

NIA 20 2017 Spring Assembly Minutes

March 25, 2017

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg (Schaumburg, IL)

Hosted by District 21

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Meeting Opening

Attendance – 110 total participants. Breakdown:

Winter Assembly

DCM's & Alts	22	of	41
Past Delegates	3	of	11
Standing & Appointed Cmte Chairs	21	of	30
Area Officers	7	of	10
GSR's	17		
District Chairs and Others including (D22 greeters)	40		
	110		

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am with a quiet time followed by the serenity prayer.

New Attendees

- Cassidy, GSR D11
- Melissa, GSR, D72
- Guy, D11 Lit Chair
- Debbie, D21 Secretary
- Tom, new DCM D52
- Leslie, Alt GSR, D42
- Phil, D52
- D11 Literature
- Ann, D42 Secretary
- Terry, GSR, D40
- Paula, GSR D64
- LCM D22
- Gary, D52, new GSR
- Tammy, GSR D51
- BTW, D72
- D52 GSR

Anniversaries

- Carol,
12/12, 22 years
- John, Jan 31, 17 years
- Tom, 5 years today
- Bill, 2/13, 2 years
- Erik, 12/12, 29 years
- Allen, 2/6, 18 years
- Debbie, 3/19, 16 years
- Kelly, 1/25, 18 years
- Kevin, 1/22, 5 years
- 12/28, 4 years
- Urbano, 2/20, 13 years
- Carl, 2/23, 13 years
- 12/11, 36 years
- Marilyn, 33 years

Twelve Concepts – read by Katie

Announcements by host, D21

Meeting Business

Approval of Winter Assembly Minutes - Motion to approve by Bob P, second by Kevin A

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[Delegate Report, Kelly L](#)

Inserted in appendix to this document

[Treasury Report, Judd W](#)

Inserted in appendix to this document

New Business

[Bids for 2018 Spring Assembly Conference](#)

No districts presented a formal bid.

At the mic:

Cheryl V – Last couple of years we have been in this same position. Its time to decide – are we going to continue to have this or not? Its not a lot of work. We have a committee that will help find a hotel. You meet once a month in the beginning, find a couple speakers, make room for panels and get a big room so we can come talk about this again next year, how whether we’re going to have it or not. It’s a way to bring AA to your community. And your community to AA. Think about it – do we want to continue?

Marilyn – I’ll ask again in 10 minutes

[Motion to add breakout sessions at the Spring Assembly, Robert S](#)

Full motion:

I move to have the Procedures for Planning the Spring Assembly Conference amended as follows:

Bullet point 7 under heading “N.I.A. has agreed upon the following guidelines for the Conference:” (page 105 of Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Handbook, version 3/28/2015 to be changed **from:** Saturday should include Area Officers’ reports, Assembly business meeting, and Area Service Committee reports (if time permits). This meeting generally lasts 3-4 hours. **To:** Saturday should include Area Officers’ reports, Assembly business meeting, Area Service Committee reports and breakout sessions (if time and space permit). This meeting generally lasts 3-4 hours. Breakout sessions could follow the close of the regular business meeting, space permitting.

Background:

Since combining the Spring Conference and Spring Assembly there has been talk of separating the two events due to the lack of newly appointment district service committee chairs having the opportunity to meet with Area Service Committee Chairs for the purpose of learning about how the Area can help in their district role and for information about how to do the work of their committee. Due to the other meetings that take place between January and March it seems impractical to separate them but we (DCMs Panel 66) feel that having the opportunity for district members to meet with area members is crucial and should happen prior to the Summer Assembly which takes place 6 months after new district members start their rotation. The change in

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the bullet point does not mandate that the breakout sessions happen but will be a guide for future planning committees to try and make it happen.

Marilyn read voting procedures and those eligible to vote

At the mic:

No questions, went in to discussion

Rich H – was on one service committee that started to bring this together. WE attempted to see what other areas were done. If you poll folks who were on those committees, they'd likely say we fell short of our expectation. I don't like the motion with wording like time permitting and no real direction. There are other options and we should be discussing those. Instead of dances and ice cream in the om, you could do corrections, PI, and others. When I was alternate delegate, we met at 9pm Friday night and 5pm Saturday pm before dinner. We don't need a motion to tell us to do this with no time. We need to look at the way we do things and make sure we select people who are going to move forward and make sure they do the work. There's vacant time, we don't have to eat ice cream. We can come here and do this work. This motion is the start of a conversation. But it's not going to cure the problem.

