

## **2014 Spring Committee Meeting**

May 10, 2014

Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL  
(District 40, Host)

### **Call to Order**

### **Quite Time**

### **Serenity Prayer**

### **New Attendees**

None

### **AA Anniversaries**

Rob M – 26 years

Manus S – 39 years

Jeff L – 15 years

Richard Z – 10 years

Tina R – 22 years

### **Twelve Concepts of World Service:** Read by Chris

**Announcements for today** Chris -please register for lunch so we can get a count for pizza. District 40 is hosting the Big Book Conference in October; you can register today

**Approval of 2014 Winter Committee Minutes** Robert S called for comments or corrections; there were none. Winter Committee Minutes approved.

### **Treasurer's Report – Janet N**

We sent \$4,800 to GSO

|                               | <u>2014</u>        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions/Income:         | \$29,139.31        |
| Expenses:                     | <u>\$20,894.85</u> |
| Excess of Income over expense | \$ 8,244.46        |

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Current checking account | \$13,895.63 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Current prudent reserve | <u>\$16,860.00</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Net Assets | \$30,755.63 |
|------------|-------------|

### **Can Contributions**

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$2,983.45 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$1,945.90.

Green Can Fund: no activity

### **2014 Primary Purpose Register**

The 2014 primary purpose register thru April 30, 2014 is attached to this report. Actual expenses for each PPB and PPM are listed through April and estimated expenses for the next two months.

### **Expense Reimbursement**

Please remember to turn in all receipts with your reimbursement requests.

If you have any questions regarding this information or the attached financial reports please call or send me an email.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report

## Operating Committee Report

Steve reported the operating committee met once since the Spring Assembly. We do have one item that was sent to us by our Area Chair. I have contacted that person to let him know he's not been forgotten. We will attempt to have a conference call some time before the Summer Assembly as soon as I can figure out how to set one up. Thank you for your patience.

## Delegate Report – Cheryl V

The 64th General Service Conference (GSC) closed at 6:56 pm on Friday, May 2nd after having opened on April 27th with roll call of the voting members. It is my intention to give my first full report at the Assembly on June 14th. I am available after that date to give reports as requested. I believe it is important for the full Assembly to hear the report first.

There is no way in the time allotted at an Assembly to give a complete report of everything that happens at the GSC, but our AA Service Manual suggests that we report what we "saw and heard and felt." I believe that is on top of conveying the information on the "business" aspect of the conference. I'd like to take my time today to give some of the information.

## General Service Conference (GSC)

There are a couple meetings that happen "outside" of the conference agenda. Three of these happen on the Saturday afternoon and into early evening before the conference begins.

## 1728 Group

The 1728 Group was formed to help our Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic) to meet the Delegates and to develop a better understanding of our organization. These men and women give their time freely to us. As Rod B., Regional Trustee mentioned in his farewell talk, our Class A's give of their heart, because unlike us, their lives do not depend on service to AA. The meeting was opened by Judge Ivan L.R. L, Class A from New Orleans. This year the 4th Tradition was presented by Bob W, Trustee at Large, US and 4th Concept by General Service Trustee Albin Z.

## Remote Communities Meeting

Four presenters talked about various aspects of carrying the message in remote communities. These were: Michelle D-K. Area 78, Alberta & Northwest Territories, Canada; Sophie K. Area 42, Nevada; Jennie H. Area 85 Northwest Ontario; and Carolyn W. Area 79, British Columbia & Yukon. This was a very informative meeting, and I have volunteered to co-chair this meeting next year. While all of the presenters touched on the obvious aspects of remote communities (meaning reaching members where physical distance between meetings isolates members) they also talked about other aspects such as culture, language, literacy, and finances. For instance, in Area 78 a committee meeting can mean a 1300 mile road trip (equivalent to the distance between New York and Dallas) or a 2 hour flight. Another shared how in the smaller AA communities when a sober member dies it can be devastating to the group. One Area has created a workbook & service manual specifically on remote communities. Many of the people shared about using video conferencing to host meetings, with "stronger" groups sponsoring the smaller ones, along with Districts doing the same.

There was much general sharing about the cultural issues such as stigma of alcoholism in India and its people, along with the caste system there. Many cultures treat women alcoholics differently than men. Money can create a barrier in carrying the message, in part because poor communities cannot participate as completely in General Service simply because they cannot fund the necessary trips to functions. Some Areas have a specific fund to help these Districts better attend the Area functions. Another person shared about carrying the message into cultures that have no written words. Currently the Big Book is being translated into Navajo by recording. There is hope that this project will be finished next year in time for the Red Road Convention.

## Financial

To better understand the Reserve Fund, don't think of it as \$15.3 million overall. Think of it as a savings account of \$236.52 per group or \$11.01 per member. The services provided per group each year work out to be roughly \$146.96 and per member is \$6.84.

Group contributions continue to decline.

50% of literature sales are from the Big Book.

There will be a price increase on literature in October.

If every member did the birthday plan, assuming a minimum of \$1 for each year of sobriety, we could probably sell literature at cost.

### Grapevine / La Vina

Grapevine subscriptions for up in the year of the International Convention, then trend down. They have been trending down since 1989.

La Vina needs 28,000 to 30,000 subscriptions to reach break-even point.

La Vigne is the bi-monthly French version of the Grapevine published since 1965. It is published on a completely volunteer basis. The East Canada Regional Trustee is the Director, the 4 Delegates serve on the board. Any profit realized from the publication goes back to the 4 Delegate Areas.

