

2020 Fall Committee Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2020

Online Audio/Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer.

New Attendees

None

Anniversaries

Pat M. – 10/14, 38 years

Kevin A – 9/28, 20 years

Dave F. – 10/9, 6 years

64 Years of Sobriety Celebrated!

Approval of 2020 Summer Committee Meeting Minutes

Cheryl V. made the motion to approve the minutes and Kevin A. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the committee.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Note: Marilyn has posted General Service Office (GSO) communications on the Delegate's Page of the NIA website for additional information.

Greetings Area 20,

I hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe out there.

The final reports for the 70th General Service Conference, in English, Spanish and Polish are all on the NIA website.

Rich H. stopped by my house and picked up reports for many districts. Joey B. from District 22 picked up reports for his district and Don S. picked up reports for Districts 72 and 73. I thank all of you for your help.

ECR CDPP and ECR Conference for 2021 both postponed to 2022

The 2021 East Central Conference of Delegates Past and Present in February 2021 is cancelled. This was to be hosted by Area 74. Our current Trustee Mark E. will soon advise our panel 69, panel 70 delegates and their alternates of a date choice for an abbreviated orientation session and the opportunity to meet and get to know the candidates for ECR Trustee to replace Mark E. and the candidates for Trustee at Large – U.S. to replace Newton P.

The flyer that I forwarded to you at the Fall Assembly regarding the East Central Regional Conference/Ohio State Convention hosted by Area 55 on August 20-22, 2021 is no longer applicable as this has been cancelled. Earl, please remove the 2021 Ohio State Convention flyer from our NIA website. Thank you.

There will be no “in person” FORUMS in 2021.

I have included in my e-mail to the Area Committee a document from the General Service Office regarding Bridging the Gap. One of the questions that it asks is:

“Would you please share your experiences with Bridging the Gap (BTG), or some type of Temporary A.A. Contacts, which might be included in the development of a BTG Workbook and AA Guidelines on BTG?”

I received an e-mail from GSO regarding a document that was on their DASHBOARD. It is titled “Compiled QA from Special Virtual Finance Presentation to 70th G.S.C.” I have included this document in the e-mail that I sent to the Area.

I also received two e-mails from Greg T., the General Manager at GSO. I included both letters in my e-mail to the Area Committee.

The September 1, 2020 letter is about a new budget

The October 7, 2020 letter is regarding another \$1.5 million drawdown from the Reserve Fund by A.A. World Services, Inc. to cover cash flow requirements in the 4th quarter of 2020.

I asked our East Central Regional Trustee, Mark E. about this and his reply was:

“Yes, contributions are up but literature sales are still way down and it is all complicated by more of the retirements took lump sum payouts rather than continue on lifetime retirement payments monthly, plus we have not yet received the expected insurance payments against our 2020 International Convention losses.”

I e-mailed Cheryl’s resume to the nominating desk at the General Service Office and they acknowledged my e-mail both to me and to Cheryl V.

On October 13, 2020, I attended a ZOOM meeting with the GSC Treatment / Accessibilities Committee to discuss if we had anything new for the 2021 Conference.

On October 14, 2020, I attended a ZOOM meeting with Mark E. and the other delegates from our East Central Region. We talked about the \$1.5 MM drawdown.

I thank you for allowing me to serve you.

In Service,
Marilyn F.
NIA 20 – Panel 70 Delegate

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Expenses for 2020: | |
| Printed GSC documents | \$492.44 |
| March 2020 ZOOM | \$14.99 |
| Printer toner | <u>\$78.10</u> |
| | \$585.53 |

Discussion:

Karen F. asked if we were still paying rent for GSO in New York, and Marilyn confirmed that GSO is not open, but we are still paying rent on the leased office space.

Dave F. asked about the possible return date of furloughed employees that GSO may hire back. Marilyn said that was not mentioned in their report.

Treasurer's Report – Dawn B.

**2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer
NIA Fall Committee Meeting – October 17, 2020**

Balance Sheet

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020:

- Checking account balance: \$9,029.28
- Operating funds balance: \$13,821.54
- Restricted funds balance \$4,722.26 and consists of:
 - "Pink Can" \$4,012.41
 - "Green Can" \$709.85
- Savings account balance: \$23,514.00 (Prudent Reserve)

Profit and Loss Statement

The QuickBooks Profit and Loss Statement summarizes the revenues, costs and expenses incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2019 through August 1, 2020:

- Total Contributions: \$35,365.52
- Total Expenses: \$30,737.93
- Net Operating Income: \$4,567.60, which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2020.

Miscellaneous

- PayPal for Area Donations is all set up. As soon as the Webmaster makes it live, I will let the Area Committee know. Unfortunately, there are some hiccups at PayPal's end, and Earl is working on it with them.
- The Finance Committee has met, and agreed upon the proposed Primary Purpose Register (PPR) for the coming year, based on us having in person Assemblies and Committee meetings for the second half of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn B., NIA Treasurer – Panel 70 treasurer@aa-nia.org

Discussion:

A member pointed out a decimal point error on Page 1 of the report. Dawn agreed to correct that error.