Larry S – I support idea, opposed to the motion. In part because what Rich said – the wording. It says 'should'. This gives me an option as to whether I want to have breakouts or not. It waffles two more time saying space and time permitting. There are three reasons on the motion I don't need to follow this instruction. So, breakouts till won't happen. Conference committees don't want to do breakouts – that's why we haven't had them in the last 4 or 5 years. They want to do fun panels. As Robert pointed out, it's not going to matter because we're not going to have spring assembly conference next year anyway. was part of the effort to start this this way. When I was at the General Service Conference....Delegates would report large numbers of GSRs reporting at weekend assemblies. At no time did I believe we would get hundreds of people out of the gate. But we haven't had a weekend assembly yet. We have a conference with an assembly stuck in one morning. think it's time to seriously think about having a weekend assembly. This is a business activity that take up an entire weekend. It's a lot of fun. A weekend assembly, we could do many things...in the long run, we could get more people involved. We could talk about conference items, GSR school, speakers, a dance. We could some of the fun stuff and have every committee meet at some point over the weekend. If you want to go to Soberfest, go there but don't expect that to happen. There is growing pain involved. For those who are new – a weekend assembly gives you more opportunity to talk to more people who have been here a long time. I am the person I am today because of rooms like this as much as rooms of meetings. This is where I learned to be a responsible human being. We need to decide what we want to be. A party or an assembly? Right now, we're doing both half way. We could perform more service to more people at the same and have fun doing it.

Rich H – I'd like to suggest that we move this motion back to a committee for further review, perhaps add an adhoc committee.

Marilyn – asks for a sense of the assembly. Activity delayed – not resolved. Attention turned back to the mic

Steve K – I am wondering about what the weekend assembly. Can you share a bit about what that would look like?

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Caroline – I have a tremendous respect for area autonomy. what works in one Area does not work for all. We focus in area 79, full business on Friday from 6pm to 10pm, Saturday 8am to 10pm and Sunday 8 to noon. Our servants travel great distances and are a large group expense to be there for these weekends. The expectation of the area we serve is that that weekend is spent working on AA business. We do a lot of committee work, we try to mirror the conference structure. Our area business is done in breakouts – into 10 committees. Committee chairs facilitate those sessions. They can anywhere from 2-4 hours long, depending on agenda. Committees report back on recommendations from committee work that can be further discussed a full assembly. A lot of our area business and motions arise out of that committee work because smaller committee group can dive into more detail than we can as a full assembly. It has reduced our need for adhoc, not that adhoc aren't fantastic but we found it becoming cumbersome every time we hit a major issue. It gives GSRs a place where they can fully engage and participate even if they're not going to go up to the floor mic during discussion. We do have a speaker. We do have ice cream. Our bidding is a little different. We have a lot of competition around our bids. Costumes, gifts, you name it, and we do that at one assembly a year, usually about 10 districts bidding to host 4 events. People are always walking away disappointed, trying again for next year. That's what it looks like in Area 79, not representative of all of Canada – we have 14 areas up there. Larry S – when we wrote guidelines for this as it exists, we talked about having DCM meetings on Friday nights. We talked about panels and workshops that are really breakout sessions. Breakout sessions need to be interactive. We could literally be doing business on Friday night. Maybe DCMs and area officers. We could have some kind of GSR orientation. On sat morning, we could have the business meeting. WE could hear officers and committee reports another time of day, maybe Sunday am. Saturday during the day, we could have breakout sessions. We have 9 committees, we can get enough room to handle those or extra rooms to for other things at the same time, orientation. We could talk about primary purpose, the GSC, and we could have trustee come in, delegates from other areas, if you want to put on a correction workshop. Think of what you want to do. If we have a whole weekend, we can do anything we want. I learned by listening to you.

Marilyn – we're going to start timing people.

Marcia – as Tom B regularly reminds me that inserting the assembly in the conference is my fault. Because when I went to the GSC 17 years ago, delegates were saying “our assembly is a weekend long event and we have all these GSRs. Our service conference is a party with some panels that people don't really go to cause they're going to the speaker. We need to be doing this. We call this our service conference and very few GSRs are showing up. What we wanted was more participation. It's part of the group's responsibility to save money and send the GSR. You wanted to be GSR because you get to go to this weekend thing and it was a privilege. It sounded so cool. This motion does need to be guidelines because what happens when negotiating a contract, you forget you need all these rooms for breakouts. If districts don't want to host this event, let's just have the weekend assembly.

Rob – We've been debating this for 4 or 5 years now. We continue to debate these things about what we want to do. And we're not asking “what are we doing to make sure we're carrying the message to the alcoholic”. It's not the mechanics of rooms that are important it's important what we talk about and how to carry the message. Part of that is getting folks in the rooms to be a part of what we do here and get the benefits from

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being in service. We do that through education. I've watched people already stand up and walk out of this room today because they don't get what we're doing here. They don't get why we do this. I love AA and want to make it so that it's here for everybody. The debate is all good but need to remember, why are we here? Do we sponsor people into service? What are we doing to make AA what it can be.

Phil – From Bourbonnais, when I hear that this conference might not be happening next year, it upsets me. We have discussed this option of hosting a conference. This is my first time at your area assembly. We could have more participation from my area if the procedures were loosened for breakout sessions. And there's a facility, I'd have to check around but other areas certainly can step up. We only have one possible option in our community and I've been told it's not feasible. I encourage members here to really think about what they can do for AA.

