

NIA 20 2015 Fall Assembly

September 19, 2015

Faith Walk Outreach Center, East Moline, Illinois
(Host District 90)

Call to Order The meeting was called to order 9:01AM

Prayer A quiet time was followed by Serenity Prayer

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

New Attendees

Gillian S, GSR

Byron W, GSR

Laura, GSR

David, Alt GSR

Anniversaries

Alex H, 3 years

Robin H, 3 years

Bill W, 23 years

Byron W, 8 months

Ed M, 27 years

Carmela R, 15 years

Judd W, 18 years

Jesse N, 9 years

Lisa S, 16 years

Dawn B, 12 years

Bob P, 26 years

Janet N, 16 years

Marcia S, 28 years

Jim W, 5 years

Frank M, 33 years

Tom B, 38 years

Patrick M, 4 years

Twelve Concepts read by Marilyn

Announcements by host district - Jesse announced location of bathrooms and smoking areas; lunch will be set up and served around noon

Approval of the Summer Assembly Minutes Robert called for comments or corrections; there were none. The minutes were approved as written.

Election Robert read the election procedures which are to be facilitated by the most recent past Delegate. Robert advised that if elected to a position, you need to see Dawn B, NIA Registrar, to make sure she has your contact information. Rich asked for 4 volunteers to help count ballots.

Rich H took over proceedings for the election of new NIA Officers and read the list of voting members.

Delegate

Kelly L 64

Robert S 12

Steve M 9

Kelly L was elected as Delegate

Alt Delegate

Robert S 50 | 60

Steve M 33 | 25

Robert was elected as Alt Delegate

Chair

Marilyn F 49 | 66

Manus S 20 | 8

Steve M 16 | 9

Marilyn F elected as Chair

Alt Chair

Manus S 17 | 8

Chris D 27 | 24 | 18

Steve M 42 | 54 | 69

Steve M elected as Alt Chair

Secretary

Tina R stands for the position

Cheryl V nominated Carmela R

Tina R 16

Carmela R 73

Carmela R elected as Secretary

Alt Secretary

Kristen 78

Kelsey 8

Kristen elected as Alt Secretary

Treasurer

Judd W elected as Treasurer

Alt Treasurer

Ray M nominated Joe L

Janet N nominated Nicole E

Kelly L nominated Jim W

Joe L 22 | 15

Nicole E 35 | 42 | 58

Jim W 30 | 23 | 21

Nicole elected as Alt Treasurer

Registrar

Tina R 21

Chris D 62

Chris elected as Registrar

Alt Registrar

Mike M elected as Alt Registrar

Robert asked if the assembly would like to take a vote to elect committee by a show of hands - Yes

Do we want to move away from third legacy procedures and settle for simple majority?

Simple Majority 59

2/3 vote 20

Minority opinion on voting issue: sense of the body

Larry S - nearly everything we vote on requires 2/3 majority; election should be no different. You're electing trusted servants. Consider what you are doing and the importance of it. That's what 2/3 majority does.

Rob M - with simple majority, if 3 are running, then who gets majority?

Marcia S - want to vote for person best qualified. Our service manual says to do it this way; if we want to then we do it this way. Should be quicker by a show of hands.

Larry - simple majority means half the votes of the people present; a simple majority means you need to have half the votes

Dan L - how was this done two years ago? Ray M - I recall we voted by hand by substantial unanimity

Those in favor of using a simple majority for remainder of voting 32

Those in favor of using substantial unanimity for remainder of voting 43

Archives Chair

(open position)

Archives Alt

(open position)