### General Comments

Significant changes coming to the web site, but they aren't done yet. One item of interest is that you will be able to make reoccurring donations to GSO on a monthly or quarterly basis. The limit is still \$3000 per year and it will not allow you to do greater than that. There will also be improvement to "how to find AA" portion of the web; zip code, city/state, and map. You will also be able to find worldwide meetings.

Archives received approximately 1500 requests per year.

Big Book currently published in 69 languages with more on the way.

Will be looking for two Class A Trustees in the coming year.

Two Class B Trustees were elected; both came out of the hat. East Canada Regional Trustee from Area 90 Northwest Quebec, Richard B.; and Pacific Region Trustee from Area 08 San Diego/Imperial California, Joel C. were elected. Both were previously Panel 60 Delegates.

Any new pamphlets that were approved should be out sometime in July or so. More will be revealed on that top at the June Assembly when I give my full report.

### 2014 Inventory

There were 3 sections of questions, each having 5 groups of 8 or 9 members per group. Full report will be in the published in the Final Report, a summary will be in a special edition of Box 459. Some general notes I took:

There appear to be language barriers at the conference because background material isn't translated this seems to imply that some members are "less than" others.

A concern that Trustees are more informed than the Delegates when they come to GSC.

A suggestion that agenda items be proposed 6 months to a year in advance so that more discussion can happen in the Areas.

A suggestion that background material be given an executive summary page in a standardized format for better communication.

A general concern that the General Service Board isn't communicating clearly

Several comments about how the Delegate committees might be better involved year-round in the conference committee structure.

Discussion about the election process for the General Service Trustees, and the length of service / lack of rotation of the individuals who serve in these roles; could potentially serve for 10 years.

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

Kicks off Thursday night with dances. Marathon meetings start at midnight and continue through Sunday. Friday night flag ceremony will also have 3 speakers, Saturday evening Old Timers meeting (40+ years of sobriety) and Sunday morning wrap-up meeting with have 3 speakers. Flag ceremony will have a flag for every country that has a member attending. In 2010 there were 96 countries.

East central region will be hosting a hospitality suite so there will be opportunities to be of service.

Approved spiritually pamphlet and new version of Circles of Love and Service

## **New Business:**

Robert S – We will accept Floor motions and they will need to be in writing so our Secretary can get into the minutes.

### **1. Motion by Finance Committee for service committee chairs to host workshops and that various PPM entries be marked as “Complete” in the PPR**

Judd W presented.

This motion has two parts.

Questions/Comments: Cheryl V -on allowable expenses, I don't see anything for rent; did you leave out on purpose?

Judd – that was inadvertent

Terry W -how did you come up with 9 workshops? Judd W -there are 9 service committees; ideally each would hold multiple workshops but it hasn't happened in the past. Terry W –I see no mechanism for how they will be done or to be sure they happen and will we get a report back at committee. Tina R – is this on a time period or does it roll over? Judd W –that's a detail that needs to be added. It's a PPB, so this would be refreshed every year.

Joe S CPC for NIA 20 -was there any discussion of depriving servants? Judd W -there was not. PPR is supposed to enable what is already in our service manual; service committees already have the authority to hold a workshop. We've already been asked to do these things; purpose is to make it possible.

Mike H -the reason we made motion is to eliminate what Joe talked about. Workshops would be preapproved and go against PPB. Doesn't make a difference how many we get. Taking separate motion away from committee chairs not to deprive but give them a better way to work

Jim W - PPB is going to set up 9 slots for workshops and whatever committee takes up slots is irrelevant? Judd W -no, the PPB enables activity; projected cost is not a limit, it's what we are using for planning purposes. Purpose is to hold the workshops.

Robert S -this will be on the agenda for the Summer Assembly.

### **2. Motions by the Treatment Committee to fund Chair participation at the BTG Workshop in Sept 2014**

Betty G presented

Questions/Comments: None

### **3. Motion by the Treatment Committee to purchase literature for districts unable to provide for themselves**

Betty G presented

Questions/Comments:

Dawn B -do any other committees provide literature for districts that cannot afford it or only treatment? Robert S – as I understand there is no other PPM to provide literature

Mike H – PPM35 to purchase literature for treatment facilities in need; already exists; no indication of how many districts in need of literature. Robert S -do you have that history? Betty – I've tried and got no response. My primary purpose is to help the still suffering alcoholic.

Kelly L -I'm concerned about PPM35. When the motion was originally made it was to help the BTG programs; do we know how much is the balance of PPM35? Judd W -was expected to cost \$922; so far just slightly over. Betty - understanding is PPM35 is complete and this is a new one. Betty will report as complete at next assembly.

Rob M -shouldn't districts be taking care of their own literature needs? Betty – this [motion] is if there is a need and a request. I believe we need to have the ability to supply the literature if needed.

Ed M -at D91, we don't have treatment centers but have 3 hospitals. Would this qualify under this motion? Betty -due to a suggestion from my alternate from D90, they get large print big books and loan to treatment.

Marcia S -was number 3 rewritten? Robert S -the one attached to my agenda was emailed to me; both changed. Hard to tell where literature would be going. Betty reread the motion; expanded to detox and halfway houses.

Marcia -you had no requests from treatment centers or committee members but you anticipate having a \$1,000 need? Betty -if you build it they will come. Marcia –there's no request yet? Betty -I think that is a request

Terry W -we had not requests for workshops and we approved \$2500

John C -used to have a comprehensive list of treatment centers. Is there a real need in treatment facilities these days?

Betty -I've been told there is. I don't have a list because I've been putting together volunteers. John C -do we have a meeting list of where treatment meetings are? Betty -we need to have literature to carry the message

Weezie -Alt Treatment Facilities Chair, in D90, those big books graciously donated by NIA are being used; there is a need. Our district is a poor district we only have \$100 in the budget.

Kelly L -I think confusion is that it's not just treatment facilities; includes DUI schools, not specifically treatment centers. I'm a little concerned there are no actual requests

Carol H -D11 is fortunate enough to have funds available but I know there are districts that don't have the funds. Harder when you don't have specific requests but, if funds are available people will pursue those funds.

Ernest L -PPM35 had to do with BTG committee and that's complete and covers all facilities; for the treatment committee, it makes it more difficult. Betty -I believe Treatment and BTG go hand and hand

Carol -we have a treatment facility but don't have a BTG committee.

Robert -need to ask that you send me the motion that will be the final motion; please come up with one motion to present at the assembly.

#### **4. Motion by Electronics Committee to create PPB for equipment maintenance**

Withdrawn. Covered under PPB10 for amounts under \$200; any major purposes would still need to come to the assembly.

#### **5. Appointment by the Area Chair to replace resigning member of the Conference Advisory Committee and appoint new Alternate Web Administrator**

NIA approved the position of Alternate web administrator

Robert -I am appointing John C from D10. Also, Michelle H resigned from the Conference Committee so I am appointment Debbie P from D40. Debbie is a former DCM and former hotelier.

#### **6. Acceptance of motions from the floor**

Jim W presented a motion for the PI Committee to sponsor 3 workshops in 2014

Questions/Comments: none

Robert -obviously if the finance committee's motion gets approved wouldn't need to present this motion at the Summer Assembly.

Robert S -at summer assembly we will accept bids for the 2015 Big Book conference; anyone interested should prepare a bid. Encourage people to begin thinking about preparations for future Big Book conferences and Spring Assembly Conferences.

#### **Old Business**

##### **2014 Spring Conference Report**

Bob P reported -

The 2014 Spring Assembly Conference was held March 28th – 30th, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Gurnee, IL. Districts 10, 11, and 12 co-hosted the event. The Conference theme was, "Living in Ten, Eleven, and Twelve".

Registration opened at 4:00 P.M. on March 28th. 387 people pre-registered; of this number, 38% registered on-line. The conference "break even analysis" was 600 registrants at \$20.00 apiece. The total number of registrants was 766. The walk-in rate was 49.5%. Al-Anon/Alateen participation was 14%. Registration closed at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, it is reasonable to speculate over 800 people attended this conference. The 3% Pay Pal fee was borne by the on-line registrant. This fee should be mentioned on the flyer. It is suggested 10,000 flyers be printed (this committee printed 8000 and then an additional 3,000 flyers). Flyers were bi-lingual, Spanish on one side, English on the other. 750 programs were printed. Due to the already mentioned 766 attendees, 750 programs were not enough; the Conference ran out of programs. Going forward 1000 programs should be printed. 320 banquets were sold at \$35.00 apiece. The food and beverage commitment was satisfied. 90 boxed lunches were sold and 100 ice cream socials were sold as well. All food items were "passed through" with no realization of profit. As noted, the boxed lunches and ice cream socials were considered to be part of the total Food and Beverage commitment. Due to an efficient Hospitality Room, the Assembly/Conference only consumed 41 gallons of coffee versus the contracted 75 gallons of coffee. All tea etc, was served in the Hospitality Room. This kept costs down. The hotel did not charge for the difference.

The conference paid back Area 20's \$3000.00 seed money. Due to an experienced overall committee, costs were kept low; because of this, the conference enjoyed a surplus of \$9038.52. The Program, Alcathon, Decorations, Entertainment, Hospitality, Printing, and Special Needs committees were all under budget. As mentioned, the Al-Anon/Alateen rate of participation was 14%; a check for \$1265.39 was issued to Al-Anon to reflect their 14% share of the surplus. The remainder of \$7773.13 was paid to Area 20. The hotel bill was \$14,679.62 minus \$850.00 (deposit) for a net of \$13,829.62. No irregularities between the hotel bill and the contract were noted – the bill was paid promptly.

This is one of the finest groups of people I have ever worked with. It was my pleasure to serve on this committee. During the course of this event, some challenges arose. This committee met every challenge with kindness and grace. All deadlines were met. I am grateful for the experience.

