

# CONCEPTS

Volume XLV, No. 3

Northern Illinois Area, LTD. Area 20 Service Letter

Fall 2022

## Ride the Roller Coaster

Remember the feeling of riding a roller coaster? Getting in line, not so sure that it's a good idea, but committing anyway. As the line moves up, the anticipation builds, until you're strapped in and ready to go. It's quite a ride (sometimes scary), but, once it's over, there's always a chorus of "Let's do this again!!!!"

That is very much what it's like to host and chair an NIA Conference.

Each year in NIA we hold a Big Book Conference (usually in October) which is a one-day conference, and also a Spring Conference/Assembly (generally in March), which is a Friday to Sunday conference.

We look to our DCMs/Districts to host these conferences, with complete support by Area 20. Our Big Book Conference 2022 is being held at Parkview Community Church in Glen Ellyn on October 29<sup>th</sup> this year. The Spring Conference 2023 is being held at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg this coming March.

Currently, we have no bids for the 2023 Big Book Conference or the 2024 Spring Conference. I have found that the more time a Conference has to plan their event, the easier the job becomes.

We have a Conference Advisory Committee that is experienced in hosting these events and will help a committee with anything they need as they go along in planning. I (NIA Alternate Chair) am also the liaison between the Conferences and NIA and will be at as many planning meetings as possible to help the Conferences along.

By the time this is published The Conference Advisory Committee will have held a workshop for DCMs who may be interested in hosting on Thursday, August 25th at 7:30 pm. We will have information for the DCMs and Districts that can help them get started and get a bid going as soon as possible. We will help with site selection, contract negotiations, planning and execution of the actual event. As of now, we also have a hotel with a ready contract for Spring 2024, and a church that is ready and willing to be the venue for the 2023 Big Book Conference. Both these venues have held these events before, so we are not venturing into unknown territory, nor are they. I am hoping that we will have bids for these conferences in by Winter Assembly.

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A district is never alone in hosting these conferences. They are hosted FOR NIA, and we are there with the host committee from start to finish. There is no cost to a district (or districts, it's a great idea to team up with other districts to host) that host, the seed money is given after a successful bid is made and the Assembly (or, occasionally, the Area Committee if time is limited) approves the bid. Conferences are not meant to be money making events, simply break-even events, so there is never any pressure to "come out ahead".

If you are interested in making a bid, but are on the fence, please get in touch with me at; [alt-chair@aa-nia.org](mailto:alt-chair@aa-nia.org).

I'm looking forward to taking the amazing rollercoaster ride with the 2023 Big Book Conference and 2024 Spring



# Delegate's Corner

## Let's be counted!

Winding down the summer it's once again beginning to feel like old times with a return to in person meetings (and conferences), fewer (if any) restrictions, and nary a mask to be seen! As is common at this time of year, the work of the Conference, which is a year long process, also continues to go on. Potential agenda items for the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference are being submitted to the Conference Coordinator (remember the deadline for submission of items is September 15), while work from the last (72<sup>nd</sup>) conference continues to press forward. One item in particular from the last conference that I'd like to talk about was the decision for A.A.W.S to once conduct a membership survey!

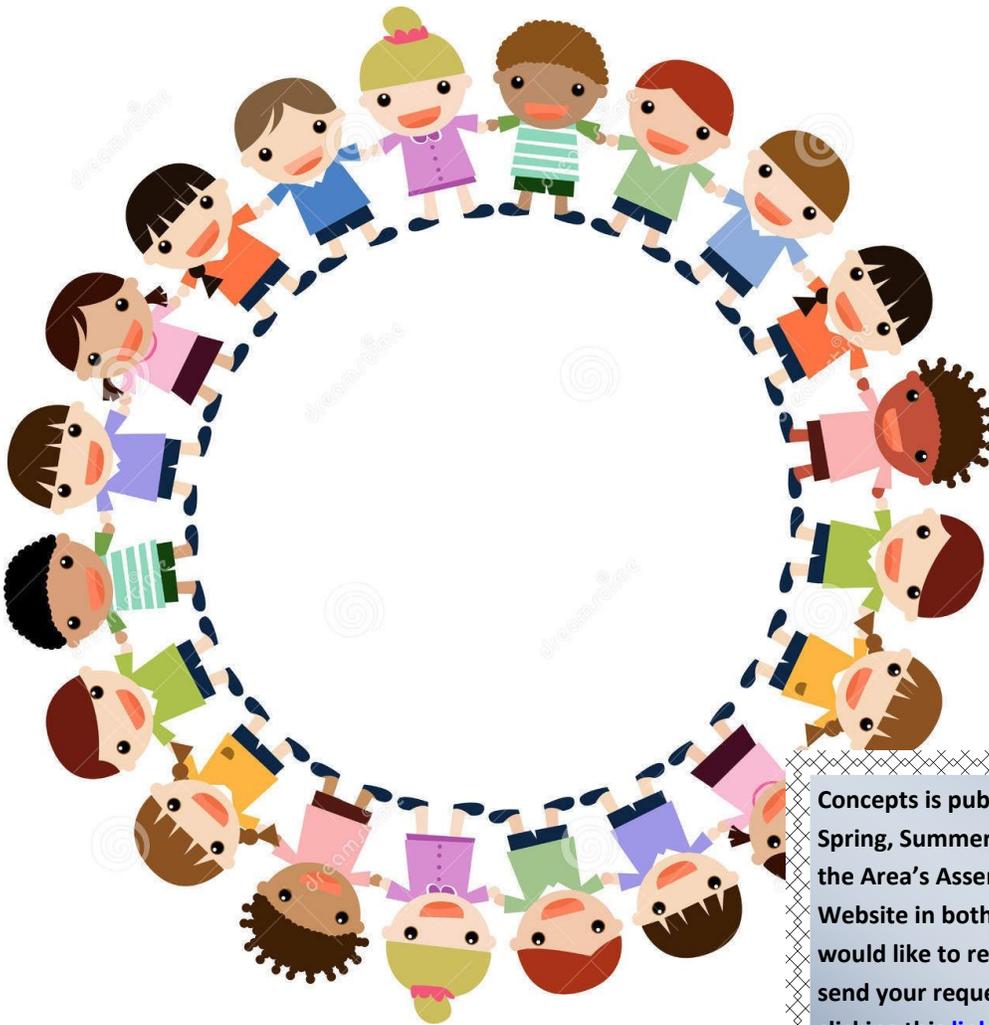
Approximately every 8-10 years the General Service Office conducts a nationwide survey to get a pulse of the makeup and thoughts of our fellowship. Questions regarding demographics, meeting styles and types, length of sobriety and many others are put to the fellowship for their response. I'm happy to report I was recently informed that the finishing touches are being put in place that that the 2022 membership survey will soon begin! In order to arrive at an accurate statistical representation of the fellowship random groups from throughout the fellowship are selected and asked to take part. Accordingly approximately 20 groups from Northern Illinois Area (an average of about one group per district) have been selected to take part, and I've now begun the process of making contact with the group GSR's from the selected groups to begin the process. The membership survey will be available in 2 formats, either paper form or digitally via a link that will be provided to the group members by the GSR. Of course it goes without saying, but this is another great reason for all groups in the Area to be registered with GSO (via our Registrar) as only registered groups are being asked to participate. This is being done so that the professional survey methodologists maintain data integrity throughout the process. In groups that decide they want to use the paper system I will be asking DCM's for their assistance in collecting the surveys from the group GSR's, so many of us will asked to be involved in the process.

The entire process is completely voluntary within the members of the selected groups meaning that anyone who does not wish to participate doesn't have too. On a personal note though, I think it's a great honor to be asked to share my thoughts on issues that affect AA as a whole and would encourage as broad of participation as is possible if your are among the lucky groups that are asked to participate. For those interested, I'll furnish a complete report of the selected groups at the next assembly. In the meantime if your among the members in the selected groups lets get our pens and mice prepared to stand up and be counted!!

