotels and basic planning. Ray M - we would like something to do. Like Larry, I was saddened. The best place to put someone newly sober enough to work is as a greeter at the conference. I view our responsibility as advisory but also as preserving AA's money.

Archivist – Ray M reported: since the last Assembly, I have continued the process of the collection, organization and preservation of Area archival materials. Area officers were asked to pass on items related to their service position in hard copy and digital format.

I met with members of several District archives committees at the Winter Committee meeting, providing certain materials to the District 42 Archives Chair for review and copying.

Area archives materials were brought to the Spring Conference at the Holiday Inn Gurnee for display.

I will be participating in a workshop in District 91 on April 26.

Concepts, no report

Web Administrator, no report

### **Officer Reports**

Alternate Delegate – Kelly L reported: February 7-9, 2014 I attended the Conference of Delegates Past and Present that was held in Schaumburg. This was my third time attending the Conference and this year I was able to be in the room when the Panel 64 Delegates were preparing for the mock conference to be presented the next day.

The alternate delegates had to sit in chairs behind the delegates and were not able to participate. I am sure at times they didn't even know we were in the room. It was a good experience to see how others Areas can work together for the good of A.A. and to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. It was a great opportunity to talk with other panel 63 and panel 64 alternate delegates from our Region.

I prepared and sent out all the packets for the Pre-General Service workshop. Cheryl helped with the final part of inserting CDs and sealing to be ready to mail. I was at the Post Office about 45 minutes to have each weighed and stamped, over 80 envelopes went out. I had a letter problem with a three of labels falling off. I hope everyone did receive them. I have extra CDs and agendas for anyone interested.

I had the pleasure of breaking down and sending of the District Contributions quarterly reports to all the DCMs and their alternates. Not too bad.

At the Officers meeting we decided to pair Area Officers with DCMs and Area committee chairs as a means of having a contact person that can help with any questions you may have relating to Area matters. I am hoping all have already been contacted; the DCMs needs to contact me and the Area committee members need to contact Robert S.

Finally I had the pleasure of putting together a type of Service Orientation workshop together for the Spring Assembly Conference. The workshop is immediately after the assembly today. Learn about the how and whys of the different service structure committees work.

Alternate Treasurer Judd W reported: The address for the NIA Treasurer for the Panel 64 Rotation is Northern Illinois Area, Ltd., PO 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. A written report was submitted to all DCMs with all contributions broken down by district.

Registrar – Dawn B reported: I have all my forms to give to DCMs including complete committee and officer lists and meeting lists. If any corrections need to be made, I need them tomorrow night at midnight, so I can complete to get into the directory. I thank all the secretaries and DCMs who have been keeping me updated and doing your jobs.

Secretary – Nicole E reported: If you have given a report today, please make sure I get a copy in writing or electronically. If you need a new or replacement badge (name tag), please let me know and I would be happy to provide.

Chair – Robert S reported: My time has been spent putting together the appointed Administrative Committees, which you have approved today and putting together the agenda for today.



I have answered questions about my using the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step Prayer instead of the Serenity Prayer as the opening for the assembly and several requests for motions to be placed on the agenda despite their not being on the agenda for the Winter Committee Meeting.

Regarding motions – the appropriate way to present a motion is to first present it at a Committee Meeting so that the Committee can discuss it and take it to the local districts and groups to discuss. In that way we can have an “informed” discussion at the next Assembly prior to voting on it. Unless it is an unanticipated immediate need, all motions will be presented this way. In the event that it is an unanticipated immediate need to the motion would go to the Operating Committee, via Steve M, and will be dealt with there or referred to the Finance Committee if needed.

I am obligated to send out the preliminary agenda for all Committee Meetings and will do that several weeks prior to the meeting. I will accept motions until the Saturday prior to the meeting to be included on the agenda, which is when the final agenda will be sent out. Motions not received by then will be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting. In reality the earlier you can send me your motion the better so that I can give it to the Service Committee that would be responsible (if not coming from one) and the Finance Committee, if it involves using Area funds.

Today we will be having abbreviated Service Committee breakout sessions. The purpose of these is to allow the members to talk to their Service Committee Chair person about the actions they want the chair person to take for them such as doing workshops, providing literature, etc. This is your opportunity to tell them what you expect from them as your trusted servant. It is my hope that over the next two years we get really good at providing the service that the members want – not just what we think they want. So, DCMs, GSRs and group members please take the time to go to the Service Committee Chair Person’s designated table and spend the 30 minutes talking to them before we adjourn.

Robert introduced the members of the committee to the Assembly. These are your servants; let them know what you need from them.

Robert advised the next meeting is the Pre-General Conference Workshop. It is extremely important that you tell Cheryl what you feel about the agenda items. Very important for us to prepare out delegate for the GSC. Will be held, Saturday, April 12 at Lord of Life church.

### **Adjournment and Close**

Motion to adjourn – Kelly L

Tina R seconds the motion

The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement