

**NIA 2015 Winter Assembly**

December 12, 2015  
Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL  
(Host District 51)

**Call to Order** the meeting was called to order at 9:05am

**Prayer** A quiet time was followed by Serenity Prayer

**New Attendees**

Maddie, GSR	Todd	Aklil, Alt GSR	Brad, Alt GSR
Matt, GSR	Ryan, Alt GSR	Scott, GSR	Byron, GSR
Brandon, GSR	Jay, Alt GSR/Alt DCM	Brian	Stacey, GSR
Emily, GSR	Marnie, D40 TF/GSR	Russ, GSR	
Pat, Secretary	Christine	Michelle, D51 DCM	

**Anniversaries**

Keith, 23 years	Dan, 5 years	Cheryl, 29 years	Todd, 2 years
Kristin, 12 years	George, 35 years	Gary, 32 years	Sharon, 5 years
Matthew, 25 years	Ally, 5 months	Chuck, 22 years	Byron, 11 months
Brandon 10 months	Michelle, 28 years	Ryan, 3 years	Robert, 18 years
Barb, 24 years	Scott, 2 years	Ray, 21 years	

**Twelve Concepts** read by Kelly B

**Announcements** by host district - John announced lunch registrations will be closing soon

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

**Treasurer’s Report**, Janet N reported: this report is being presented as of November 30, 2015. The following is our financial status as of this date.

	<u>2015</u>
Contributions/Income:	\$54,086.91
Expenses:	<u>\$51,372.62</u>
Excess of Income over expense	\$ 2,714.29
Current checking account	\$ 6,297.48
Current prudent reserve	<u>\$17,100.00</u>
Net Assets	\$23,397.48

2015 Primary Purpose Register: The 2015 primary purpose register thru November 30, 2015 is attached to this report. Actual expenses for each PPB and PPM are listed through November, 2015.

Total contributions to GSO to date are \$9,000. I will be sending in the \$6,000 contribution to GSO for Delegate expenses for the General Service Conference before the end of the year.

Can Contributions: Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$9,962.98 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$7,778.20.

Green Can Fund: no activity

It is important that all trusted servants submit expense reimbursement requests timely. If you have an expense for 2015, please turn it in before December 31, 2015 so we can get the books closed.

**Finance Committee**, Steve M, presented the proposed 2016 Primary Purpose Register

Questions/discussion:

John C, sharing session later today regarding NIA participation and committee functions; where do we find the NIA guidelines that give people in districts for NIA expense reimburse? Judd, answer is nowhere, purpose of sharing sessions to create some guidelines. There aren't guidelines that distinguish district from area function.

Dan L, at State, Spring, and Big Book conferences, there is reimbursement for all 33 Trusted Servants on the committee. Who does that entail? Seems like a large amount to reimburse. Steve, that was approved this year. NIA guidelines state when NIA 20 hosts, then all Trusted Servants are reimbursed. Dan L, does that include all conferences? Judd, past assembly motions state that if you are a service committee chair you are expected to attend the Spring Conference. Dan L – does that include alternates? Judd, I believe it's just chairs. There is no guideline that states any trusted servant is expected to attend the Big Book conference. Dan L, I understand this, but there's a lot of newcomers here. Judd, intent of guidelines for Big Book conference is that it is an NIA event. Doesn't mean that anyone be reimbursed for hotel.

Mike M, for state conferences different things happen in non-hosting years than for hosting years; for clarification, should this year it state that? Steve, yes this is a host year.

Robert, what would be different is the dollar amount we would expect to spend \$1,500 because we're hosting.

Mike M, it doesn't state this is a hosting year.

Tom B, what's going to get confusing is for the first time we are hosting a state and regional conference combined. For the near and distant future, every second year we host the state conference we'll host the regional.

Vote to approve the 2016 PPR

Robert reviewed the guidelines for who is eligible to vote.

Vote was taken to approve the PPR as submitted

In favor: 80

Opposed: 1

Minority opinion: John C, objection that we're missing gaps in guidelines. There will be discussion later today about missing guidelines regarding area and district participation.

No change in vote: motion carries

**Operating Committee**, Chuck D reported a request was made for \$150.00 reimbursement of room rental costs to hear a delegates report. We felt that the cost was not an Area responsibility. The request was denied.

**Delegate**, Cheryl V reported, thank you for allowing me to serve. If I thought last year was quiet at this time of year, this year is more so. I have one more Delegate's report to deliver at the District 73 meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Gary has given me the option that if it's snowing I can cancel. I hope it isn't.

The majority of my time since our last Assembly and Committee Meeting has been in service to the Panel 64 & 65 Delegates. I have served them this last year as their communication hub. Receiving e-mails from Area Delegates and forwarding them out to the full list in the US and Canada. Rotation has brought more requests in this job because many Delegates send word of welcome out to announce newly elected Delegates and their Alternates. Ours was sent out before I even left the Assembly in September.