Chris DeGrane

Area 20 Delegate





Concepts is published four times a year in the Spring, Summer, Fall , and Winter just prior to the Area's Assemblies. It is posted on the Area Website in both English and Spanish. If you would like to receive a copy via email please send your request to the Concepts Editor by clicking this [link](#) or using the Contact Us page of the Area Website. Happy reading.

## GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives.

We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God expressed in our group's conscience.

As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience.

As trusted servants, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.

# Working With Others

## Passing it on!

In my office I have several pictures, all of which evoke memories of a particular place and time. Most of the photos are of family members, particularly of my 2 children. One of the photos, however, is a picture of my sponsor Terry with his sponsor, and also his grand -sponsor at an AA anniversary celebration. I look at this photo often as both my grand-sponsor Dick, and my great-grand-sponsor Clancy have both passed in the last few years.

When I was newly sober (and honestly, not so newly sober) I was often a little bit intimidated by these guys. I guess some of that was simply self-centered fear,

wondering what they thought of me, but a lot of it was because I had such deep respect for them. They always seemed to very much be in the middle of AA and in action helping others. Both Dick and Clancy sponsored many men and truly were leaders in AA. Of course, it was also clear that they were both in AA for the same reason I was, and neither of these guys had achieved a level of perfection sober – they had the same alcoholic mind that I had. That said, these men were the best examples I could have had to see that AA worked. The direction I received from my sponsor was clearly illustrated in his life, as well in the lives of the guys ahead of him. Their example and direction has been essential in the lives of many AA members for many years and continues today.

I have also had the privilege of sponsoring several men in AA. While being of service, or helping others doesn't have to always be in the form of sponsorship, in my experience, sponsorship has been the most rewarding part of my AA journey. When I first started sponsoring, I felt a tremendous pressure to say the right thing, hope that I was having a "profound" impact, and even would take a little ownership in my sponsee's success or failure. So, even in service, my ego can still get involved!

Today, as I sponsor other men, I simply try and pass on my experience. That is, I share the things I have done in AA and continue to do, and in turn help them to do the same. The biggest thing we can do for someone we are working with is to get them to participate in their own recovery. As I've heard it said, this is not a spectator sport.

Here are a few of things I was taught to do by these men that have helped me immensely and that I pass on to the men I sponsor:

- Attend meetings regularly and consistently – at least 3-4 a week - suit up and show up.
- Talk to your sponsor regularly – be an open book and don't keep secrets.
- Read AA literature and work the steps as outlined in our big book.
- Seek and connect with a power greater than you through prayer and meditation.
- Have a home group – get a job in it, and don't miss it.
- Show up to meetings early and stay a little late – shake hands and make the new guy feel welcome.
- Call other alcoholics to see how they are doing and to say hello – make friends in AA.
- Participate in AA service – be on a committee, be a GSR, serve at District, etc.

I'm so grateful for the clear direction I was given in AA and for the example of the guys ahead of me on the path. They made it easy



to know what to do because they showed me through their own actions. The experience they shared with me is now what I attempt to share with the guys I work with.

I don't have to reinvent the wheel – I just need to pass it on.

In love and service,

Erik L.

NIA 20 Alternate Delegate – Panel 72



### Service is the Secret

I attended the Illinois State / East Central Regional Conference this past weekend. I can't tell you how much fun I had. It was great to see "old" friends and make new friends. It has been two long years since we have seen each other face to face in person.

I attended some of the panels which were very informative. One panel that I attended was about Bridging the Gap and Treatment.