Marilyn asked Dawn about the amount of the October contributions not yet included in the total year-to-date income. Dawn said contributions in October 2020 were \$1,968.25.

Rich H. asked about the \$2,500 seed money for the Big Book Conference still showing as a 2020 liability. Dawn replied that it will likely come back to the Area as an asset after the conference because it is a virtual conference, although there may be some limited expenses incurred.

Dave F. asked about the \$8,314.99 expense for the delegate to attend GSC. This expense was for Robert S., Panel 68 Delegate, to attend the GSC in 2019. The delegate's GSC expenses are paid the year after the delegate attends. Since Marilyn attended virtually in 2020, her expenses to date are only \$14.99 for photocopying.

Rich H. asked about review and approval of the 2021 Primary Purpose Register (PPR). Carmela said that the proposed PPR was sent by email to the Area Committee for review and will be discussed later today in new business. Any revisions or corrections discussed today will be made, and it will be sent to the DCMs for discussion at the districts. It will be on the Winter Assembly agenda for approval.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Erik L. made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended to correct the missing decimal point typographical error on Page 1 of the report, and Jeff L. seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the committee.

Interim Alternate Treasurer – Allen J.

Allen is catching up on August and September donations and has thank-you letters ready to send to the groups. The thank-you letters for January through June may still need to be done. He got help getting started with the spreadsheets from Nicole, a former Alt Treasurer.

Finance Committee Report

Karen F., Finance Committee Chair, said the committee had met and prepared the 2021 Proposed PPR that was distributed to the committee with the meeting agenda prior to this committee meeting. Carmela said that we will defer discussion of the PPR until new business later in the day. A Finance Committee meeting will be held in November where Area officers and committee chairs can approve of, or recommend changes to, the expenses proposed for their activities prior to the Winter Assembly.

Officers' Reports

Alternate Delegate – Chris D.

Welcome to the 2020 Fall Committee Meeting!!

SERVICE is DEFINITELY the SECRET!!

To start off I'd like to share my excitement as Districts 10 & 12 begin to finalize preparations for next week's annual Big Book conference. Once again, I have an opportunity to participate with my friend Andre D. from Area 87 in Montreal Canada! I would like to thank the BBC committee for thinking to add him to the program and can assure you he and his sponsor (Mike M.), who has also agreed to participate, are ready to go!!

I was hoping to tell you about the final plans for a Service Orientation Workshop that we'd been working on but that effort has been put on hold by the hosting district. I will keep you all updated when and if we resume planning activities. In the meantime, this would be a PERFECT opportunity for another district to inquire about their own Service Orientation Workshop as we have some topics and slides ready to go! This would be an excellent presentation for GSR's (and others) who are currently in the service structure (but may not entirely understand where they "fit") to understand how vital their roles are in carrying both the message of recovery as well as their groups collective group conscience (up and down the triangle). Please feel free to get in contact with me if this is something you think your district might benefit from.

Switching gears - At the last Assembly during our DCM breakout meeting, we (as a committee) decided to begin having periodic "DCM" virtual meetings. We haven't yet had our first meeting but plans are in the works to begin making this a regular occurrence. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to come together in a less "formal"

atmosphere and discuss issues relevant to all of our districts. In keeping with that thought, I spoke with our new Alternate Secretary (Karen F.) after the last assembly and agreed to assist her in updating the current DCM meeting list that contains the details (time and place, and sometimes Zoom info) for every District's GSR district meeting. I wish to thank all of the DCM's who have replied thus far and encourage the rest of you to please update your districts info when I reach out to you. I will try to create a DCM chat window today and will try to post that document for review (and update). We'll see how that goes....

2020 Reimbursement Requests

I have had zero reimbursement requests since my last report.

Respectfully submitted - Chris D. – NIA 20 – Alternate Delegate - Panel 70
(nia20altdel@gmail.com)

Chair – Carmela R.

Panel 70 Area Committee,

Can you believe we're planning for 2021 already? I hope everyone is staying safe and sane as we wind down 2020.

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – started in July, carries on monthly.
- Supporting Area Committee and Conference Chairs with Zoom account and helping to set up events and meetings.
- Finalizing Illinois State Conference Policy documentation.
- Worked with our Tech and Big Book Conference planning committee and Alternate Chair to host our Big Book Conference virtually.
- Preparing our 2021 Calendar and considering when we might be face to face again.