I attended the East Central Regional Forum in Milwaukee on November 13-15. Northern Illinois Area (NIA) was well represented. Being basically in our own back yard, that was good to see. My guess is that only Southern Wisconsin had more attendees. I saw a couple newly elected DCMs from our Area there, along with past Delegates and some of our new officers. The best part is seeing our GSRs in attendance. I believe the next Forum location will be discussed at the Conference of Delegates Past & Present in February. I also understand that Southern Wisconsin placed a bid for a local Forum to be held with the focus to be on linguistic meetings.

*Highlights from AA World Services Board (AAWS) meeting September 25, 2015* I will be forwarding on this full report after this meeting.

General Manager Phyllis H., reported that the first two phases of the G.S.O.-A.A. Grapevine Co-location construction have been completed. Phase 4 demolition/construction will begin on Monday, September 28, 2015. It was noted that the construction project is on track budget-wise, and slightly ahead of the timeline. (Pictures and further information can be found in Box 459.)

There are two new G.S.O. Staff Members: Jeff W. who will be on the Corrections assignment effective October 5, 2015; and Sandra W., assigned to the Literature desk on November 2, 2015. We look forward to the many contributions they will bring to the office, Boards and the Fellowship

AA World Services (AAWS) has created a new piece called The Seventh Traditions Fact Sheet. It can be found on the web at [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-203\\_en\\_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-203_en_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf) This piece speaks to what the dollar in the basket goes to when sent along to the General Service Board (GSB). I will send this piece along in an e-mail. While I found it on the web after some digging, it is not easy to find. Nor does it appear to be something that can be ordered. I have sent a suggestion to the Board Secretary that a link be placed somewhere that this could more easily be found.

*Highlights from General Service Board (GSB) meeting November 2, 2015* Following a motion and a second, the Board approved a recommendation to adopt the General Service Board Mission – Vision – Action statement.

The new PSA “Doors” has been released and is in use. One of the locations mentioned is in airports including O’Hare and Midway. So if you’re traveling anytime soon, watch for it.

Total web sales (AAWS Online Bookstores) for January-September 2015 stand at \$5,842,558 which accounts for 61.8% of total sales. Overall sales are at \$9,636,360 for the same period.

Donations to date are down at \$1,167,046 at the end of September. Total operating expenses were \$820,668 under budget.

AA Grapevine for nine months realized an income of \$1,506,638 and expenses were \$1,298,777. La Vina income was \$100,282 with expenses of \$47,263. Currently the Grapevine is offering free shipping until December 30<sup>th</sup>. So if you can figure out what to get the sponsor or sponsee as a gift, this might be an option. The Grapevine Board approved translation of *Language of the Heart* into Finnish.

The Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference reviewed the draft report by the Subcommittee on the Conference Agenda Process. This included the request regarding delegate chair voting privileges and participation in the selection of Conference agenda items. This is a topic that has been discussed for as long as I can remember. Plans continue for the translation of the basic information given to Delegates before and at the Conference. In 2016 there should be at least one item on the Conference agenda regarding moving forward with the process of translation of ALL background material for the Conference.

There seems to be some discussion regarding the creation of an Armed Services trustees' committee, Conference committee and Staff position. I look forward to hearing more about this from our newly elected Delegate, Kelly, in the future.

The 80<sup>th</sup> International Convention had nearly 57,000 attendees, resulting in revenues of \$5.9 million. However expenses for the event were \$6.1 million.

As of this time over 220 stories have been submitted for the three pamphlets approved by the 2015 Conference for update. These pamphlets are "AA for the Woman," "AA for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," and to develop literature for AAs with mental health issues.

Items are being forwarded on for consideration to be placed on the agenda for the 2016 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Some of these include:

Archives: a request to explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC): recommendation to retire the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W"

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities: a suggestion that "Special Needs" be removed from their committee name and throughout their Composition, Scope and Procedure.

Literature: a proposal for the development of a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous.

*Delegate's Sharing* There's been a distinct slowing down in requests for sharing between the Delegates. One was for Archives displays which I shared with Ray. Sharing has started regarding the translation of background material for next year. This will be an ongoing voluntary effort until the Conference makes a final decision on how and when this will happen. One request went out regarding Central Offices and Intergroups. That compilation has not yet come back.

In light of our Sharing Session today regarding Area reimbursement for Groups or Districts involving Area members, here's a brief compilation of the information I received from the other Delegates. The full information is available to any who request it.

Of the 93 Areas, 22 Delegates responded. The questions asked were:

1. When it comes to workshops, what does the Area pay for? (rent, coffee, literature, etc.)
2. If it's an all day workshop, does the Area cover the cost of lunch? Or is that paid for by attendees?
3. Does your Area distinguish between an Area sponsored workshop and one sponsored by a District? If so, how? In the event of this distinction, does the Area provide any funding?
4. And finally, if an Area trusted servant attends a District workshop, what expenses are reimbursed?

Half of these responded that workshops are basically only held at standard Area events such as Assemblies. Fifteen of them responded that if a District or Group hosts an event they are responsible for all costs associated, and 6 of those responded that they also are asked to pay for the travel expenses of the visiting Area member. In terms of meals for the events, only 2 Delegates said that the Area would cover the cost of food at the event by passing the hat. The rest were divided between attendees paying for their food (such as we do here at Assemblies), people were on their own to utilize local venues, or they would have a pot luck event. A few of them mentioned that there was a registration fee for attending events.