Public Information

Tracy elected as PI chair

PI Alt

Melissa V elected as Alt PI

Treatment Facilities

Dan L nominated Amy L

Phil nominated Dan L – Dan does not accept the nomination

Amy L elected as TF Chair

Alt Treatment

John R elected as Alt TF

Answering Service

Bonnie L elected as Answering Service chair

Answering Service Alt

Paul P elected as Alt Answering Service chair

BTG

Dan L stands for the position

Sharon nominated Carol H

Dan 48

Carol 29

Dan elected as BTG chair

BTG Alternate

Weezie elected as ALT BTG

CPC

Erik L 58
Tina R 5
Erik elected as CPC chair

CPC Alternate

Joe L was nominated by Cheryl V
Joe was elected as Alt CPC chair

Corrections

Pat C elected as Corrections chair

Corrections Alternate

Dawn B 51
Sharon Z 19
Dawn elected as Alt Corrections chair

Grapevine

Karen 39
Urbano 30
Karen elected Grapevine chair

Grapevine Alt

Urbano elected Alt Grapevine chair

Literature Chair

Jeff L 55
Jim W 17
Jeff elected Literature chair

Literature Alternate

Jim W 57
Terry B 16
Jim W elected Alt Literature chair

Special Needs Chair

Bob elected as Special Needs chair

Special Needs Chair Alt

Terry B elected as Alt Special Needs chair

Treasurer's Report, Janet N reported: This report is being presented as of August 31, 2015. The following is our financial status as of this date.

	2015
Contributions/Income:	\$41,966.15
Expenses:	<u>\$32,273.79</u>
Excess of Income over expense	\$ 9,692.36

Current checking account	\$13,275.55
Current prudent reserve	<u>\$17,100.00</u>
Net Assets	\$30,375.55

2015 Primary Purpose Register: The 2015 primary purpose register thru August 31, 2015 is attached to this report. Actual expenses for each PPB and PPM are listed through August, 2015.

Can Contributions: Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$6,790.04 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$7,042.20. Green Can Fund: no activity.

It is important that all trusted servants submit expense reimbursement requests timely. If you have any questions regarding this information or the attached financial reports please call or send me an email.

Finance Committee, Steve M, reported the committee met via conference call before the summer committee meeting. The PPR showed excess funds of \$12,000 at the end of July. We recommend sending \$9,000 to GSO; the Area committee didn't oppose the recommendation. We would like to recommend the assembly approve this. We also met via conference call on September 13th but did not have a quorum. Our NIA Treasurer reminded the committee of the meeting we need to have for reviewing and updating the PPR Basic for 2016. This meeting will take place September 26th at 1PM at the Twin City Group Meeting, 609 W 3rd Street, Sterling. We have e-mailed our NIA 20 trusted servants about the meeting. It is open to all who would like something changed in the PPR Basic section. They should be prepared to report on the status of activities covered in the motion section of the Register. Activities reported as complete may be removed from the Register.

Operating Committee, no report

New Business

Bid for 2016 Big Book Conference, Robert asked if any districts are interested in bidding on 2016 Big Book conference Paul, Alt DCM D12, District 12 expressed interest; will bring a final answer to committee meeting Robert S – we will postpone taking action on bids at this time

Motion for the Website Administrator to attend the second annual National AA Technology W/S in St Louis, MO, at a projected cost of \$900.

Presented by John C

Discussion: Barbara H - AA trying to grapple with technology more efficiently, what a great idea!

A vote was taken. Robert asked for anyone opposed to this motion to raise their hand; no show of hands, motion passes

Old Business

2015 State Conference, no report

2015 Big Book Conference, Chuck S reported, guest speakers have been selected and all program panels with their topics are in place. A final program flyer will be completed and sent to print by September 28th. The refreshments committee has selected Tres Amici to provide lunch, which includes Italian beef, Italian sausage, pasta, chicken, salad, and garlic bread. The cost to the committee is \$7.00/pp including utensils, plates and napkins. Literature has completed their final order list which will be submitted to CASO next week. Special Needs has confirmed signers and Spanish interpreters. We've had a few walkthroughs at the facility to confirm the sound system and the layout for the Greeters and Facilities committee. After the walkthrough, volunteers decorated donation cans. Committee had a walkthrough facility last night. To date, we have 48 pre-registered. We have 3 more committee meetings before the conference, to be held Sept 27th, Oct 11th, and Oct 18th.