What's coming up:

- Officer meeting and Winter Assembly prep – next Officer's meeting is Wed, October 21.
- Focus on key areas:
 - Technology committee - Zoom support, file sharing, building committee
 - Electronic equipment committee – how do we need to prepare for hybrid area meetings, if needed, in 2021?
 - Open Area roles
 - 2021 Area PPR meeting in November – get everyone involved in the process
 - 2021 and 2022 conference planning support
 - Active committees – using our Zoom account(s) to meet
 - Support increased engagement and participation
 - Survey our Assembly to gather feedback about our meetings
 - Talk about it with you
 - Send me your feedback and ideas

Expenses to date: \$631.70

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 CDPP \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmela R., Area Chair, chairperson@aa-nia.org

Alternate Chair – Erik L.

It has been a pleasure to participate in the Big Book Conference planning committee. They have a great day planned with good speakers and panels. Rob M. and the Technical Committee have been great in assisting the committee with the technical aspects of this virtual conference. The Technical committee is going to be an important one moving forward.

I am focusing on how we can get more GSRs to participate at the Area level and will be keeping this discussion going. At the Fall Assembly, we had only 8 GSRs in the breakout session. I am visiting friends in Oklahoma who say they have the same problem getting GSRs involved in their Area 59.

I have no new expenses to report.

Discussion:

Phil said he is bringing the Big Book Conference to a church in his district for an in-person big-screen event. The district has an in-person Big Book meeting at the church with lots of newcomers who haven't met may old timers, so he's hoping this will bring them together. He is thinking of doing hybrid meetings for this Big Book group going forward.

Registrar – Carol H.

Carol was not present at the meeting. She submitted her written report, which is also posted on the NIA 20 website.

2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar – Fall Committee Meeting

The response from the General Service Office (GSO) seems to have picked up. The current reply from the Records Department indicates a faster turnaround then the past nine months:

“Due to the current public health concerns, the General Service Office will remain closed until 2021 while preparations are being made to enable the safe return of all G.S.O./Grapevine employees to the workplace. As a result of this crisis the office has gone “virtual” with the majority of employees working remotely. During this time, there may be delays in my response to your inquiries. We will strive to reply within 20 business days.”

The spreadsheets are being issued on a weekly basis now and we will be distributing Group Search reports to the District Committee Chairs (DCMs) prior to each committee meeting and assembly. Your Alternate Area Registrar, Rob M., has agreed to take on this responsibility so that as you Area Registrar, I can focus on the email requests, group, district and area updates, and follow-up needed for submissions to the GSO.

Many districts may have recently held or planned elections at this time of the year. I would like to encourage you to submit your new District Trusted Servant information to registrar@aa-nia.org as soon as possible as this will allow me some time to submit the information. The current communication is that there is hope the Area Registrars will have access to completing these updates in the “MyPortal” database by the end of the year, however, they are currently being sent via email. This is also a good opportunity to remind you that the Group Change forms and New Group forms are available on the Area website and can be filled out and mailed directly to registrar@aa-nia.org.

I have been in contact with the Area 19 Group Services Coordinator (Chicago – CASO) which is a paid position, and she appears to have the same struggles with group and position updates although they have purchased a new system to accommodate this information and focuses more on the Chicago Area assigned numbers. We hope to gather Area Registrars in the near future to a meet to discuss solutions to some of the common issues.

I have attended the CASO Chicago Area Service Sharing Session, the most recent one on “Third Legacy Voting Virtually” and learned a lot of ways that other areas are facing our current challenges. You can learn a lot from our closest neighbors if we choose to utilize from the experience of others. I plan on attending and participating in the service orientation workshop in Freeport on November 7 and hope to provide information to those groups about how they can register and answer any questions and requests.

All workbooks are available as a download on the websites below:

- General Service Representative (GSR) Kit - https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf
- Service Committee Workbooks - https://aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-service-committees
- Northern IL Area Service Manual - <http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web201908.pdf>.

Updated group change and new group forms are on the NIA Website <https://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. **All communication of changes and updates should be sent to the register@aa-nia.org mailbox or mailed to Area Registrar, PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524 .**

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H., NIA Registrar – Panel 70
registrar@aa-nia.org

Alternate Registrar – Rob M.

Rob said Carol is working diligently to maintain our registration database, and sent the DCM list out by email this week. Rob is taking on the task of getting the district lists out to DCMs. This involves heavy manual labor currently. Carol has been talking to Chicago Central Office (Area 19) and they are having the same struggles we are. Chicago Area Central Office (CASO) has ordered some software to help them, and Carol is seeing if we can leverage that software. Carol has been attending an online discussion group with other area registrars on how they are dealing with GSO, and how to maintain anonymity and security online.

Discussion:

Karen F., DCM D12, asked about getting GSR packets from GSO. Rob said it has been a challenge, and it is not isolated to our Area. Carmela commented that DCMs can direct GSRs to A.A. website to get the workbook contents online. Karen also asked about the Area Service Manual. Carmela has a big box of the them, so Karen can get them from her at her house.