*Upcoming Events* The Conference of Delegates Past and Present will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin February 12 through 14. Any and all are welcome to make the drive and attend. I would encourage anyone who thinks they may someday stand for Delegate to consider attending.

Planning is well underway for the Spring Conference Assembly; to be held in Rock Island, Illinois on April 1-3, 2016.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Illinois State Conference will be hosted by Northern Illinois Area in conjunction with the East Central Regional Conference. Hosting it will be Districts 10, 11 and 28. It will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles August 12-14.

*Rotation* In 2013 the General Service Conference (Panel 63) made an addition to the AA Service Manual with a section specific to the Principle of Rotation. You'll find it roughly on page S23 if you want to read it in its entirety. It's short, only four paragraphs, yet contains so much. As with anything in AA it doesn't dictate, but guides us to think about a bigger picture beyond ourselves.

In part it says "To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard.... But it can be a real step forward in growth – a step into humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity."

After 6 years of sitting at the front table I will now return to the tables with all of you. These last two years as Delegate have been life changing. To be one of the 32 people to date who have served in this role is a privilege. I came to service with the idea that I could never repay the debt I owe to Alcoholics Anonymous. It seems now I owe even more to you for giving me this honor. I will forever be indebted to AA and to you for my life and all that I have. I have truly been blessed beyond measure.

Questions/Comments:

Rich H, you mentioned the General Service Board mission statement, would you email that to all of us? Cheryl, I would be happy to forward that on.

Jerry, D61 Special Needs, you used the term conference and the term special needs, is that a relatively new responsibility, because I cannot find anything about it in the literature? Cheryl V, currently special needs is covered jointly with treatment, special needs and accessibilities; it is not a standalone committee. Currently most of AA at conference is covered in committee meetings. Our area tends to follow in line with that; special needs has in most areas separated from treatment, although at the GSO level, it is not a standalone committee. Jerry, I was fascinated by the term special needs. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for AA. Cheryl, we will put you in touch with our special needs chair or alternate.

Chuck D, I would like to thank Cheryl for her two years of dedicated service to NIA. Thank you very much.

### **New Business**

**Electronics Equipment Chair** Ed R resigned due to relocation; Robert appointed Kevin B to fill the position. Kevin was approved as Electronics Equipment Chair.

**2016 NIA Calendar**, finalized open items

Mike V, asked if the 2016 calendar is available. John C, tentative calendar is on the website under "Events"

### **Bid for the 2016 Big Book Conference**

Jason, District 41, reviewed their bid; October 29, 2016; theme is A Design For Living. Wheaton Bible Church is the host facility.

Questions/comments: Tina R, do you have anything set up for special needs? Susan stated they have contacts for Spanish interpreters and signers.

Kelly L, Wheaton bible charges a coffee fee of \$50 is that per day? Jason – yes, but we will confirm. Kelly L, price negotiated is \$7 per lunch; what will you charge? We will charge more than \$7 to cover beverages.

Robert asked if there were any other bids.

Robert asked if anyone was opposed to district 41 hosting the conference; there were none. District 41 was approved to host the 2016 Big Book Conference.

## **Two open positions**

NIA Archives Chair and NIA Alternate Archives Chair

Barbara H, stood for and was elected NIA Archives Chair

Ray M, nominated Ed M for the position of Alternate Archives Chair; Ed was elected alternate archives chair

The person elected as alternate answering service chair will not be able to keep this commitment. Please let your districts know this open position is open.

## **Motion by BTG Committee to have Cheryl send a letter to the GSC to revise the BTG pamphlet**

Presented by Rich H

Questions/comments:

Carol H, what was the reason why it is being submitted to multiple committees? Rich, we were originally sending to the conference coordinator and trustee's committee chairs but it was recommended by a friend to also send to desks of treatment facilities, corrections, and literature.

Barbara H, we discussed at my home group and came to the decision we don't know if we really support or not; we are confused as to what is and isn't part of BTG when you vaguely say "institutions"; we do want to have discussion. We support an effort to discuss.

Mike V, we talked about this in my group and thought it was a no brainer to broaden this.

Carol H, the experience I've had when I got involved in 2006, has always included all of those groups. In our area there may be a strong treatment support in terms of BTG; pamphlet is limiting and should reflect the people and committees who are doing work.

A vote was taken

In favor: 69

Opposed: 7

Minority opinion: Cheryl V, this item was discussed on the floor during the report from treatment committee. Said by multiple delegates that corrections is handled differently in every area. Committee had a duty to make this a separate item and out of trustees committee they decided to take no action, that they felt current verbiage is adequate. My feeling is it would be beneficial to come up with specific suggestions. General information I got was to try to meld treatment facilities and corrections was not beneficial to AA as a whole.