### **2014 Big Book Conference Report**

Jeff L reported – our last meeting held May 4<sup>th</sup>. The committee had a walkthrough on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to get a number of how many tables and chairs we will need and how much space is available in the lobby for registration, literature and Amot tapes. The final flyer is complete except for the online registration information, still waiting for the PayPal account to be set up. When the flyer is completed it will be sent out electronically to all the DCM's and committee chairs. Our PI chair emailed the "Save the Date" flyers to the Delegates of Area 19 and 21. The committee is preparing to put together a sign-up sheet for members of the committee to visit Area 20 district. The Literature committee has been in contact with CASO in regards to the literature order. The food committee is making progress on the breakfast items and getting quotes for lunch. The alternate program chair has ten volunteers to be moderators at which he e-mailed the topics to and mentioned it was a first come first serve on which panel they want. He is still looking for two more moderators. The is not sure of what to do in regard to the Spanish panels which we have rooms available for since he still hasn't heard from them. The greeter committee is securing volunteers and has found a business where we can rent extra tables and chairs. We secured a blot of 10 hotel rooms at Budgetel located in Glen Ellyn. The rooms are \$55/night when mention the Big Book Conference. A continental breakfast is included and there is an indoor swimming pool. I will be taking registrations today. The next planning meeting is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Questions: Betty G -what is a moderator? Jeff L -for the panels

### **2015 Spring Conference Report**

Joe M -had our first organizational/planning meeting. Will have another meeting next Sunday to fill out committee. Look forward to hosting this -so far an interesting adventure to submit proposals for hotel bids. Look forward to hosting. District 22, 61 and 20 are working together.

John C -do we have a report for any activity for the State Conference or the ECR Conference? Cheryl V -Mark M, Area 19 Delegate will be in touch with the other two Areas for alcathon volunteers; flyers are on the table and if you have any questions just ask. Also, East Central Regional Conference is coming up in July; 6 have agreed to go - three NIA officers and three NIA chairs. Purpose is to try to help bring regions together to get 14 Areas to work more cohesively together.

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **Alternate Delegate – Kelly L**

I would first like to first welcome Cheryl back from New York. Thank you for all you did for NIA 20 and the still suffering alcoholics.

I haven't done much since the Pre-General Service Workshop. At that workshop the DCMs and I discussed having some Service Orientation workshops that would include three or four districts combined with the expectations of getting a larger attendance. So far I have talked to one DCM about their district having a workshop with the three surrounding districts participating. The Orientation Workshops are included in the primary purpose basic registrar. Districts will not be responsible for the cost. If I don't receive any requests soon, I will try to put one together and have it here at Lord of Life Church.

I want to thank all the DCMs that have sent me their DCM reports that are being presented today.

### **Alternate Chair – Marilyn F**

Since the last Committee Meeting on January 25, 2014 I have attended the following:

On 2/2/14, 3/2/14, 4/6/14 and 5/4/14 - Big Book Conference Planning meetings.

I attended the walk-thru on 5/3/14 at the church where the Big Book Conference is going to be held.

On 2/9/14, 2/23/14, 3/9/14, 3/23/14 - Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meetings. On 4/13/14 I attended the wrap-up meeting.

On 3/28-30/14 I attended the Spring Assembly/Conference held at the Holiday Inn in Gurnee.

On 4/12/14 I attended the 2014 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop

On 4/19/14 I attended the 2015 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting.

### **Secretary – Nicole E**

Please turn in your written reports. If you need a new name badge, please let me know.

### **Alternate Treasurer - Judd W**

Please share this detail with your group and encourage them to contact

Rich H. – in the past it was formatted as the GSC does to include whether they have contributed or not.

Judd W – there are 1100 groups, so not likely we are going to include that.

### **Registrar – Dawn B**

Since spring assembly 114 changes between groups, new groups and district changes. I've provided hard copies of the new group information sheets.

Yesterday was the cut off for Regional directory; if you don't check off to be in the directory, I will presume you don't want to be listed. Also, when you remove a GSR or primary contact from your group information – the group status will change to inactive.

### **Chair – Robert S**

I have received a few motions to be placed on the agenda for today and have been in communication with members of the finance committee, the treatment committee chair and members of the electronics equipment committee.

The finance committee is proposing a PPB item for service workshops which will be an on-going yearly basis function of the area. This would allow service committee chairs present workshops on their service function without having to go through the motion process every year or when taking over from the last rotation.

I am assigning officers to be contact people for the service committee chairs in much the same way that Kelly assigned officers to be contact people for DCM's. This is in no way to suggest that these individuals need help to do what they have been elected to do, it is just a way to keep us working as a team and providing a point of contact when there is a question or concern. The idea for this came out of discussion among the officers in our attempt to be a cohesive group all working for common goals.

I want to remind everyone that the purpose of discussing motions, today, is to prepare ourselves for going back to our districts and/or groups in order to discuss them there and return with our group's opinion at the next assembly. Therefore I am asking that we keep the discussion to the point and not repeat what someone else has already said.

There will be an opportunity to present a motion from the floor.

### **Service Committee Chair Reports**

**Answering Service – Terry B,** reported: I am pleased to report that Robert & I have been working on the

"How to Find A.A. In Illinois" pamphlet. On the back of our current pamphlet, it reads "Southern Illinois Area 21". It will take some time, however I have confidence in our working together it will serve us all for the better. We are, as always open to suggestions

**Archives** – Ernest L, Alternate reported:

No written report; working in collaboration with Archivist to bring workshops to NIA this fall. Jeff G couldn't be here today because not feeling well.

**Corrections** – Pat C, Alternate reported:

Dan apologizes for not being here but had a family matter to take care of.

April and May have been fairly uneventful. We ordered books to be delivered to inmates in multiple counties including Henry, Winnebago – Spanish Version, and Lake. We also were able to supply the Transitional Women's Facility in Aurora and Sheridan Prison with books, too. We have had multiple requests for workshops and look forward to attending and contributing to those.