Chris E., DCM D21, asked how to change a group from Area 19 (Chicago) to Area 20 (NIA). Rob said the group should use the group change form that can be downloaded from GSO to change area affiliation. Rob or Carol can help groups get it done. Chris D. indicated that this change can be done by sending a separate email to GSO asking for the change. With the current situation with the GSO database, it may be easier to work directly with CASO (Area 19). Rob will follow up with Chris E. offline.

Cheryl V. suggested putting a list of the pamphlets contained in the GSR and DCM packets on the NIA website.

Secretary – Christy B.

Christy said the Fall Assembly minutes will be out soon. She will also be working on getting the various sets of past minutes she has done posted on the NIA website. She thanked Karen F. for standing for and being elected to the position of Alt Secretary. She also thanked Chris D. and Karen F. for taking on updating the District Meetings List.

Conference Reports

2020 Big Book Conference Report – D10 & D12 (October 24, 2020)

Kevin A., BBC Committee Chair, reported that they are finalizing plans for the first online Big Book Conference next week. There will be some glitches; he asked those planning to attend to please bear with them. They will have some expenses. They are paying Zoom about \$300 for an upgrade to our account to add the webinars feature for easier breakout session access. He is grateful to Rob M. and others for all their help, technical and otherwise, with the conference. He said there is lots of help available for any district that wants to host the 2021 Big Book Conference, so don't be afraid to step up to host.

Karen F., BBC Committee Co-Chair, has sent out information to the speakers. She needs lists of all members on each panel so she can send out individual Zoom instructions to them. She thanked all the committee members, speakers and panel participants for their contributions to the conference.

Discussion:

ED M. asked if Kevin was going to include how technical challenges were met and ideas for technical improvement for future online conferences in the final report. Kevin replied with an emphatic "yes". Rob M. said the Technical Committee will be using this conference as a "guinea pig" to create technical guidelines for future Zoom conferences.

Heather S. asked if the link to the conference was on the website. The flyer is on the NIA website with a link to registration. A link to the conference will be sent to the participant after registration is received.

Old Business

Open Elected Positions Review

Chair Carmela said that elections for the open positions listed below will be held at the Winter Assembly. for elections. The duties and responsibilities for these positions are listed in the Area Service Manual.

- Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- BTG Committee Area Chair
- BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Grapevine / LaViña Committee Area Chair – Alternate

Bids for the Upcoming Conferences

No district has yet presented a bid for hosting the 2021 Big Book Conference. A request for bids will be on the 2020 Winter Assembly agenda.

A request for bids for the **2022** Spring Assembly Conference will also be on the Winter Assembly agenda.

Chair Carmela said that the NIA 20 "Northern Illinois Planning Procedures" document on the Guidelines page of the NIA website contains information on preparing bids and planning conferences if your district is thinking about hosting.

Discussion:

Rich H. asked if there was a cutoff date for the assembly to accept a bid for a conference. He knows from experience that without sufficient time to prepare, hosting a conference can be very difficult. Chair Carmela

replied that no cutoff date is set in stone, but at the executive level, a decision will be made that the event is too close in time for proper planning and preparation, so the conference is taken off the table.

New Business

Discussion of Motion in Preparation for 2020 Winter Assembly

Archivist Cheryl V. made the motion, and Secretary Christy B. seconded it.

Motion

It is moved by the NIA Archivist to amend the Duties of the Secretary and Archivist by moving the bullet point shown below from the Duties & Responsibilities of the Secretary to that of the Archivist.

Bulleted point:

- Maintain the database of N.I.A. Voted Actions, including both approved and failed Motions. Prepare an anonymity protected version for posting on the N.I.A. website.

Background material:

The current list of responsibilities for Secretary is lengthy, and this item was missed in the past. The work was picked up in past years by various Area Chairs, and more recently has been kept up by the Archivist. Since this effort aligns with keeping the historic data of the Area, it would seem to best lie within the effort of the Archivist role.

Discussion:

Rob M. asked how this document is updated and reported. Cheryl replied that it is a spreadsheet that is updated from the minutes and posted on the NIA website. The level of detail for each item recorded depends on the person updating the spreadsheet as can be seen when reviewing it. As archivist, Cheryl can research old minutes and update the spreadsheet. Carmela said it is a good reference document to go back and research what we did when, on various items being discussed.

Erik L. is in favor of this keeping this as an ongoing living document to give the GSR an idea of what goes on at the Area. He agrees it is a good idea to transfer management of the document to the Archivist.

Rich H. asked about recordings of the meetings. Cheryl replied that we have maintained the recordings. Some older ones are on cassette tapes, some are on mini cassettes, and newer ones are MP3 electronic files. Some of the old ones may not be usable. Carmela confirmed that she transferred recordings of meetings to a flash drive and gave it to the Archivist when she was secretary. Cheryl reminded the group that the minutes are the official record of each meeting, not the recordings. Secretary Christy commented that her minutes are records of the proceedings, including voting results and minority opinions, not transcripts of the meetings, although she does prepare detailed minutes. The audio files provide backup details if necessary.