So many new people don't know what service is. Over the past two years they haven't been to in-person meetings because in the past two years there haven't been any in-person meetings. All that they know is that you just log into a ZOOM meeting and later log off and then you are done. That is the newcomer's experience with Alcoholics Anonymous. The newcomer doesn't understand the meeting before the meeting and the meeting after the meeting and going for coffee and helping other alcoholics who are still struggling and they don't see that there is a whole other element to A.A. beyond service to self. It is because they are not in the rooms. That could be why we don't see a lot of new people doing service work. They don't know what it is and what to do. When we are all sitting around in person and we talk about "hey, why don't you come to this workshop? We need somebody to help set-up. Or we need help with something else and we all start talking about the "workshop". It's hard to get somebody excited when you are in a ZOOM meeting. It's hard to get people connected when you are in a ZOOM meeting. You don't hear about helping with something when you are in a ZOOM meeting. I believe that it is up to the "more seasoned" members who have been around for a while to invite the new people into service work. Invite them to a District meeting or workshop. Invite them to an Area Assembly and help them to understand what is going on. Let them see and understand that there is more to Alcoholics Anonymous than just service to self. Let them know that service work is very rewarding and enriches the persons' life and program. Plus, I find service work a lot of fun.

I know a volunteer who goes to a treatment center in Area 20. The treatment center can't get any volunteers. Most of their previous volunteers were sober in the 1-to-2-year range. Prior to Covid the treatment center had volunteers come in on a regular basis.

I have grandchildren and I worry that Alcoholics Anonymous isn't going to be the same in a few years. My grandchildren might need our help. You may know someone who may need our help. Will A.A. be there for them. Will there be a Treatment Committee to go into Treatment centers to give the message of A.A.? Will there be volunteers to go into the jails to share our program?

I encourage you to spread the word about service work. It is our Third Legacy and it helps to keep us sober.

In Service, Marilyn F.



## Reaching Out for New Opportunities

Starting a new job or career is never easy. There are new skills to learn, new connections to be made, new opportunities, and new challenges. It has been my experience that starting a new service position in Alcoholics Anonymous is not that much different. Although it's very exciting to be able to serve the fellowship in a new capacity, it's not always easy to transition into that new role. There have been times in the past where I had served as an Alternate Chair in a committee position which gave me the chance to "test drive" the position that one day I might stand for and, if elected, I would hopefully be prepared for.

And then there are positions in General Service that I have been very enthusiastic about but needed to reach out for additional assistance. I am thankful that this assistance has always been there if I am only willing to take an action. And one of these actions has been one I was taught early on: *Ask for Help*. I asked for help from a variety of people who had served in the fellowship. Those who had the position before me, those who were currently serving in this position in other Areas, my service sponsor, and those who are actually doing the work!

One area that I reached out to for this assistance was the General Service Office and the staff person who is currently assigned to the Committee I'm serving on. Shortly after the elections I sent an email to the General Service Office Committee service desk and introduced myself as a new Committee Chair serving Northern Illinois Area 20. Within a couple days I received a warm and friendly response, welcoming me to the work of my committee. There were also



pamphlets attached to get me started, information on my committee's Resource Page on the updated AA.org website, and links to the committee guidelines and the committee workbook with the kit contents.

Over the next several months I have received committee updates from the General Service Office so I could provide District Committee Chairs across NIA 20 with the most up to date information available. But perhaps the most helpful of all was the connection to the National Working Group of A.A. members who are also serving or have a shared interest in the same committee I'm involved in locally. This particular group, based out of the West Coast, meets monthly and brings a variety of topics of interest and speakers (both A.A. and our A.A. friends) from across North America and Canada to help us carry the message. This has been invaluable to me and has allowed me to reach out for ideas and thoughts that I can discuss with others back here in Northern Illinois to be put into action.

Lisa S.



### Are We Leaving Our People Behind?

I hurry to my meeting. Listen to the lead. I remember the voices of those who came before. They are in my memories and still to this day guide my actions.

The lead reminds me of a person from my time in sobriety. A word, phrase, a gentle warning, or suggestion. The voices in my head these days are much better than the screaming during those last months that led me to the fellowship . These are the voices of those who came before . Do you remember those words of help, and hope?

Some of those people are still with us. However, not able to get to meetings. Health, end of life issues, immobility. Still these are A.A.s. I have to ask myself what am I doing for the ones who are still sick? Those in and out of the rooms of A.A. In nursing homes or house bound or maybe just sick for a while. You see this is a living on-going program . And the disease is still present no matter our circumstances.