Melissa V, 1) thought it was vague to ask to change the pamphlet without specifics; 2) thought it unfair to have it done by December 15<sup>th</sup> when it's already December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Robert asked if anyone who voted in favor wanted to change their vote; there was one person. Discussion was opened.

Discussion:

Rich H, this motion was brought to the fall assembly; delegate and chair said to wait until winter and assured there was plenty of time. Reason it goes to trustees committees and language states "review to revise". Because things are handled different all over, we're asking these committees to get together and come up with revisions. Concept 6 states we give the trustees the work to do. Rich asked Cheryl to provide documentation on the conference discussion.

Jeff G, previous treatment chair for NIA, this debate has been around for a long time. Fact is that it does. Many of the presenters at the BTG Workshop were from treatment. BTG is a grassroots effort and are passionate about this work and seems to be a misunderstanding that corrections is handled different by area and so is treatment.

Jim W, I'm not an expert on BTG but seems like this should happen. I would like some additional information that I hope Cheryl would address. Is this effort to override what happened at GSC?

Cheryl V, I can sort of answer this and Rich's question. What is in conference report is what is written as the; discussion on floor is not in report. What I shared was what happened and what I heard on the floor and I felt it my responsibility to bring that voice back also. What's at the bottom of page 48 of GSC report is from cooperating with professional community, treatment, special needs and accessibilities in their trustee's report. Cheryl read corrections trustee's report. The committee agreed to take no action. At conference we meet in committees. They can choose to take no action, forward a recommendation, create an additional consideration, or send back to trustees. They had an additional consideration in 2014 that was turned over to corrections. They had information that was turned over to CPC/Treatment/ Special Needs/Accessibilities was turned back over to the trustees committee.

Jim W, based on what was read on page 48, is this motion designed or grass roots effort to override?

Carol H, the last time we presented there were 4 areas who made same motion. Similar motions come forth all the time. Just because something wasn't voted out of committee doesn't mean it can't come forth again. People are doing work in prisons, treatment centers and other facilities. The pamphlet should reflect the people who are doing the work and in which facilities.

Larry S, I'm uncomfortable with the tone of this discussion; sounds like what I'm hearing is the conference made a decision so that's a done deal. Concept 1 ultimate authority and final responsibility should always reside in the collective conscience of our entire fellowship. Remember we're talking about an upside down triangle; this assembly is closer to top of triangle. What the conference did last year makes no difference. Carol is right, items might be presented and rejected multiple times. If there is enough support from enough areas, this will move forward if it's the right thing to do. If we believe this is the right thing to do, it doesn't matter what happened last year.

Jim, outgoing GSR, I feel conflicted. When I presented to my group it was passed unanimously. I feel if my group had known the information shared today they would have voted against it.

Chris V, the reason I voted for this motion is right now you'd need two pamphlets; would be less expensive to put it in one.

Terry W – call the question

All in favor of calling the question

A vote was taken

In favor: 76

Opposed: 9

Motion carries

Cheryl asked the committee to choose which draft to use.

### **Motion by Corrections Committee to allocate funds for literature to SIA corrections facilities (state or federal)**

Presented by Dan L

Questions/comments:

John C, are funds being moved from prudent reserve to do this work? Janet N, at this point, we have \$7,000 and \$6,000 is going to GSO for the delegate conference. As of today, yes. I don't know what rest of year will bring. Dawn B, NIA registrar, did you say county jails are not included in this motion? Dan L, yes, they are not included.

John, did they also make this request to Area 19? Dan L, Area 19 has a budget for \$800 for literature to SIA

Tracy, Dan's done an excellent job with pink can. Are we taking care of inmates up here? Maybe we ought to look at what we're doing for the inmate up here. Dan L, I fulfill the requests I'm given for NIA. Today you asked me for *Inmate to Inmate*. I fulfill requests, I don't make requests. If I'm asked to get it, I get it. I haven't heard of a county to get literature they need. If we don't cover in Pink Can, I will bring it here.

Discussion:

Bill W, do we want inmates releasing to our area without information? We are joining in harmonious action to cover the literature needs in the state of Illinois.

Carol H, I've volunteered at McHenry County jail. District 11 has funds to cover literature at jails. Many inmates come out of prisons in southern and end up back here; we are supporting our own people by supporting this motion. Maddie, I think it's great we have these discussions. We redistribute money for the greater good of an alcoholic all the time. I think this is another version of that.

A vote was taken

In favor: 78

Opposed: 1

Minority opinion: Carl T, my group asked me to vote this way. Part of the plea is that SIA doesn't have the funds but our group noticed in the conference report they sent \$18,000 to GSO last year.

Robert asked if anyone who voted in favor wanted to change their vote; none.

Motion carries

### **Sharing session on NIA paying for meetings hosted by Districts**

Issue in question is there were professionals attending and wanted to include gratis lunch to those professionals. How do you feel about this issues and where exactly does self-support begin and end when it comes to groups and the area?

Tina R, my position is that if a district put on a workshop then districts should cover lunches.

Chris V, in this case, the delegate came out to discuss the General Service Conference. I agree with Tina; there are area hosted and district hosted events, even if an area person is invited.