There has been a request made by the DuPage County Jail via JUST (the volunteer arm) to provide more female volunteers for meetings inside the jail. Along with AA, they are looking for other groups such as NA, CA and people that have had an addiction to heroin. As most of you know, DuPage County has seen a dramatic rise in heroin use and overdose deaths. Although that is not alcohol, many of us have had problems with other substances and your help in that jail is needed. Please contact Dan L, Correction Chair, for more information.

**CPC**, Joe S reported:

Upcoming events:

May 14 – D42 monthly meeting

May 24 –CPC and PI Workshop, "I Want The Hand Always To Be There" at Christ Church of Oakbrook

June 9-11 – Haymarket Symposium – Summer Institute on Addictions at Elmhurst College. This is an opportunity to serve on an information desk for our fellowship for a few hours. Some Institute Workshops are available to our member volunteers to attend. Most attendees are professionals in the addictions counseling field and know some about who we are so they need local meeting schedules and possibly a little help on what we do and do not do.

District activity

D41 -Wellness Fair; staffing information desk to share Who, What and Where we are

D42 -attempted to reach out to business meeting of school nurses; planning a workshop

D61 -working on composing approximately 900 mailers to medical and clergy professionals

D70 -continues to place literature racks in medical facilities

D71 -reached out to local homeless shelter; now has an open beginners meeting at their long-term transition facility

Cheryl V -in the past there was a motion to fund literature for Haymarket; are you looking for donations for that event?

Joe S -when I contacted Walt he has plenty of literature but local meeting schedules and Chicago meeting directories would be appreciated.

**Grapevine**, Jim reported:

I brought the area Grapevine display to the Spring Conference and worked the Grapevine table along with volunteers from other districts. The hosting district did a great job with their handling of this task.

I ask the DCM's to have their GV chair's submit their information to Dawn so that I can get a current contact list. The list I have now, as of 4-5-14, is missing GV's from these districts; alt. from 10, chair & alt. 21, chair 42, alt. 51, chair & alt. 52, alt. 62, alt. 64, alt. 70, and chair 90.

We are looking for district that would like to host a Grapevine workshop. It is a simple process, just contact me for details. Karen and I will work out the division of duties for the flood of requests, if we get any. There is area money budgeted for these so you need not let district finances affect this decision.



**Literature**, Francisco reported:

What can we do for you or your districts? So far no requests but I would like to work with you and would appreciate your input.

**PI**, Jim W reported:

Contacted by Bob in D42 regarding a CPC/PI Workshop that Joe mentioned; Jeanne F was in NY all week; she was at a wellness event for a Chicago high school; I sent an email to all PI chairs. High school counselors were not aware of our singleness of purpose but also that there are other 12 step programs. Does anyone know of a pamphlet entitled Singleness of Purpose? Maybe we need to have something created for what the public should know about the 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

**Special Needs**, Urbano reported:

Ordered literature from GSO, including large print. We ran a meeting at the Spring Conference.

**Treatment**, Betty reported:

We had a BTG workshop at the Spring Conference that was well attended. Don L expressed a willingness to approach staff at SHARE regarding BTG and now has clients and volunteers signed up. Forms, GSO pamphlets, Hope DVDs and the animated Young Peoples DVD were shared with him. All treatment chairs that might have SHARE clients returning to their district were notified but I've had no response. A volunteer when asked said, "I have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body; how could I possibly say no to an AA request."

I hope we can see that sort of enthusiasm from our treatment chairs before long. Quite a few volunteers have been gathered, now we need continued efforts across NIA so all treatment facilities and districts are approached and represented. A BTG Workshop was offered to D61 in St Charles but so far no response. Similar offer made to other districts. D42 agreed to allow us to do a workshop; flyers are available on the table and submitted to the webmaster. Your Treatment Chair and Alternate attended D71 GSR meeting. They have a jail, so interest in BTG for corrections. A suggestion has been made to give a brief BTG presentation to DCM's therefore a short version of a BTG presentation was updated with hope of showing at an NIA meeting or another venue.

A contact was requested for a gal returning to D80. DCM Chuck Z agreed to line up volunteers.

**Archivist – Ray reported:**

Brought literature to D91; we talked about AA history and I brought archives material. Any district that has material for archives such as newsletters or meeting minutes, we are more than happy to accept that, even if in digital format. Earnest and I are in the process of coming up with an Archives oriented presentation.

**Concepts**, Phil G reported:

The Spring Concepts has been mailed and is available online. Summer Concepts is in process. Deadline for the Summer edition is June 10th. If you wish to make a submission and cannot make the deadline, please contact us at [concepts@aa-nia.org](mailto:concepts@aa-nia.org).

We appreciate receiving district minutes, DCM reports and news of your district and group activities. It is from this information that we write the "Area Beat" and Calendar sections of the newsletter. Concepts is produced by and for service minded people in NIA 20. It is a place to share experience, strength and hope, to express ideas and concerns about AA service and to welcome others to your district and group functions.

Concepts reaches about 1,400 people in Area 20 on a quarterly basis. For those GSRs that do not attend Area Assemblies or District Meetings (about half of the 1,100 registered GSRs), Concepts is the only channel for news of the Area or the District and it is the only place to learn where to send funds to the Area.

Concepts is available on the web and the Concepts Calendar is updated monthly on the web. Please keep us updated so we can keep you all updated.