Chris D. appreciates Cheryl's willingness to take this on. It has gotten overlooked by secretaries busy with minutes preparation, but it is a very important document as he learned when he was Area chair. There is continuity in having the archivist take on the responsibility because archivists generally serve for longer terms than secretaries.

Rob M. asked if there is some way to have the database provides additional detail on what happened, not just the voting results. Carol said that her goal is to make this a historic document with more information such as links to the minutes.

Carol H. suggested having established parameters for entries to the Area Actions database (spreadsheet). The audio tapes can be used when there are discrepancies and it is not clear from the minutes what happened at a particular meeting.

Chris E. said he downloaded the document and can see that it is 58 pages of fun.

2021 Proposed Primary Purpose Register (PPR)

Area Treasurer Dawn B. presented the proposed PPR for 2021. This proposed PPR was created by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee assumed that normal in-person Area activities would not begin until July 2021, and would continue through December 2021. The expected expenses for Area activities that occur regularly throughout the year were reduced by 50% for 2021 to account for only six months of activity. Dawn's explanation of changes to funding beyond reduction by 50% for six months of in-person activities, or slight increases for price inflation, are summarized below. Discussion of various funding was interspersed with Dawn's presentation; however, it is presented here after the summary of changes.

Activity B02 for funding the Delegate's attendance at the General Service Conference was reduced to \$2,500 because the conference was held online in 2020 and we pay this expense the year after the Delegate attends. This amount is subject to change after the GSO sends out the final cost per delegate for the 2020 GSC.

Activity B07 for The Concepts newsletter was reduced to \$2,500 for 2021 because it will be distributed electronically with some mailed copies instead of all mailed paper copies as in previous years, as approved by majority vote on the motion to change to electronic distribution at the 2020 Fall Assembly.

Activity B09 for attendance at the annual East Central Region Conference of Delegates Past and Present was reduced to \$0.00 because the conference will be held online in 2021.

Activity B11 pertaining to reimbursing Area members for attending the annual Illinois State Conference was funded at \$3,500 because we are not hosting in 2021, and only a few Area officers are reimbursed based on their required attendance as a duty of their office when we are not hosting. If the conference is held online, this expense will be less.

No expenses are proposed for **Activities B12 and B14** for the Spring Assembly Conference because there will not be one in 2021.

Activity B13 that supplies seed money for the Big Book Conference was increased to \$3,000 from \$2,500 in 2020. It is assumed that this Fall conference will be held in person.

No expenses are proposed in 2021 for attendance of Area members at the East Central Regional Forum (**B15**) or East Central Regional Conference (**B16**) because it is expected that these two events will be held online. Dawn mentioned that there has been some discussion at GSO about starting to charge a nominal fee for online forums and conferences they present, but the Finance Committee did not provide funding for these potential fees.

Our Area 20 will not be hosting the Illinois State Conference in 2021, and no expenses were proposed for this activity (**B19**).

Discussion:

Carol H. asked if the expected expense for **Activity B01** to pay for the expenses related to the Area Committee's participation in and reporting on the GSC agenda items during the Area Pre-General Service Conference (PGSC) workshop should be increased to allow the Delegate additional funds for items such as copying, making CDs, or

mailing materials to provide the agenda items information to the Area Committee, if needed. Dawn will discuss this with at the Finance Committee PPR discussion meeting to be held in November.

Marilyn asked if funds in **Activity B01** include paying for the Zoom accounts for the PGSC workshop. Dawn said it will, and this budget is based on the PGSC workshop being held virtually.

Regarding **Activity B02**, Carol H. said that the motion made in 2019 to fully fund the Delegate's attendance at the GSC was a one-time only motion to fully fund Robert S. attending the 2019 conference. The Finance Committee had prepared a motion to fully fund the Delegate's participation in all years going forward, but never brought it to the Area Committee after the pandemic forced the 2020 GSC to be held virtually. This is a motion that can be brought to the Area when in-person conferences resume in the future, if the then current Finance Committee, or others wish to do so.

Chris D. clarified that these are only proposed expenses. Approving the PPR doesn't preclude us from exceeding these amounts; they are for financial planning purposes. They are not setting limits on spending. If the person submitting the expenses incurred them while performing Area authorized activities according to their position's duties and responsibilities, they will be reimbursed.

Regarding **Activity B11**, Kevin A. asked what Area is hosting the 2021 State Conference . Dawn said it was Southern Illinois Area 21. Phil M. asked if anyone knew what the attendance had been at the 2020 State Conference hosted by Chicago Area 19. Marilyn F. said she had attended the post-conference committee meeting, and Area 19 thought they had about 500 attendees. Marilyn is going to follow up to see if our Area either owes any money for the conference or will be getting money for income exceeding expenses. The three Illinois areas jointly fund and share in net proceeds of the State Conference, if they exceed expenses.