Judd W, this needs guidelines as to what is a district event vs an area event and what does it mean. I think we all have ideas what we think it means but need to collectively come together to decide what it means.

Bill W, district asked for NIA money it was declined. From the generosity from some groups in that district, that event went well.

Terry, if they wanted NIA to pay for this event, they should go through the NIA level committee to sponsor that event and it would be open to any group in the area to attend. I don't understand what the problem is. If a district puts it on, it's a district event; if you want NIA to put on, ask NIA.

Heather, we would not have had the event if the delegate didn't come. Our understanding was the delegate could chip in for the room. There was a misunderstanding. Just because we asked for it, does that make it a district event? What is the consensus of this assembly?

Mike M, one thing I have noticed is all the NIA committee chairs have always offered to help. Might have been some misunderstanding as to how far that relationship went.

Rich H, we in NIA 20 are at fault too, because we ask districts to invite us to their workshops. We are at fault too, and need to figure out what the line is.

Carol H, I can see where NIA would be responsible for these expenses. I'm not sure where confusion comes. NIA committee chairs are supposed to participate.

Judd W, there are also guidelines for all service committee chairs to host workshops. What does it mean for an NIA chair to host workshops? We're looking for intent as to when it is and isn't. If it's to serve a district, it's a district function. If it's intended to serve a region, then it's a different thing.

Larry S, we don't have authority to make rules for any district; the responsibility falls on us. I don't think we will be able to draw a line that's clear. We have some control over our service committee chairs. My suggestion is if a district invites NIA CPC to participate in workshop, one of first questions from NIA should be, *What are your expectations about financing this event?* We don't really know what the expectation of the district is. Part of problem in this case is funds were asked for after fact; from NIA side, we need to ask the question about finance up front.

Janet N, as treasurer I was asked a few times for clarification as to what was covered. I couldn't find inclusion of meals in the guidelines; not just for professionals but as a workshop cost. That was part of the question that we had.



Carmela R, many times when I served as alt CPC chair I recall approaching districts to ask how we can provide support. Assembly allowed us all have to have line items to participate in workshops. I don't think we do a disservice to anyone by asking, *how can I serve you?* I think it's a mistake to have that mindset. I don't recall a situation where this was muddy. To Larry's point, it is my responsibility to understand what I'm being asked to do.

Gary, I heard something about AA remaining forever non-professional. We are in this fellowship we are trying to behave as adults; I like what Larry said...ask. Let's put a survey together and get written feedback. I like the fact we define expenses. When we ask our district to participate, they don't ask what they will learn they want to know who will foot the bill. Maybe we need more input on paper.

Mike H, I was involved in one of the events referenced here today. District did a nice job and picked up tab for lunch. I don't think we can draw a line. Each situation will need to be evaluated individually. If districts come forth earlier, then we can respond to request. Not something we can set static guidelines for.

## **Old Business**

### **Report from Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend**

Bill B, reported: My name is Bill, District 22 Treatment and incoming BTG chair in 2016, also serving NIA 20 BTG committee. I was a participant of Kane Co. drug court program 2011-2013, as well as Gateway Foundation treatment, Lake Villa and Men's Res. West, Halfway House, Elgin and continue involvement in these alumni groups. I want to thank all involved in getting us to the conference this year. It was truly an honor – Thank you. This year at the conference in Park City, UT, I attended workshops and participated in them as well. I heard many speak on their experiences on the corrections side of BTG, which of late, has become useful with the Kane Co. Sheriff's office and drug court staff. I also heard others speaking about the treatment side of BTG, which has been the majority of my experience. In becoming more familiar with the correction side of BTG, their formats and importance of us contacting the parolees within the first 24 hours after leaving, if not actually picking them up at the doors upon release. I will also be serving on next years BTG conference committee in Tucson, AZ. Thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

Jessica R, reported: I wanted to first thank the voting members of this assembly, and the chair and co-chair of the Bridging the Gap committee, for making it possible for me to attend the 25th Annual Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop in Park City, Utah on September 11th through the 13th. It was one of the most memorable AA experiences that I have had to date.

Jessica R, reported: I attended and participated in each panel and enjoyed them thoroughly. I had the privilege to meet many people from all over the United States. I was able to meet a Pacific Region Past Trustee, previous Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop Coordinators, the Bridging the Gap Website Administrator, and many enthusiastic volunteers who carry out service in both treatment and corrections work from all over the country.

During this weekend workshop I sat in on many panels; 'What about Hospitals and Institutions?', 'What are we doing in the BTG Programs?', 'Starting a BTG program', 'The BTG Website' and 'The Importance of that first 24 hours after Release'. I also attended general sharing sessions from treatment and corrections volunteers. In addition to these panels, there were 'Ask it Baskets', and also speakers who shared their experience with this very important work.