2016 Spring Conference, no report

2016 State Conference, Carl T reported, our last planning meeting was held Sept 13th at the Lake Zurich Police Department. Attendance was good but we still need volunteers to fill a few available Chair and several alternate positions. Several of the committee members attended the 2015 State Conference in Normal. At the conclusion of the conference, I was invited to attend a wrap-up session and was able to gain some insight into the inner workings of the conference planning process. I'm anxious to receive the final conference report from the current committee.

The location is confirmed as the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Due to a conflict with the hotel and the original date chosen, the date of the conference has been changed to August 12-14, 2016. There are a number of Save-the-Date flyers available today and version has been submitted to our seated Delegate for distribution through the region. I've asked the Area Chair to change the tentative date for the Summer Committee meeting which was originally planned for the same weekend. Our program committee has confirmed our Saturday evening Speaker, Stacey S. is still able to make the new date. We are still in discussion with Greg Tobin the newly appointed GSO General Manager to be our representative speaker from GSO. A contract has been signed with AMOT audio to provide tapping services.

We have a webmaster and we've secured Web Domain Names aailcon.org and aailcon.com for our conference and possible use for future conferences. The website is functioning and has the save the date information. Final flier is planned to be available prior to the Regional Forum in November. Area Al-Anon Chair has been contacted regarding a representative for Al-Anon participation and we expect a response within the next couple weeks. Next planning committee meeting will be held October 11, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Police Department at 200 Mohawk Trail in Lake Zurich.

Questions/Comments: Tina R asked if the committee has spoken to anyone about signers; Carl T - they haven't been secured yet

Committee Reports

Web Administrator, John C advised the committee, as soon as I get feedback it will be your website; right now it's my website. Spread word to your groups.

Treatment Facilities, Weezie reported, since the Committee meeting I have been to DeKalb to talk about service and attended Wheaton's district meeting to discuss treatment and BTG. On August 22nd, I was at a treatment workshop in Oakbrook along with Dan, NIA Corrections, and Rich, NIA BTG, and Mike, Alternate BTG. There were 35 people in attendance from various districts. Questions were focused on explaining what BTG is and getting BTG into local jails. I attended the BTGWW in Park City, Utah. For more than half of the attendees, it was their first BTG weekend. I was able to share my experience with what has and has not worked. The speakers shared their experience with BTG. For me the most moving speaker was a man named Oliver who has spent most of his life in prison. After finding himself in jail one more time, desperate and not wanting that lifestyle any longer, he made a call for assistance. His life has been changed dramatically since; he has a life today and is of service to others. It was a very heartbreaking story, but a story of hope. At the Sunday business meeting there were two motions passed: 1) send a request via the literature and corrections committees at the 2016 General Service Conference, to update the Bridging The Gap (BTG) pamphlet (*note, this was originally submitted in 2013 but did not make it out of the Treatment Committee*); 2) update the service AA World Service Manual to include BTG (*note, this will be submitted for consideration to the 2017 GSC so Areas have time to review wording and decide if they are willing to support it*)

Report and Charter, Bill E reported the committee has been meeting monthly to review, revise and edit the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Handbook. We are very close to completing our review and edit of the first 79 pages. Additionally, we are working with the Finance Committee and Service Manual Custodian on the Primary Purpose Financing Chapter. Pages 80 – 123, which define the Procedures for Districts Hosting Area Meetings and Assemblies will likely require very little editing. We are still on target for a winter 2015 -2016 completion.

Special Needs, no report
PI, no report
Literature, no report
Grapevine, no report
Electronics Equipment, no report
CPC, no report
Conference Advisory, no report

Concepts, Heather reported she is looking for co-editor; main job is mailing list. Please let me know if you have any feedback. Is concepts on the website? Yes it is!