Cheryl V. suggested that some funding should be added to **Activities B15 and B16** categories where small registration fees may start being required for online forums and conferences. Dawn will look at this at the November PPR discussion meeting.

A member said that the Treatment Committee was inadvertently omitted from the list of Group III Area positions with financial responsibility at the end of the PPR and asked that this omission be corrected.

Carmela moved on from the PPB items on the spreadsheet to the Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) section. This is where any motions approved by the Assembly that are still open are listed. Motion 74 (M074) – Literature for Treatment, passed at the 2019 Spring Assembly, is shown with \$1,000 remaining expected expense for 2020, and a 2021 proposed expense of \$4,000. The Panel 70 Treatment chair Lisa S. is currently reporting against funding. Dawn said that this is something we need to settle at this committee meeting before we ask the Assembly to vote on approving the 2021 PPR. Is it closed or is it still open? Carmela pointed out that Lisa could not be present today and we need to hear her thoughts on this, but we do need to settle this matter.

Carol H. asked how this proposed funding got back on the proposed PPR. It wasn't approved at the last assembly. She thought Lisa was bringing a motion to change the duties and responsibilities of the Treatment chair. Dawn said she thought Lisa was bringing a motion to provide funds for 2021, so she left it in the PPM section. Carol said we should ask Lisa if she needs funding for 2021, adding that funding for motions don't carry over from year to year if it's completed. Carmela said Lisa wants to continue to have the funds available and has been reporting this year with the assumption that it is still open. Lisa had 2020 literature purchases that were above the funds available in the Green Can account, and used the M74 fund to cover the overage.

Rich H. said he understood there was confusion at the time the 2020 funding was approved because of the language about a \$4,000 per year ongoing expense. Was the motion a PPM or PPB? It was determined that it was PPM funding with a caveat. The day it was passed was a crazy day. His opinion is that the motion should have been

for an annual one-time expenditure with an option to come back annually to revisit. It is up to the Treatment chair to come back and ask for funding annually, not up to the committee to decide.

Karen F. doesn't see any background material for the \$1,000 remaining in 2020, and doesn't see any details for the \$4,000 funding for 2021. Treasurer Dawn is also confused. She put it back on the proposed PPR because she thought Lisa was bringing a motion to fund it for 2021. If she isn't bringing that motion, Dawn will take it off the 2021 PPR.

Cheryl V. said we went to the Primary Purpose financial model with the PPR so that PP activities could carry on from year to year and not automatically end on December 31 each year. Lisa was elected at the Fall 2019 assembly and expressed in an email that she wanted this motion to go forward during her term as Treatment chair.

Chris D. explained that he was Area Chair at the Spring assembly when the motion was presented. Since the motion did not ask for the duties and responsibilities of the Treatment committee chair to be changed, it was brought as a PPM. It allowed the Treatment chair to access Area funds to buy literature for AA members working in treatment centers to give to people in treatment. It was a funny PPM, and it was worded to live on with no end date. Lisa needs to come to the Assembly and say this expense has ended, it is no longer needed, or it is not ended and we still need funding, so it should still go on.

Carol H. agreed that Lisa is the only one who can say she needs funds. She should bring a new PPM for additional funds. Since there is so much confusion about the ongoing expenditure in the original motion, we should have Lisa create a new one rather than keep the old one.

Rob M. said his understanding was that this PPM was approved to spend money to buy specific sets of things. The PPR sets reasonably expected costs of events or activities; it doesn't set a cap on them. Reasonably incurred expenses are paid for the specific event/activity. But the PPR is not an open checkbook. If the Treatment chair wants autonomy in spending funds for treatment, that becomes a PPB motion. Generally, if the funds haven't been spent, it's okay to spend it; if it hasn't, a new motion needs to be made.

Christy has the recording of the original presentation and discussion of PPM74 when it was approved at the 2019 Spring Assembly as well as the 2019 Winter Assembly when the former Treatment Chair John R. reported on the status of the funds in the motion for former Treasurer Carol H. to close out 2019 expenditures. She will send those recordings to Dawn B., current Treasurer, and Lisa S., current Treatment chair.

Rich H. 100% agrees with Cheryl V. and Chris D. that a motion doesn't end at the end of a year, or end of a rotation, but only for the original amount—in this case \$1,000 remaining from 2019. For new funding, the committee chair needs to bring a new motion for funding and proof of the need. In his opinion, this motion doesn't result in an auto reboot of \$4,000 each year.