## **Electronic Equipment, no report**

**Web Administrator**, Tom S reported: John C. was appointed by Robert S to the Alternate Web Admin position.

The Domain (AA-NIA.org) has been renewed, next expiring Jan 2015

The Website hosting has been renewed, next expiring Jan 31, 2015

Districts 21, 22, 23, 41, 43, 62, and soon District 72 enjoy free webhosting for their websites courtesy of NIA area 20.

The website has a section for anonymity protected reports and meeting minutes located under "information". All Committee Chairs and Alternates should check the website for their reports.

The website continues to have "password protected" capability although the only use for it now is to protect the phone numbers found on the "Concepts" calendar and newsletters.

Robert S - Does conference advisory have a report? Remember they are available as a resource so you can give a good report.

Tina asked for a break to deal with the recorder.

**Report and Charter**, Lisa S reported: they will have a conference call the second Tuesday of every month. Bill E was elected chairperson.

Robert S – we will take a short break; during break – any committees that want to get together feel free.

## **Conference Advisory Committee** – Ray M reported:

As of lunch, I'm now the chair. Reviewed the motion that set up the committee; Marcia was elected to serve as secretary. Manus asked me to participate at the 2015 Spring Conference planning meeting to give an overview. After that meeting they selected officers and program committee chairs. We also held a meeting at Marcia's house to discuss facility selection and process. Committee is reviewing proposals. Will let you know as it develops. D90-91 indicated to have a formation meeting to put a bid together for the 2016 conference. Will continue to participate and serve as we are invited.

## **DCM Reports**

Dist 10, Mike reported:

Districts 10 and 12 are holding their shared breakfast for the Spring at the Bonnie Brook Country club in Waukegan May 18th. Our new Chair of events Andrea H is working with Terry From district 12 whose turn it is to do most of the planning. Tickets in advance are almost sold out.

The district has found Tim M to webmaster our website committee. He is experienced and Eager.

The spring conference 2014, at the Holiday inn Gurnee on March 28 hosted by district 10, 11, and 12 was a big success. Bob P. will have a full report on that.

The annual "A Way out" anniversary party has been scheduled for October 11th this year at the Libertyville civic center in Libertyville.

Also our CPC chairperson Rick has been approached by a group of Doctors to do a weekend Open house possibly in the fall at a downtown Hospital.

The district has a surplus of funds right now. Our treasurer is arranging to make donations to The Area, GSO.

The Literature committee is doing a good job of making newcomer packets and Big books available to GSR's

Dist 11, Carol reported:

In District 11 we not only rotated our elected positions this year but also our monthly meeting location as we moved from the McHenry ALANO Club to the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake. Our new space is much larger and has been used in the past for some of our district events. Although our numbers of volunteers have only slightly increased we are seeing many new faces and some past district volunteers that have returned to our meetings. Most of our positions are filled with the exception alternate positions for Grapevine, PI, and Treasurer. Earlier this year we created a Literature Committee but so far no one has stepped up to fill those committee positions and recently Dave G. our

newsletter editor stepped down as he has been doing our newsletter for over 10 years. We are very grateful for his time and efforts as he has pretty much been a one man show most of his tenure. Our plan is to form a committee to bring our newsletter to print and we have been working on guidelines to help make the enormous effort less daunting.

One of our biggest projects this year has been to create a meeting schedule that was accurate and as up to date as possible. In the past we have relied on one Local Committee Member and a Schedule Maker to cover all of McHenry County meetings which in what district 11 encompasses. This year we decided to do things a little differently and have sought and found LCM's to cover individual towns breaking down the work to a more manageable level. So instead of having one LCM we currently have six and Mary F. who has taken on her position as almost a full-time job. She has led this effort and worked hard to provide the NIA Registrar with all the updates of our district positions and completely combed through the information sheets of meetings and GSR's in our district. Our new schedule maker totally redesigned our meeting schedule as seen through the eyes of someone new to AA to find meetings in a simpler manner. It is amazing to see things that you have looked at for years from such a different perspective.

Our treasurer is working hard at maintaining our district records in a more organized fashion as we recently approved the purchase of a laptop and QuickBooks software to make his job more efficient. Our PI Chair has been so active that we already are looking at increasing that budget to provide the literature and funds to continue her efforts. Our Treatment committee has been actively participating in meetings brought to treatment facilities and Bridge the Gap calls has increased in the past few months. These calls generally come in through our answering service although our Corrections Committee has a process in place for inmates to connect with corrections volunteers upon release. This is accomplished with the use of a Google phone number that can transfer from one individual to another. We have more corrections volunteers attending jail meetings now that ever and we are so grateful to have members from the Hispanic district joining our men's meeting thanks to Urbano and other member of District 20 have consistently put the word out that Spanish speaking volunteers were needed.

Dist 12, Mike reported:

Busy quarter, tri county mini-conference in Kenosha. 43 children showed up for first Easter egg hunt. Good showing at Pre-GSC workshop. Doing a lot of work in corrections; lake co jail in our area; meetings every night; also south lake count CPC has been working to get meetings started down there; another drug court graduation June 6<sup>th</sup>. People who come out are generally staying sober.

Spring breakfast next Sunday; short of tickets – contact me. Summer bash June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Waukegan.

Dist 20,

Dist 21,

Dist 22, Manus reported:

District 22 in partnership with districts 61 and 20 were selected to host the 2015 Spring Assembly/Conference at the last Assembly. The districts held a joint meeting on April 12th at which Joe Miller, district 22 and John Grady, district 61 were elected co-chairs and began work immediately.