Corrections, Dan L reported, over the past few months not much has been going on. Literature has been purchased and distributed to multiple facilities throughout the Area in both county jails and state prisons. This is only possible from money that is donated to the PINK CAN. PLEASE continue to support the PINK CAN so we can get literature to those in need behind the walls. During the Illinois State Conference I had the chance to talk with the Illinois Sheriff's Association (ISA). We have been invited to participate as a "vendor" at the next training they are having. The training is for jail administrators and Under Sheriffs from all the counties in Illinois. I am also in discussion with the ISA to conduct a training for the Sheriff's covering AA for inmates and the positive effect it has on them and the jail staff. This training would begin in January with the first training session of 2016. I was recently in attendance at the Bridging The Gap Workshop Weekend, BTGWW, in Park City, Utah. The workshop went well. Although the workshop did not focus that much on learning this year it was still beneficial. I was able to talk with folks from other Areas and learn what has and has not been successful in their respected Areas. During the business meeting for BTGWW it was voted on to resubmit the request to update the Bridging The Gap (BTG) pamphlet for the 2016 General Service Conference (GSC). It was originally submitted for the 2013 GSC and did not make it out of the Treatment Committee. This time it was decided to submit it to the Literature Committee and cc it to the Literature and Corrections Committees. A motion to update the Service Manual to include BTG was also passed. This will be submitted for consideration to the 2017 GSC so Areas have time to review wording and decide whether they are willing to show support for it.

BTG, Rich H, reported a workshop was attended by a number of people from area 20

Archivist, Ray M reported, I brought materials to State Conference; they were gracious. I will provide material at Big Book Conference. Received a couple of personal donations recently, and I want to thank them. Those in this rotation, I encourage you to pass that information on to the next committee. If you're not going to do that or going to use something, I'll take it to maintain in archives.

Archives, Lisa S reported, Jeff could not be here today; we have no report

Answering Service, Terry B reported, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Area Answering Service Chair. On August 22nd, at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, district 22 Kayleigh district chair hosted a Answering Service Workshop. I spoke along with Kayleigh and others. The bottom line and ultimate purpose was fulfilled, that being, many people signing up to help with Dist.22s Answering Service. Robert and I would again like to thank you all for allowing us the privilege of serving those who are still suffering and all of you.

Officer Reports

Delegate, Cheryl V reported the 2015 Conference Reports have not arrived ☹️ I will probably get the call for delivery this coming week. Which means that I hope to deliver them at the Fall Committee Meeting in October. I know that we would all like to have them today, but it just didn't work out that way. Of course, I'm starting this report on Wednesday evening, and it's always possible I will get a call and they will be delivered tomorrow, but since the last report I got was by September 21st, I'm not going to rush home on Thursday. Hopefully this means that the Inventory Reports will arrive at basically the same time and I can deliver them both. It will mean I'll be looking for a pick-up truck though if it happens.

I was able to attend the 2015 International Conference in Atlanta over the July 4th weekend. What an amazing event. Final reports are still being worked on for the event. If we can take a month or two to finalize all our reports for our local conferences, imagine what it takes to do the International. It's estimated that around 57,000 people attended. I don't know if we will break a record for attendance yet or not. One of the only complaints I heard was regarding the way the Old-Timers meeting was handled on Saturday night. There was a break in the speakers and what some perceived to be a tedious "count-down" of service people. I found out that this was basically done at the request of Atlanta's city officials. The request came because they did not want the fireworks and our event to end at the same time. Apparently several 10's of thousand people come into the city for the 4th & the fireworks. When you add our 50,000 trying to move at the same time, well, you can imagine what the traffic would have been like. While I personally wasn't thrilled with the way the program flowed, nor watching the fireworks on the big screen, I do appreciate that we tried to be friendly with our friends in Atlanta. I can attest that some of my pre-sober July 4th escapades probably allowed for amends to be made at this event.

I have been busy with General Service Conference reports (GSC), putting over 700 miles on my car in July and another 600+ in August. A memo from Mary Clare L., secretary to the trustees' Literature Committee stating submittals are requested for the three pieces of literature that are being updated as a result of Advisory Actions. If you have experience to share for the following topics, please consider sending them.

- The pamphlet AA for the Woman
- The pamphlet AA for the Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic
- Recovery experience form members with mental health issues and from those who sponsor such members

Deadline for contributions is October 15, 2015. The memo contains all the information on length of piece, format, etc. If they are all gone, please contact me and I will forward them electronically.