I attended a session by the Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop Web Administrator regarding the use of the website and the way that information is sent to the correct person when a 'request for contact' form on the website is filled out. This creates the very important Bridge. I went from knowing very little about the website and how it is used to a greater understanding. There are also many documents that are stored in a secure location on the website for others BTG volunteers to use. These are created by various Areas & Districts. These documents range from general contact forms, to meeting guidelines, to setting up a BTG committee. There was also a presentation on how other areas have created and maintained their databases of contacts, which are password protected so that only area or district servants have access to them.

During a presentation from the treatment panel I was given many ideas to incorporate into the local work that our committee does here in Northern Illinois. Once we have established a relationship with a facility, and we are sitting before the prospective recovering alcoholic, we use this time to educate them, to connect with them – this is our “Man on the Bed.” This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail.” We explain Tradition 3 – “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.” We discuss the importance of sponsorship and anonymity, the difference between open and closed meetings and the different types of meetings that are available to them. This creates for them a sense ease, so finding AA on the outside with their new found friend, or temporary contact isn’t so scary.

During the corrections panel, which was the most interesting to me as I do most of my service in the treatment setting, I learned about the guidelines that correctional facilities may have, and the do’s and don’ts of corrections work. One of the main differences between corrections and treatment is the approval process of getting into a correctional facility is much more complex. The most moving part of this panel was a share by a gentleman on the panel attending his first Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop who was a product of the efforts that are carried out in the correctional facilities. To hear his story, to watch tears of gratitude fall from his eyes, was all I needed to keep my flame lit to continue working at this wonderful opportunity I have been given.

What I learned about the first 24 hours after release is that this is the most crucial time for the alcoholic, that this is the slippery danger zone where we lose so many. The temporary contact is there to make that bridge and to connect them to their new home in AA. The fellowship welcomes those who find their way to our doors.

There was a presentation on what Bridging the Gap has been doing over the past years and I enjoyed learning of all the work that has been done. There was also a motion that came out of our business meeting to amend the BTG Pamphlet. This motion was to be considered for the 2016 General Service Conference Agenda.

Again, it was a pleasure to attend the Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop; I look forward to implementing what I learned in our continuing work with the newly sober alcoholic. I thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

**Report from National AA Technology Workshop**, John C presented a report

### **Conference Reports**

**2015 Big Book Conference**, Chuck S, reported I’d like to start out by thanking the committee, moderators, panelists, keynote speakers, volunteers, Ray for the archives and a personal thank you to Nicole E.

Total registrations were 325

Pre-registrations totaled 185

Onsite registration totaled 140

There were 275 paid lunches

We collected \$166.00 in the donation cans.

CASO provided us with the literature we needed without an upfront charge, after the conference we returned the unsold material and a check for \$496.40 for the literature that was sold. After all bills and reimbursements were paid, we sent two checks to the NIA treasurer, the \$2,500 seed money and a profit of \$289.92. We were grateful to carry the message of hope through the Big Book Conference. District 21 thanks you for that opportunity

**2016 Spring Conference**, Jesse reported the planning committee appears to be on schedule according to the suggested target dates as set forth in the NIA Procedures. The planning committee meets at 1:30PM the first Sunday of the month; meeting sites alternate between Knox County Group in Galesburg, IL, and the Milan Hill Crest Group in Milan, IL. All committees are active and chair and alternate positions filled.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rock Island, IL, April 1-3, 2016. The room rate is \$89. Facility location is 226 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL.

The program committee has secured all speakers, completed their schedule and has accomplished assigning meeting rooms. The Alcahion schedule has been determined. Al Anon has finalized their program and has speakers secured. Registration reports 11 registrations with 6 banquets, 4 box lunches, 4 ice cream socials; Holiday Inn confirmed 13 room nights.

Flyers were printed in English/Spanish. Two-thirds of the flyers have been distributed. Our budget is based on 500 registrations and 270 hotel rooms. The bank balance as of December 6, 2016 was \$2,298.36; all bills have been paid. Conference website is [www.niaspringconference.com](http://www.niaspringconference.com).

**2016 State Conference**, Carl T reported, the last planning meeting was held Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at the facility, Pheasant Run St. Charles. Attendance was good and the individual chairs were given the opportunity to walk through the facility and ask specific questions of the resort staff, including our primary contact for the conference.

The program committee has been presented with a new challenge since the last meeting. We've experienced an issue with a couple of our chosen speaker's ability to attend so we now need to line up new speakers. Fortunately, we have not printed a large number of fliers and there is still plenty of time to react.

A save the date flier was presented at the Regional forum in November, our final flier is still in production and expected to be completed according to the guidelines. We have identified some specific points in the guidelines which may need to be updated for future conferences and will be communicated to the policy committee.

Cooperation with Al-Anon continues and a liaison has begun attending the planning meetings and also participated in the walk-through in November.

Our website, [www.aailcon.org](http://www.aailcon.org) is functioning and will be updated as new information becomes available. Next planning meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Zurich PD with subsequent meetings continuing on the second Sunday of each month. Information and directions are on the website.

### **Committees**

**Web Administrator**, no report

**Treatment Committee**, Weezie reported, as the year winds down, so have I. I did attend the big book conference in Palatine where I moderated a panel for District 90. Our 3 panelists did an excellent job discussion chapter 2 of the big book, and including their personal experiences to us related to "there is no middle of the road solution". Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been a wonderful learning and very educational experience.