Cheryl V. read the original motion presented at the 2019 Spring Assembly, which ends with "In addition, we anticipate spending approximately \$4000 per year (this amount would be less considering Green Can Funds)." The motion was approved 108 in favor to 35 opposed (76% in favor). Following a minority opinion given after the vote, no one wished to change their vote, so the motion stood as passed.

Dawn B. said she believes the disconnect occurred at the 2019 Winter assembly when John R., former Treatment chair, said it was done, and he meant it was done for 2019; however, Carol H., NIA Treasurer at that time, took it to mean he was completely done. Carmela R. said it was good to discuss these things fully so we can make good decisions

Kevin A. asked if this requires a change to the duties and responsibilities of the Treatment chair. Carmela said as a PPM it does not.

Carol H. said Lisa did make a motion to change duties and responsibilities, but Carmela asked her not to submit it at this time because it was a PPB motion, which was not required at this time. Carol reiterated that Lisa should bring a PPM to the Area for funding for 2021.

Allen J. said he understood that the difference between a PPB and PPM is that a PPM has an end point, and this one does not. A PPB needs a history for approval of changing duties and responsibilities. This activity has only been done once, so no history, and should be a PPM.

Karen F asked if money not spent goes back into their budget. Dawn replied that if it's not spent, it goes back to the Area. Then it needs to come up next year for inclusion.

Proposed 2021 Area Events Calendar Review

Chair Carmela presented the proposed 2021 Area Events Calendar on screen. It is also included in the Chair's Fall Committee Packet on the NIA website. Dates for the GSC, other conferences and events were included as currently known; however, with the current pandemic situation, there is some uncertainty about non-NIA 2021 events and whether these events will conflict with proposed Area event dates. Carmela also thinks it is possible that someone may present a motion at an assembly to continue to have the Area committee meetings on Zoom in 2021.

Carmela asked if anyone had an objection to holding the Winter Committee meeting on January 9, 2021 online via Zoom. No one objected, so we will meet online in January.

Discussion:

The 2021 East Central Region Conference of Delegates Past and Present (CDPP) to be held in February will be an online event. Rich H. asked Marilyn if she was presenting Cheryl V. as an East Central Regional Trust candidate at the CDPP and she said she was. Rich also wanted to know if this year was only going to include delegates, or if others could attend. Marilyn does not currently know the answer to that question.

Karen F. encouraged districts to volunteer to host events—virtual, hybrid, or in-person—in 2021 depending on the situation, to make it how they want it and put their district's personal flavor into the event, as opposed to the Area being responsible for all.

Rob M. asked if we could put in a range of dates when we don't know the exact date for an event. Carmela replied that we lock down dates in advance to make sure all the elements for putting on the event are in place. This is particularly important for avoiding conflicts, and when we have to secure a venue for an in-person event.

Alt Delegate Chris D. reminded Carmela that the Winter Committee meeting in January has recently included a Service Orientation workshop, which is not shown on the proposed Events Calendar.

Christy B. commented on the note "interested in virtual only committee meetings?" on the Winter Assembly entry. She is beginning to be in favor of virtual committee meetings. Carmela said we could discuss that at a future meeting.

Dave F. asked why we are meeting on the third Saturdays of September and October when our custom is to meet on the second Saturday of the month? Cheryl V. said it had to do with keeping at least four weeks between the committee meeting and the assembly so that DCMs have time to meet at least once with their districts to discuss items to be voted on at the assembly. Heather, DCM District 52, agreed that is important.

Chair Carmela said she would like to start having districts volunteer to host meetings in March 2021.

Allen J. asked if we are discussing safety issues as we prepare to go back to in-person meetings in 2021. Carmela said that was being discussed at the monthly officers' meetings.

Dave T. wants to discuss continuing virtual meetings after the pandemic restrictions are ended. Karen F. asked if continuing virtual meetings would require a motion. Carmela said it would.

Ideas for Winter Assembly to Make It More Engaging

This item was omitted to get the meeting back on schedule for adjournment. Carmela will send a survey asking for ideas.