General Service Office (GSO) Rotation has occurred at the General Service Office (GSO). I do not yet have the official list of who has rotated to which positions. I will forward that out as soon as I receive it. I do know that Mary Clare L. will be taking on the Conference Coordinator roll, Clement C. will be Literature and Mary C. will be rotating to International desk.

There are two new A.A. staff members; Jeffrey W. and Sandra W. Jeffrey will start work on October 5th on the Corrections Desk. Jeffrey has been active in service in his Area for many years and comes to us from a long-time career in advertisement and creative writing. Sandra will be assuming the responsibility for the Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities Desk starting November 2nd. During the last three years Sandra has been working at G.S.O. as the Executive Assistant to the General Manager. Prior to G.S.O., Sandra worked as a legal secretary and executive assistant in a large management corporation.

Greg T. has been named the new General Manager. This was finalized at board weekend. Greg was voted in by the Trustees with substantial unanimity and will begin that role on October 1st. He has been Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) Publishing Director since 2013, with 35 years experience in corporate publishing and non-profit management. He has also served on the AA Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board, AA Grapevine corporate board as director and chair and as a General Service Trustee on the General Service Board (GSB).

Jim M. announced that he would be leaving to seek new opportunities. His last day was August 31. Some may remember he was the GSO staffer who was at our 2014 Spring Conference.

Construction is underway at the office to bring the Grapevine offices down to the 11th floor from the 13th. Currently all large group tours have been suspended. Individuals may still visit the office, but will have limited access of touring.

Highlights from General Service Board (GSB) meeting August 3, 2015

The Archives staff has completed the project of preserving Bill W.'s hand-written draft of the Twelve Traditions and created electronic files of the documents for future access and use.

The report indicates that most if not all Trustees Committees are taking action on the items that came out of the Conference. Some of these include:

- Literature: requests for sharings has been sent and subcommittees have been appointed to work on the efforts. Work is being done to develop a plan for systematic review of recovery literature.
- General Service Conference: a subcommittee was appointed to start the process of investigating how to translate all background material for the Conference into French and Spanish. This effort will also include consideration whether the deadline for agenda items will have to be moved to September. There has also been a subcommittee appointed to explore the potential role that the Conference Agenda Committee might play in the selection process of Agenda items in the future.
- Special Needs: consideration to publish a service piece of the Twelve Concepts for World Service for signing purposes has been reviewed by the Publishing Department and is filed as a pending project.
- Corrections: a review was done regarding how inmates were matched with outside volunteers; a problem was identified in the software that handles this and the issue was resolved.
- Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC): on conference committee consideration the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W" was reviewed as the language is dated and its relevance is questionable. This pamphlet will be removed from the CPC kit. Forwarded to this committee from Literature was an additional consideration on developing a piece of service material on AA as a resource for the mental health profession.

The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the period January 1, 2015 - June 2015 reflected:

Net sales (Literature)	\$6,446,929
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$4,235,549
Contributions	\$3,208,531
Total operating expenses	\$7,748,047
Net Income/(loss)	\$ (303,744)

Delegate's Sharing I had several requests for Delegate's Sharing's these past couple months. This is where an e-mail is sent out to all the Delegates asking how each Area handles a particular subject.

Upcoming Events The NIA Big Book Conference is on the horizon. Scheduled for October 25th in Glen Ellyn, it will be hosted by District 40. Please register now so they can plan accordingly.

The East Central Regional Forum will be held November 13-14 in Milwaukee. This is your chance to meet members of the General Service Office staff and General Service Board. It's also your opportunity to ask questions. This is one place where it doesn't matter if you are at the top of our inverted service triangle or down closer to the bottom where I currently sit. Any AA member can go to the microphone and say what they're thinking. Online registration for all of the 2015 Regional Forums is available at www.aa.org where the Regional Forum Flyers and Registration Forms can also be viewed and printed.