Are we leaving our elders or not so spry folks behind? Perhaps there is a better way. Perhaps a service we can do, is to provide a way to include those voices that populated our early meetings. The ones that gave us hope for one more day without returning to the shadows of active Alcoholism. Perhaps I owe them that opportunity.

Does your group have a virtual meeting outside of your face to face meeting? Can your group continue to provide this service for those who cannot make an in-person meeting? Maybe it is something we can do for those who helped us so much as we began our journey. Let us not leave folks behind.

Kevin A



# Walk Through the Big Book

## We Agnostics

At this point Bill has given us the doctor's opinion on alcoholism and alcoholics, told his story, given us a look at the solution, and told us more about alcoholism from an alcoholic's perspective. We have learned a lot about ourselves if we have been paying attention. The problem: we have an allergy to alcohol which produces craving when we start drinking and an obsession with alcohol when we are not drinking. This manifests itself in our inability to not drink and inability to control it when we do drink. The solution: a power greater than ourselves because we can not fix this problem with any human power – and we have tried everything we can think of.

But now this solution means accepting some beliefs that we either haven't had at all or certainly haven't capitalized on the beliefs we've had. Even if we have believed in some sort of power, we haven't been able to utilize it when it comes to alcohol. So Bill introduces some ideas to help in *We Agnostics*.

"If, when you honestly want to, you find you cannot quit entirely, or if when drinking, you have little control over the amount you take, you are probably alcoholic. If that be the case, you may be suffering from an illness which only a spiritual experience will conquer." Notice, you MAY be suffering . . . We cannot diagnose anyone as an alcoholic. Only you can do that for yourself. But if you are, and one like us "a real alcoholic" then you are without hope. We learned that in *More About Alcoholism*.

"To one who feels he is an atheist or agnostic such an experience seems impossible, but to continue as he is means disaster, especially if he is an alcoholic of the hopeless variety. To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis are not always easy alternatives to face." Despite this, we have tried over and over again to use morals, philosophies of life, and every trick we could come up with, but found them insufficient to stop drinking. "Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a *Power greater than ourselves*. Obviously. But where and how were we to find this Power?"

"Well, that's exactly what this book is about. Its main object is to enable you to find a Power greater than yourself which will solve your problem." Notice that problem is singular. We are not looking to solve any financial issues, family relationships, or problems with a job. The problem is living without alcohol. "That means we have written a book which we believe to be spiritual as well as moral. And it means, of course, that we are going to be talking about God." The beautiful thing about A.A. is that we don't ask anyone to believe in a specific God. We understand that everyone comes in with certain biases about God. Either by the way they were raised or by their personal experiences with life. A.A. does not try to define God or to shape a person's per-



ception of God. That is entirely up to the individual. What A.A. does ask is that you be open to the idea that there is a power, maybe undefined for now, that exists and is able to help solve the drink and manageability problem.

"We know how he feels. We have shared his honest doubt and prejudice. Some of us have been violently anti-religious. To others, the word "God" brought up a particular idea of Him with which someone had tried to impress them during childhood. Perhaps we rejected this particular conception because it seemed inadequate. With that rejection we imagined we had abandoned the God idea entirely. We were bothered with the thought that faith and dependence upon a Power beyond ourselves was somewhat weak, even cowardly. We looked upon this world of warring individuals, warring theological systems, and inexplicable calamity, with deep skepticism. We looked askance at many individuals who claimed to be godly. How could a Supreme Being have anything to do with it all? And who could comprehend a Supreme Being anyhow? Yet, in other moments, we found ourselves thinking, when enchanted by a starlit night, "Who, then, made all this?" There was a feeling of awe and wonder, but it was fleeting and soon lost."

What we were able to do is to not try to fit our thoughts of God into a particular belief but rather open our mind to the idea and see what happened. We are told we only have to be open, to be willing to believe, that is all. "We found that as soon as we were able to lay aside prejudice and express even a willingness to believe in a Power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results, even though it was impossible for any of us to fully define or comprehend that Power, which is God." Yes, we started to get results. I cannot express the importance of those words. It was those results that I needed in order to continue with A.A. If it had not been for those results, I am sure I would still be suffering from alcoholism.