DCM Reports

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| D10, Kevin A. / Michael L. | Kevin – We have our district meetings on the 4 th Sunday of the month. Meetings are currently on Zoom, but we may be going back to in-person meetings at St. Gilbert’s Church with a virtual component. District 10 is an odd-year election district, and Michael L. was elected to be DCM starting in January 2021. We have some positions to fill. Their BTG chair stepped down, but we have a new one getting ready to work with Gateway. He thanked Cheryl V. for helping them with Third Legacy voting procedures during their election. |
| D11, Kate D. / Pat M. | Kate – Our district meeting on the first Thursday of the month continues to be held online. We are having a Zoom workshop on Steps 1, 2 and 3 on Halloween. We will post a flyer on the Area website. |
| D12, Karen F. / Matthew K. | Karen – We had elections, but we have no new DCM yet, and we have some other positions yet to fill. |
| D20, Rafael V. / No Alt | Not present |
| D21, Chris E. / No Alt | Chris – We continue to hold our monthly district meetings online, but have discussed meeting in person next month. We hosted an online speaker meeting event last month, and we want to do it again in the near future. We have 41 in-person meetings, mostly at the Palatine Club. I am inviting some meetings to move from Area 19 to Area 20. We have succeeded in our effort to get Big Books and pamphlets into the Palatine Police Department for incarcerated people. The Police Department is happy to have these reading materials in addition to Bibles. Rolling Meadows also accepted Big Books and pamphlets, but were not as enthusiastic as Palatine. |
| D22, Joe B. / Dave F. | Joe – We have been having our district meetings outside, and we are hoping to move inside back at Zion Lutheran Church next month. Our district positions are about 85% filled. In-person meetings are happening at the Elgin Alano Club and some other locations, as well as Zoom meetings. All are posted on the district website. The former Concepts editor is speaking at the Sherman Hospital meeting on Zoom tonight. |
| D23, Scott T. / Dave T. | Scott – It’s going well in our district. We had one meeting that had been going for 21 years that was displaced, and we found them a new meeting place. Rob M., is our webmaster. We are working on getting an alternate to relieve Rob of some of his district responsibility. We are working on making hybrid meetings being held at the EDI Club better. |
| D28, Kevin K. / Johnna I. | Not present |
| D40, Gordon R. / Nanette S. | Not present |
| D41, Tom M. / Walt K. | Not present |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| D42, Jim A. / Barry O. | Not present |
| D43, John O. / Kate R. | John – We requested stories on AA experiences in the district during Covid for posting on the district website and the district archives. We have received five so far. We discussed 7th Tradition for groups with Zoom meetings—how to get and donate money. I continue to communicate with officers and committee chairs. We made and distributed Bridging the Gap flyers and will share them with other districts. We have a total of 98 meetings—25 in-person, 64 on-line, and 9 hybrid. |
| D51, Adam R. / Michael S. | Not present |
| D52, Heather S. / No Alt | We had elections this year. We don't have a new DCM yet. We made donations to GSO and the Area last month. We moved our monthly district meeting back into the hospital from Zoom. We have a small but mighty group in service. |
| D61, Natalie G. / Rita O. | Natalie – Our BTG committee has reached out to the St. Charles Rehab Center. A speaker meeting has started back up in person at the Alano Club in Batavia. Our website is up and going well. |
| D62, Betsy W. / No Alt | Not present |
| D64, No DCM / No Alt | Not present |
| D65, Alt Javier H. | We meet two times a month and visit groups one or two times a month. We are still alive. |
| D70, No DCM / No Alt | Not present |
| D71, Eric B. / No Alt | Not present |
| D72, Sue M. / No Alt | We hold our hybrid district meeting on the third Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The in-person portion is held at the Alano Club. The Alano Club has three meeting a night on some nights, so each meeting is short. We formed a workshop committee. I talked to Chris D. about a Service Orientation workshop, but it is on hold. We are updating our answering service call list. One new member is interested in PI. Our website is being refined. A literature committee is being formed. The Rockford Intergroup Office has closed, so we are figuring out how to move forward with literature purchases. |
| D73, Karen D. / Harry E. | Karen – We have our district meetings on Zoom. Our website has been updated with meetings on Zoom, etc. Two to four meetings a month are opening back up again in person. We have one new women's meeting, and one women's meeting closed. Our answering service is very active with people asking about meetings. Meetings are still suspended in both federal prisons and our three county jails. |
| D79, No DCM / No Alt | Not present |
| D80, Bill B. / No Alt | Not present |
| D90, Randall C. / No Alt | Not present |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| D91, No DCM / No Alt | Ed M., Area Alt PI Chair and D91 LDCM, reported for district. We have 11 groups in four counties. We have an answering service, literature and schedules in place. We continue to have social events outside and they are well attended. One long-time meeting held in a church has been shut out and will not be invited back. Our prisons are still closed down for meetings. We continue to look for a DCM. We are still giving to GSO and the Area on a monthly basis, and we have a substantial reserve. I have an idea for the district to use proceeds from social events to match donations from groups at a certain amount to support groups that need help financially. I will let you know if we move forward with that. |
|----------------------|---|

Meeting Closure with Open Mic

Open Mic:

Karen D., D73 DCM – The 2020 District 73 Fall Roundup in Dixon has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Karen F., D12 DCM – Please come to the Big Book Conference. It’s going to be great, and Ray M. will give an excellent history of the Big Book.

Phil M – I have an idea to have something on Zoom for the GSRs on Friday night before the Area Assemblies.

Kevin A. – We may need to have a Zoom component of all future conferences to include those who might otherwise not be able to attend because of distance or accessibilities issues.

Adjournment

Cheryl V. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kevin A. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Winter Committee Meeting will be held on Zoom on January 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy B.

NIA 20 Secretary