Planning is underway for the 2016 Panel 66 General Service Conference. They are looking for suggestions to list as potential ideas for the theme, presentation topics, and sharing sessions. I will forward out this memo to the Area Committee. These are needed by December 15th. I'd like to suggest that perhaps any District interested in participating add this to their agenda and give their GSRs the chance to participate in a small way with the conference. It appears that you can send your suggests in yourself, although if you wish to have me forward them I will be happy to.

We will be hosting the Illinois State Conference and East Central Regional Conference in August. I'm sure Carl will be having a report. Please consider volunteering to help plan.

Alternate Delegate, Kelly L thanked district 90 for hosting today's assembly. Since I am writing this report Thursday I cannot say for sure, but I have a fairly good guess that there will be a lot of fellowship Friday night for all those who decided to drive down early. Since the last assembly I attended the International Convention where Jeff and I were two of those people walking around with the lime green volunteer shirts. We did a four hour shift which was exciting, exhilarating, and the time went way too fast. I attended the Illinois State Conference hosted by Area 19 and ran an alcathon, "Staying involved in A.A. Service." I was told that my lead made it appear that the topic was the same as an earlier panel, "What keeps you enthused in A.A. It was great to see all the participation from Area 20 members. I have already registered for the East Central Regional forum being held November 13-15 in Milwaukee WI. I was hoping to have held at least two more Service Orientation Workshops before the end of the year. District 61 has asked to have a workshop. It will be November 7th, in Geneva. I sincerely would like to wish good luck to all the members who are standing for a position that they have a passion for.

Chair, Robert S reported, I attended the State Conference the weekend of August 28-30 where I participated on a panel titled "What Keeps You Enthused in A.A.?" and a State Conference Policy Committee Meeting with the Area Delegates and Area Chairs from all three Illinois areas. I have been attempting to fill the vacancy on the Electronics Equipment Committee to no avail. It would appear that we will not have someone to house and transport the sound equipment, which means that the Alternate Chair will have to start doing that again. For now I will be asking District 61 to take it since they will be hosting the next event. After that District 21 will need to take it for the Big Book Conference and District 51 for the Winter Assembly. I want to thank Rich H for organizing everything for the election, I know that he has put effort into making sure that this goes well – which at my reading of this will have already happened "great job Rich and crew." To all that are here today, thanks for coming out and participating in the election, keep coming back, as they say.

Alt Chair, Marilyn reported, I would like to welcome everyone and thank Jesse and District 91 for hosting today's Assembly. Since the Summer Assembly held on June 13, 2015 I have attended the following: 06/14/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference Planning meeting in Palatine; 07/12/2015 – 2016 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting in Milan; 07/12/2015 – Bob P. attended the 2015 Big Book Conference planning meeting on my behalf because I was in Milan for the 2016 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting – thank you Bob; 08/02/2015 – 2016 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting in Galesburg; 08/08/2015 – Summer Committee meeting at Lord of Life Church; 08/09/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference Planning meeting in Palatine; 08/23/2015 – 2015 Big Book conference planning meeting in Palatine; 09/13/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference planning meeting in Palatine. I am grateful to be able to serve.

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

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

PLEASE MAIL ALL CHANGES TO NIA20 REGISTRAR, Box 196, 684 S. Barrington Rd (4B Plaza) STREAMWOOD IL 60107.

Requests input between 08/01/15 and 09/09/15

Total Since 08/01/2015	
Group information	14
New groups/Pending Active	2
Folded/Inactive/Unknown	2
Group contact information	14
District/Individual contacts	4
Area contacts	0
Total updates	36

Alt Registrar, no report

Alt Treasurer, Judd reported 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 at every NIA Assembly and committee meeting. 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 1/14/2015 through 8/31/2015

Date deposited	(All)
Row Labels	Sum of Contribution amount
Group contribution	\$33,206.77
Pink Can contribution	\$6,790.04
District contribution	\$8,750.66
Grand Total	\$48,747.47

Secretary, Nicole E reminded all officers and committee members to turn in their written reports.

Alternate Secretary, Tina R reported she made changes to district meeting list. Please email me the new DCM information and I will make changes before the next Committee Meeting

Open Mic

Adjournment