But now how do we define this Power. "When, therefore, we speak to you of God, We mean your own conception of God. This applies, too, to other spiritual expressions which you find in this book." Your own conception. This doesn't mean that you get to create a God. In that case how would it have more power than you. What it means is your understanding of God is your

own based on your experience with God. In other words, God does the defining by way of your experience with God.

“We needed to ask ourselves but one short question. ‘Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe, that there is a Power greater than myself?’ As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built.”

Bill goes on to give examples of why we should believe; offering instances of our belief in things that there is no proof of, such as electricity, atoms and how they are fluid objects which are what very solid objects are made of. And then he writes: “We, who have traveled this dubious path, beg you to lay aside prejudice, even against organized religion. We have learned that whatever the human frailties of various faiths may be, those faiths have given purpose and direction to millions.” So, don’t rob yourself of what could be a life changing experience based on your prejudice toward other people’s beliefs. Right or wrong, their lives and beliefs are theirs, which you will learn – are none of your business.

I think too often we are so wrapped up in how other people live their lives that we miss out on blessings. I could never believe what they believe; they are just a bunch of hypocrites. “In our personal stories you will find a wide variation in the way each teller approaches and conceives of the Power which is greater than himself. Whether we agree with a particular approach or concep-

tion seems to make little difference. Experience has taught us that these are matters about which, for our purpose, we need not be worried. They are questions for each individual to settle for himself.”

So it comes down to, are you able to accept the possibility that there is a Power greater than you? What do we offer as proof that there is a God? Our lives are our proof. We came in the same way everyone else comes in. Broken, beaten, and in disbelief. Look at us now, listen to our story, the way we describe our transformation from drunk to productive member of society. If that isn’t enough proof, then maybe you just need a little more time, a little more willingness. If that’s the case, stay, watch, listen, and see if we are being hypocritical or are we truly changed by the program of A.A. if you still doubt you have lost nothing but some time. But maybe, just maybe, you can find a way of life that will blow your mind with goodness, happiness, joy, and peace, not to mention sobriety and serenity.

“What is this but a miracle of healing? Yet its elements are simple. Circumstances made him [me] willing to believe. He [I] humbly offered himself [myself] to his Maker— then he [I] knew.

Even so has God restored us all to our right minds. To this man [me], the revelation was sudden. Some of us grow into it more slowly. But He has come to all who have honestly sought Him.

“When we drew near to Him He disclosed Himself to us!”

So then, how do I find this Power? Stay tuned, “How It Works” is next in the series.



# GRAPEVINE News

Pass  
It  
Along!

## What's New For September 2022



### AA Grapevine

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Carry The Message Project

AA Grapevine Current Issue

Be a Part of Our AA Grapevine Community!

AA Grapevine's Podcast

GV Store: Magazines, Books & More

The ePub edition of Grapevine magazine

### New Tool: "Link in Bio"

Available on our Instagram account

### Now available to Download

New material

### "This Month's Serenity Prayer"

Accessible on both the Grapevine and La Viña "Resources" page.

### Coming Soon!

New La Viña Book

### "Sobriedad Emocional"

Available on Grapevine and La Viña Store beginning **September the 20<sup>th</sup>**.

### Happening Soon!

Grapevina and La Viña

### "Instagram Photo Contest"

You will be able to send us your most striking photographs. [Learn more here.](#)



### Grapevine's Audio Project

We are back collecting stories from the Fellowship in the form of audio recordings. We'd love to hear yours!

[Learn more here.](#)



### Service Opportunity

Become a Grapevine Representatives! GVRs are the link between AA Grapevine and groups. It is a fun way to get involved. [Learn more here.](#)

## What's New in Print and Online



### Grapevine

#### Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's featured section is **"Young & Sober."** Hopeful stories by members who came to AA at an early age.

#### Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

1. Service Keeps Us Sober – What's your favorite kind of AA service? How has service helped you? Have you done service beyond the group? Your story might inspire other AAs to do service too! (stories due Sept 15, 2022)
2. AA and Families – Are any members of your family alcoholic? Are any of them in AA? Did you find out about the program through a family member? Do you go to meetings together? Are your children heavy drinkers? Share your family recovery stories with us. (stories due Oct 15, 2022)
3. Upcoming topics – What I Love about our Twelve & Twelve! (70th Anniversary of the book); Mid-Sobriety Challenges; AA in the Military

**Important:** We're looking for stories of experience with each Step and each Tradition! (Pick a particular Step or Tradition and share your experience!)



### La Viña

#### Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's featured section is **"No Matter What"** issue.

#### Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

1. La Viña Short Stories
2. Prayer and Meditation
3. Annual Newcomer Issue

**Important:** We are always looking for stories on individual steps and traditions!

Visit La Viña online store, [click here!](#)



### AAGrapevine.org

Make your plans and add your events to our online calendar at [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share).

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share) to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine.

To listen to La Viña audio story (in Spanish), visit: [www.aalavina.org](http://www.aalavina.org).

## Area Chair / GVR Corner

Please let us know at [EA@aagrapevine.org](mailto:EA@aagrapevine.org) if your Area is planning any virtual or face-to-face events.

To request Grapevine Complimentary materials, please download the request form [www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources](http://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources).



### Grapevine Travel / Remote Events

Sept. 1 – 4	ICYPAA 2022	New Orleans, LA
Sept. 2 – 4	XLIX Hispanic Convention	Boston, MA
Sept. 3 – 5	CO/Intergroup/AAWS/AAGV Seminar	Denver, CO
Sept. 9 – 11	National AA Technology Workshop	Seattle, WA
Sept. 16 – 18	Pacific Regional Forum	Salt Lake City, UT



If you attend area events we'd like to know!

Also, if you take anonymity-protected photos at events, we'd love to post them on the [GV Display Gallery](#).

Please send the information and photos to [EA@aagrapevine.org](mailto:EA@aagrapevine.org).

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1962, the Grapevine Conference Committee recommended “Grapevine representatives will aim for 100% subscriptions in their groups, with follow-up on expirations to ensure 100% renewals.”

#### Need help with Customer Service?

Subscribers to Grapevine and La Viña

If you or someone you know is experiencing delivery issues, please email or call 1.800.631.6025 or 1.800.640.8781 (Spanish).

Email [CustomerService@aagrapevine.org](mailto:CustomerService@aagrapevine.org) for English or [Preguntas@aagrapevine.org](mailto:Preguntas@aagrapevine.org) for Spanish.

**We are pleased to be of assistance.**



## Is A.A. For You

Only you can decide whether you want to give Alcoholics Anonymous a try—whether you think it can help you. We who are in A.A. came because we finally gave up trying to control our drinking. We still hated to admit that we could never drink safely. Then we heard from other A.A. members that we were sick. (We thought so for years!) We found out that many people suffered from the same feelings of guilt and loneliness and hopelessness that we did. We found out that we had these feelings because we had the disease of alcoholism. We decided to try to face up to what alcohol had done to us. There are some of questions we tried to answer *honestly* ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), search “Is A.A. for you”). If we answered YES to four or more questions, we were in deep trouble with our drinking. See how you do. Remember, there is no disgrace in facing up to the fact that you have a problem.

## What is NIA?

The principal function of Northern Illinois service Area 20 is to be a forum for effective communication between the Groups and the General Service Conference through its Delegate. In addition to counseling its Delegate about the collective Group Conscience of the Fellowship in Northern Illinois, NIA will assist its Districts, Groups and members to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers in a broad variety of ways, including but not restricted to conducting workshops, sharing sessions and seminars in all fields of general service.

## NIA Statement on Self-Support

Our Seventh Tradition states that “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Northern Illinois Area 20 wants our fellowship to endure, and be ready for the still-suffering alcoholic to come. NIA makes this possible by taking care of its essential services such as website. The groups and districts in Area 20 fund this website thru their continued contributions and support. For additional information see the A.A. pamphlet regarding self-support.