**Special Needs**, no report

**Report and Charter**, Bill reported, in our journey to review and revise the Northern Illinois 20 Service Manual, the Report and Charter Committee is scheduled to meet for one more meeting to close out 2015 on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has reviewed pages 1 through 49. We expect to tackle the next chapter, organize our efforts and prepare to present NIA with a workable format to continue through page 79. This committee has chosen to not review pages 80 through 126 as it contains Procedures for Hosting Meetings, Conferences, Assemblies, the Preamble, Traditions, Concepts, and previous Revision notes. Everyone on the Committee has contributed greatly to this endeavor. Paul P, Kevin B, Melissa V, Gary F, John C and Larry S have approached the effort seriously in a spirit of service geared to give to the Fellowship. I am deeply appreciative of the assistance of John C and Larry S, past delegates, for their continuing service. Their shared experience was an exceptional benefit to the committee. We await the

appointment of the next committee. We look forward to meeting and handing over our work so it may continue for the Northern Illinois Area AA.

**PI**, no report

**Literature**, no report

**Grapevine**, no report

**Electronics Equipment**, Robert reported we in the process of getting receivers for interpretation equipment replaced

**DCM breakout**, no report

**CPC**, no report

**Conference Advisory**, no report

**Concepts**, no report

**Corrections**, no report

**BTG**, Rich H, reported this morning I sat down to print some stuff to pass on to Dan, and to write my report and found I was out of paper. Must be time for rotation.

SINCE OUR LAST ASSEMBLY:

On my way home from the Fall Assembly I went with some friends to the All Chicago Open.

Oct. 4- EDI Anniversary Luncheon

Oct 5- Area 19 H&I Committee Meeting at CASO with District 22 BTG Chair Bill.

Oct 9 thru 11- Southwest Regional Forum in St. Louis with Area 19 Delegate.

Oct 17- Area 20 Committee Meeting.

Oct 24- Attend and speak on a panel at our Big Book Conference.

Oct 30- BTG Committee on-line voting regarding the BTG motion being presented today.

Oct 31-BTG Committee Conference Call

Nov 7- Attend and speak on a panel, Steps 4&5, at an event in Janesville Wisc.

Nov 13 thru 15- East Central Regional Forum in Milwaukee Wisc.

Received a request for a contact in Minneapolis from a local county jail volunteer.

Received a request from someone wanting to be involved with our committee. I sent that info to our committee and District 22 Alt BTG Chair, Jessica contacted her and asked her to be involved with her local efforts. I found in our Breakout session today that there is a BTG Committee in the Western portion of the United States that is working on a motion to update the Service Manual to include Bridging the Gap.

It has been an honor, privilege and my responsibility to Chair this committee this past year. Highlights have been, with committee involvement, creating wording for our Area budgetary system, Creating Committee Guidelines, and bringing together some very enthusiastic people to form a very active Committee. Which is a General Service Committee that is doing LIVE 12 STEP WORK. WHAT A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

I want to thank the people that conceived this committee for the trust to ask me to do this. And knowing this committee has a long, bright future.

Most of all, I want to thank all of you for electing me to this position, and listening to me ramble for one more year.

**Archivist**, Ray reported, during 2015, members of the NIA Archives Committee displayed a range of materials from the NIA Archives collection at the Illinois State Conference, the NIA Spring Assembly-Conference and the NIA Big Book Conference, as well as Soberfest (by invitation).

As Area Archivist, I have interacted with both district and area trusted servants. In addition to participating in the Archives breakout session at each Assembly, I have had meetings with Archives district committee members from District 22 and 40 to discuss how the Area can support activities at that level. The Area Committee members also supported a workshop in the latter district. Utilizing the Area Archives materials, I have responded to a number of

questions on a variety of topics from various trusted servants including our current Delegate, past Delegates, and the Concepts Editor.

The primary activity of the Area Archives – collection, organization, categorization and preservation of Area archive material – continues. From the more than 60 boxes of material, I have now developed almost 40 topical binders that allow improved access to and display of a variety of material. Since about 2000, both hard and digital copies of various Area documents have been increasingly available. In order to better maintain the current inventory of digital materials, they are now organized on an NIA external hard drive. Over the past year, I have begun, to a limited degree, the process of digitizing materials previously available only in hard copy. The hope is to increase this activity as we move forward.