A committee has been elected to host the annual District 22 summer picnic. This year's committee has decided to "back up the bus" and will host a family picnic rather than the rock concert that it has resembled the last few years. Date is August 2nd. 2014.

I am very gratified and somewhat surprised that attendance by GSRs at our monthly district meeting has increased over the last few months. All service committees are working although we will be electing a new CPC chair at our next business meeting on June 1st.

I have been very excited to see how our LCM program is working in the district. We have five LCMs covering some 65 meetings and reporting on meeting activities at our district meetings. (I suspect part of the success can be attributed to the fact no individual is overloaded with meeting responsibilities and freeing the DCM to review the big picture.)

Dist 23, Bob reported:

Alternate. Working to get corrections and spec needs chairs filled. Try9ing to get more active participation and fall workshop put together.

Dist 28, Bill reported:

1. District 21 and District 28 are co-hosting the Summer Assembly on June 14th. Palatine High School has been selected as the venue for the event. The DCM and four representatives from District 21 visited our District meeting on April 28th. A work session was very successful and all needed committees were filled and are at work. The Assembly Committee will be presenting the budget as required by NIA Guidelines. A brief preview finds our costs will be well within previous Assemblies. Flyers were distributed at the April 12th Pre-General Service Conference and are available today. GSR Mark G. also prepared the Summer Assembly Flyer in both Spanish and Polish, which you'll find on the literature table.
2. The Tuesday Night Real Time Men's Group is in high gear with its planning for a September 6th Sponsor Workshop. The event will take place at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington. Those of us on the District Committee are gratified at the marvelous enthusiasm generated by this Group, which also sponsors a Men's A.A. Retreat every year.
3. GSR Dana M., Alternate DCM Carl T. and I attended the Districts 18 and 19, Area 19 Sponsor Workshop in Park Ridge on April 26th. Information learned was passed on to the Real Time Men's Sponsorship Committee working on the September 6th workshop in Barrington.
4. I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't mention the following GSR's and Committee Chairs this year in District 28. Mark G., our new Grapevine Chair, is leading the pack with weekly news items from the Grapevine for all our GSR's. Jim C, our Answering Service Chair and his alternate, are maintaining a steady hand to assure A.A will be there when the need arises. Donita, our Literature Chair, continues this year and is a strong and reliable resource for us. Laura S. and Donna F. continue as our CPC/PI Committee and keep A.A. in the public and professionals view. Carl T. and alternate Willie N., handle our website. Carl is also our Alternate DCM. He is also a tireless asset for District 28 and an immense help to me.

Dist 40, Chris reported:

District 40 is hosting tomorrow's Committee Meeting. We have our upcoming picnic Sunday, June 29th at Herrick Lake from 11-4. We have been holding Big Book Conference monthly meetings in preparation for October 25th. Last month, two new elections were made, one for Grapevine Chair and one for Literature Chair

Dist 41, Jason reported:

Openings on the Corrections and Bridging The Gap Committees

Continued work with Elmhurst Hospital by our Treatment Chair Antonio S.

District 41 continues to employ the services of Ansercall24 to route calls for the AA Hotline. Answering Service Chair Maggie A. recruited volunteers to handle calls, give rides, and go on 12th step calls. Hotline has been operating remarkably well.

Several workshops planned by Lee K.: A "Seeking God's Will In Our New Way Of Living" for June, and "How did we get here? A Brief History Of AA In Dupage County" for September. 4<sup>th</sup> Step workshop March 23rd had about 50 people in attendance. District is chairing and providing speakers for a weekly Crisis Intervention Unit meeting in February. Active district participation in Good Samaritan Detox. Continued literature distribution to local libraries and hospitals by PI committee Walt K. and Jeanne M. District hosted an information booth at Willowbrook High School Wellness Day in April. District participation in June 911 Annual Summer Institute on Addictions at Elmhurst Hospital. Appointed ad hoc committee to create and distribute a D41 Service Pamphlet at District 41 meetings. Objective is to increase awareness of service opportunities, stress importance and benefits of service work, and increase participation in district level service. District Service Workshop planned for July.

District 41 Webmaster Jeanne M. reported a total of 35,904 website hits; 12,968 unique

Dist 42, Barb, Alternate DCM had no report.

Dist 43,

Dist 51,

Dist 52,

Dist 61, Joe L reported:

1. All District 61 officer and committee chair positions are filled. We have only a few alternate chair positions that remain open.
  2. Districts 61, 20, and 22 will host the 2015 NIA 20 Spring Assembly Conference. Conference co-chairs and officers have been elected and planning meetings are proceeding. The district was well represented at the 2014 NIA 20 Spring Assembly Conference.
  3. Bill W., 2014 NIA Spring Assembly Conference Co-Chair presented Conference information to members during our February district meeting. Cheryl V., NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate presented 2014 General Service Conference information to members during our March district meeting. District members participated in the April Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.
  4. Lois H. is producing a revised Answering Service roster and has increased the number of member volunteer participants. She has ensured that the district Answering Service is regularly receiving a current volunteer roster and district meeting schedule.
  5. Our Corrections Committee co-chairs Bee U. and Chip F. are active leading meetings at the Kane County Adult Justice Center (KCAJC). In addition, Bee is taking meetings to the Adult Transitional Center (ATC) for Women in Aurora. Both are active seeking member volunteers to participate in the Pen Pals correspondence program coordinated by GSO.
  6. Bill C. and Julie H., our Treatment Committee chairs, have formed a Back to Basics (B2B) focus group to consider the feasibility for holding a B2B meeting in our district. Both have been attending the B2B meetings at Central DuPage Hospital Behavioral Health Center to learn more about the program. Bill is attending the Bridging the Gap meetings at CDH BHC and is interested in implementing a similar program in our district. Bill, Julie, and Betty G, the Area 20 Treatment Chair, are coordinating a BTG workshop for our district meeting.
  7. Carol P., Alternate DCM, is chairing a new District 61 Local Committee Member (LCM) workshop. The LCM volunteers will attend meetings to see that members have the information they need to conduct a thriving meeting. They will encourage the group GSR to represent their members at District and Area meetings reminding them "The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects." And "By choosing its most qualified man or woman as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future—and the future of A.A. as a whole."
  8. Rich Z. and Lois H., our Public Information chairs are working with Ben M., the District  
In addition, they have asked an open meeting to consider integration of Public Information in the open meeting once per month – more to follow.
  9. Brenda E. and Kay S., our Grapevine committee chairs are hosting a writer's workshop. Members are encouraged to write their personal story of recovery and submit it to the Grapevine for consideration and use.
  10. District 61 is hosting the 22nd annual Fox Valley Open on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at Lord of Life Church in LaFox, IL.
  11. District 61 will no longer rely on Pink Can contributions to support the correction facilities located within our district. Instead, our district Correction co-chairs will plan, budget, and manage the requests for books and literature from these corrections facilities. Going forward, requests received for books or literature from Correction chairs outside of our district will be reviewed by, and action agreed upon by District 61 GSR's and Correction co-chairs. As always, members will decide if their group will continue to pass the Pink Can and send proceeds directly Northern Illinois Area (NIA) 20.
  12. Attendance at our District 61 Monthly Meeting: 36 (Avg. Jan-Apr)
  13. District 61 sent a \$3,000.00 contribution to NIA 20 in March 2014. Our treasury balance for the period ending April 25, 2014 was \$1642.52 over our prudent reserve. Kat D. was given \$1000.00 seed money for the District 61 Picnic. Our month-end bank balance is \$642.52
- Our committee chairs are embracing their new roles. GSR attendance is increasing at the District meeting. We remain committed to serving the member needs of the District 61 community.

Dist 62, Amy reported:

We are all settling into our new positions. We are reaching out to one another to obtain guidance and assistance with our duties.

This Wednesday we are looking forward to Joe (CPC Chair) providing insight on a district chair position that has been vacant for some time.

As the District Committee member I am reaching out to groups asking for members to step into service. Service is a great sobriety tool. I am doing my best focusing on attraction rather than promotion. I have been advising several members the district needs assistance, to please step up into positions that are vacant. We are looking forward to being the Hosts for the Summer Committee meeting in August

Dist 64,  
Dist 70,  
Dist 71,  
Dist 72, Steve reported:

Special needs is going to start a weekly meeting on Friday evenings at 7PM at the Stephenson Nursing Center. First meeting to be held May 16th. Working on a panel for the Big Book Conference. Talking of working with districts 70, 71, and 73 on a service workshop provided by NIA 20. We meet at 7PM in Elizabeth, IL on the third Wednesday of each month, at 309 E. Main Street.

Dist 73, Ernest L reported:

I am the outgoing DCM and really have no report; we didn't meet the last two months due to holiday and weather. Workshop in Dickson coming up on Back to Basics; will try to get information to the web master to add to website.

Dist 79,  
Dist 80,  
Dist 90, Jesse reported:

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cabin Fever Speaker Banquet was held on Saturday and Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Kewanee. The banquet featured an Al-Anon and an AA speaker and was well-attended. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Book Workshop will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Geneseo. More information is available on the flyer posted in the events section of the NIA website. District 90 will host a Campfire Meeting at Blackhawk State Park on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This event will feature a potluck dinner and an open meeting focused on the subject of AA service. Districts 90 and 91 have also started to work on putting together a bid for the NIA 2016 Spring Conference. We're forming committees and gathering information about possible locations – more information to come.

Dist 91, Eva reported:

Our 2014 Winter Workshop series has been wrapped up and participation was good. We want to thank Ray, the NIA Archivist for his presentation in April. I highly recommend this to other Districts considering doing workshops.

There has been an ongoing Meeting at the Henry Hill Correction Center. Just recently a ladies meeting has been started at Knox County Jail. We want to thank Pat from the Corrections Committee in helping us to support this meeting with literature. We are hoping to get a men's meeting going in the Knox County Jail. We are also looking into getting something going with Warren County Jail.

A new meeting has been started on Saturday's at the Galesburg Terrace Nursing Home and this group has elected a GSR who is attending District Meetings.

The next event to be held in District 91 is the 6th Annual Illinois Summer Roundup on June 20th & 21st 2014. There will be 2 speakers on Friday evening (one AA and one Al-Anon) and 3 AA speakers on Saturday and a dinner Saturday night. Registration fee is \$20.00. It will be held at the Lake Storey Pavilion in Galesburg Illinois. For more information contact Eva C, District 91 DCM or Jerry M. at 309-536-2466.

**Following open mic; Tina R made a motion to close**

Janet N seconds the motion

**Adjournment**