## NIA Statement on Singleness of Purpose

Our Third and Fifth Traditions state that “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.” “Each Group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And as a Fellowship we do one thing only: “- share our program of recovery.”

Hello NIA!

The National Corrections Conference is coming in November! Area 20, along with Areas 19 and 21 will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Corrections at the Schaumburg Hyatt Regency from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> this year.

We exist to shine a light on corrections work in Alcoholics Anonymous. We have speakers and panels that give information on the work within the walls of correctional institutions, at the county and state level. We have professionals within corrections, those of us who have done AA work within the system, and those who have gotten sober through AA being brought into their facilities.

If you are at all curious about that work or have the idea that it would be something you would like to do, this conference will light that fire. I think I can speak for many, including myself, when I say that of all the work, I have done in Alcoholics Anonymous, corrections work was the most rewarding.

We will need help with greeters, with sitting the registration table, and with hospitality. The website to register; <https://www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org/>

We are still working on having a Zoom portion of the conference but keep your eye on the site for Zoom registration.

In Service, Dawn B.



### National A.A. Technology Workshop 2022

Moving Forward Together



**September 9th - 11th, 2022**

Seattle (Tukwila), WA and online

**In-Person Location:**

Hotel Interurban

223 Andover Park East, Tukwila, WA 98188

Room Rate: Two Queens \$139/night - One King \$129/night

Use Group Code **NAATW** when booking

**Registration:**

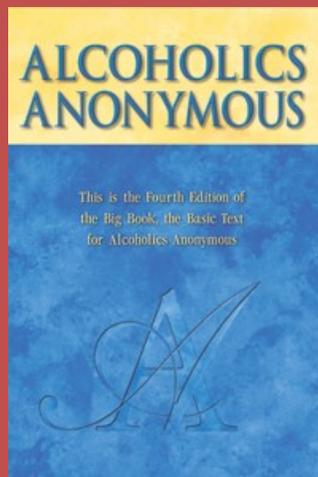
In-Person - \$75; Online - \$25

Onsite meal options available as add-on options. Friday buffet and Saturday box lunch

For more info and to register visit [NAATW.org](http://NAATW.org)

Also available via Zoom

<https://naatw.org/2022-naatw-workshop/>



**Big Book Conference**  
AA Northern Illinois Area 20

**Trust God  
Clean House  
Help Others**

**Saturday October 29, 2022**      **9:00am to 4:30pm**  
Registration begins at 8:00 am

**Morning Speaker: Tim R - Chicago, IL**  
**Afternoon Speaker: Tim H - Louisville, KY**

For Questions and Volunteer Opportunities  
Please Email:  
[bigbook@aa-nia.org](mailto:bigbook@aa-nia.org)

**Parkview Community Church**  
764 St. Charles Road,  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Spanish interpretation provided

For information and on-line registration, visit us at:  
[bigbookconference.aa-nia.org](http://bigbookconference.aa-nia.org)



SCAN ME



## 2022 Events

September 10 - Fall Assembly

September 22nd - 25th National A.A. Archives Workshop - [Flyer Link](#)

October 8th - Fall Committee Meeting (This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom, details to follow on the Area Website)

October 29th - NIA Big Book Conference, Glen Ellyn, IL <http://www.aa-nia.org/bigbookconference/>

November 11th - National Corrections Conference, Schaumburg, IL [http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/corrections-FLYER\\_FINAL-2022.pdf](http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/corrections-FLYER_FINAL-2022.pdf)

November 18th - Soberfest, Lake Geneva, WI <http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Soberfest-Registration-Form-2022-FINAL.pdf>

December 10th - NIA Winter Assembly, check NIA Website for details

These are only a few of the upcoming events. There are more workshops, studies, and meetings taking place listed on the Area website. See the [Area Calendar](#) for details on all events both local and beyond.

**Please Note: At this time, all events are subject to be cancelled, postponed, or attended through a virtual format such as Zoom, Skype, etc.**

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*Submissions for the next edition must be in by November 15th 2022*