The Area Archives Committee welcomes hardcopy and/or digital materials reflection AA-related activity from the Area Officers and Service Committees, as well as from districts, for inclusion in the Area collection

**Archives**, no report

**Answering Service**, no report

### Officer Reports

**Alternate Delegate**, Kelly L reported, November 7th I, with the help of Robert, Marilyn and Dawn had presented the last Service Orientation workshop for the year. There was fairly good attendance and many questions. I had really enjoyed the workshops and know that I will be doing many presentations and possibly workshops in the next two years. I wrote an article for the Concepts to get a head start and get into the routine of writing as the Panel 66 Delegate. I really did not miss writing any of them the last two years and enjoyed reading everyone else's articles. I attended the East Central Regional Forum November 13th thru the 15th. It was great seeing all the first time attendees from our Area. Northern Illinois Area 20 had very good attendance at the Forum. I got to meet four of the five Panel 66 Delegates. Including myself there are six Panel 66 Delegates in East Central Region. I had met many of the Panel 65 Delegates at past Regional events. A few highlights from the Forum were Bill F our Regional Trustee was the chairperson and I felt he did a great job. Terry B our Class A (nonalcoholic) did the opening remarks and a presentation on his observation of Alcoholics Anonymous. I always enjoy listening to class A trustees share on their experience with A.A. They have a passion as many A.A. members do but it is from a totally different view point. They showed the new "Markings on the Journey." Six delegates four panel 65 and two panel 64, one being our own delegate did presentations on different topics. There were as usual a lot of numbers related to money and literature. The one presentation I always love the most is A.A. Around the World. This was presented by Robert W, Trustee-at-large/U.S. It just seemed as though he was in a different country every month being a part of and sharing the various countries' anniversaries such as their conventions and their General Service Conferences. There were also two different time slots for workshops at which you had to choose from one of six topics.

**Chair**, Robert S reported, Well, this is the last of these I will be doing. I have to admit that I expected to spend more time talking about privacy issues than "the book" but I guess that was a discussion that needed to happen. I know that the Report and Charter Committee has not completed their revisions to the documents that make up our handbook but I am confident that the next one will continue the work.

Since our last assembly I have attended the Big Book Conference, East Central Regional Forum and The McHenry Soberfest. Only the forum was an official representation for the area but all three were very good.

At the forum I was able to listen to the reports from GSO's new General Manager and the General Service Board's Chair and Treasurer. Based on what I heard money continues to be a problem, the groups are not supporting A.A. as a whole financially in the way that we need. Membership has remained, virtually, unchanged while the number of groups has increased. This means more groups with less people attending, which means less money for the groups to pass on to their district, area or A.A. in New York. At the same time, expenses haven't changed or have increased. I am struck with the reminder that it would take every group sending in approximately 150 dollars a year or individuals sending in 7.08 a

year to fully fund our expenses without having to rely on literature sales. It really doesn't seem like a lot of money to me, but we aren't doing it.

There are currently two open positions on the General Service Board and therefore the board members are doing extra work to make up for the vacancies.

I am working with Marilyn to transition her into the chair position and with Cheryl and Kelly for me to transition into the Alternate Delegate position. By the way – thanks for your trust. I look forward to serving you in my new position. Enjoy your holidays.

**Alternate Chair, Marilyn F, reported,**

I would like to welcome everyone and thank Bob and District 51 for hosting today's Assembly. Since the Fall Assembly held on September 19, 2015 I have attended the following: 09/19/2015 – Area Fall Assembly – District 90 09/26/2015 – 2016 Primary Purpose Register Meeting in Sterling 09/27/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference Planning Meeting in Palatine 10/04/2015 – 2016 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning Meeting in Milan 10/17/2015 – Fall Committee meeting 10/18/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference Planning Meeting in Palatine 10/24/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference 10/25/2015 – GSR Workshop in District 10 – Grayslake 11/01/2015 – 2016 Spring Assembly/Conference in Galesburg 11/07/2015 – GSR Workshop in District 61 - Geneva 11/14/2015 – GSR Workshop in District 52 - Kankakee 11/15/2015 – 2015 Big Book Conference wrap up meeting in Palatine D21 11/19/2015 – 2016 Big Book Conference Planning Meeting in Villa Park D41 Last I would like to thank the Area for allowing me to be of service as Alternate Area Chair for the past two years. I have truly enjoyed it.

**Alternate Treasurer, Judd W report,** 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 11/30/2015

Row Labels	Sum of Contribution amount
Group contribution	\$43,119.99
Pink Can contribution	\$9,962.98
District contribution	\$10,840.66
personal contribution	\$116.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$64,039.63</b>

**Registrar, Dawn B reported,** the new e-mail address for the Area Registrar is: [registrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org). PLEASE MAIL ALL CHANGES TO NIA20 REGISTRAR, Box 196, 684 S. Barrington Rd (4B Plaza) STREAMWOOD IL 60107. This will be changing on January 1. Please send changes via email until the new box number goes on the NIA website.

Thank you to NIA 20 for allowing me to serve as your Registrar for the last rotation. It has been a great pleasure to serve you. I will be working closely with the incoming Registrar to insure a seamless transition.

*Information updates between 10/15/15 and 10/01/15*

<b>Total Since 10/15/2015</b>	
Group information	7
New groups/Pending Active	4
Folded/Inactive/Unknown	2
Group contact information	7
District/Individual contacts	12
Area contacts	0
<b>Total updates</b>	<b>32</b>

**Alt Registrar**, no report

**Secretary**, no report

**Alternate Secretary**, no report

**Open Mic**

Motion to adjourn - Dan L

Second - Carl T

**Adjournment**