Scott – I have a concern that we allow the perfect to do damage to the good. This motion came about as a result of DCM meetings. Given current state of affairs, this motion would allow for suggestion to include breakout sessions in the assembly. I have no objections to the weekend assembly idea. I think having an adhoc committee would be fine. I support the motion, but we can't have the perfect interfere with the good.

Ray – I opposed from day 1 to bring Assembly into conference. We are able to move in the right direction. And that is to move the event that happens in the spring back to a full service event. Apparently there isn't a district here that wants to hold a party/assembly. We have a perfect opportunity to take a year off to look at this, work with groups and districts and see if we can't put together something. We're moving in a direction and we can grow organically. The best work we do in AA is face to face, eyeball to eyeball, around a table, whether it's sitting with a sponsor or at the GSC. Work is done that way. It's not done listening to other people which is what we do at this thing, most of the weekend. It's swell but isn't working effectively to carry the message to the still suffering. Let's take the year we got. Effectively, two years. And see if we can turn this event into something that really is meaningful. This body right here can decide to take that step.

Robert – in light of the discussion to this point, I asked for a sense of the assembly about taking the year off as Ray indicated. Come up with a plan to present to the assembly. What is the sense of this body to do that?

Cheryl – we cannot cancel the spring assembly conference without a motion as it's required in our procedures.

Robert – ok, not taking a year off but having some people sit down and talk about this. I would like to pull the motion and discuss with DCMs. Request a vote to withdraw motion.

Marilyn – simple majority is required to vote to withdraw motion.

voting results - 100 in favor to withdraw motion, 2 against.

minority opinion

Kylie – I came to learn how to better serve my district and if we don't have breakout sessions, how am I supposed to learn? I think this is another avenue where I can be of full service. That was my main reason to come here today so that's why I'm against pulling it.

Male (no name recorded) - I think at these things and our district – we're a little too quick to make motions, pull them. There should be more discussion and thought about motions.

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Robert – its my intention that DCMs will be discussing this, getting feedback from home groups, and coming up with a new plan. We'll present to assembly. Weekend assembly will be one of the considerations. Talk to your DCMs in your districts.

*Marilyn - Based on minority opinion, no one wished to change his or her vote. **Motion will be withdrawn.***

Open position – Alternate Registrar

Those willing to stand:

Allen J – past GSR, DCM, area alternate chair, state conference co-chair

Kylie – worked with registrar, we are in the same district. I am looking to do more service. We have time to meet to transfer this to me. Sobriety date - 7/11/2011

Voting results:

88 total votes

61 – Kylie – elected with 69% majority (more than 2/3 majority)

27 – Allen

Open position – Special Needs Chair

No one willing to stand. No request for nominations.

Marilyn - Would you allow us to approve nomination of standing of a candidate at committee meeting ?

Unanimous sense of the assembly is taken. Approved.

At the mic:

Cheryl – I request to present a floor motion. In light of no bid and conversation, I'd like to present a motion to cancel the 2018 Spring Conference and have the Spring Assembly as a standalone event.

Floor motion request seconded by John C

Marilyn agreed to allow assembly to vote on whether to hear the motion. Motion is required about whether to hear the floor motion at the end of the agenda today.

Voting results

In favor – 64

Not in favor – 12 (84% in favor)

Minority opinion not heard

Old Business

2017 Spring Assembly/Conference Report D23 and D40, Jeff and Dawn

As of Friday night, we had 256 registered, banquet tickets – 10 left, ice cream social and lunch are sold out!

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2017 Big Book Conference Report D71, Tracy

Plans are going well – both main speakers, moderators and panels named. We have a Spanish speaking coordinator working on panels. Early bird fliers are here. We need for our main flyer is special needs. I've been amazed at participation we're getting in district. We've had more people in district than ever. Events like this are good for getting people involved.

Service Committee Reports (2 minutes each)

Accessibilities (formerly known as Special Needs), Terry

Answering Service, Patrick

Bonnie and I have visited 12 of 26 districts so far and have more scheduled.

Archives, Barbara

Since last meeting we finalized new version of group history report and guidelines for filling it out. Ray M was kind enough to make an editable PDF form of the group history form. It will be ready to post soon for groups. George C continues to submit histories of various groups in DuPage county and there is a great archives display here at the conference in Sage room.

Archivist, Ray

Not in the room

Bridging the Gap, Wheezie

We are hosting Summer Assembly on June 10th. We ask for assistance – please come see me on break to volunteer. I will have BTG password for BTG chairs at breakout session today.

Corrections, Pat

1. The Department of Corrections new Life Skills Reentry Facility in Kewanee Illinois is up and running and volunteers are bringing Big Book meetings into the facility. There are 17 inmates so far and the eventual capacity will be 300/300 hundred inmates
2. The first National Corrections Conference will take place in St Louis November 10/12 2017. The purpose of this weekend is for AA members involved in corrections work to come together, share experience, exchange information and hear from correction professionals, former inmates and other trusted servants throughout the US and Canada. Areas, districts and individuals are asked to send donations to ensure this first Conference is a success. Flyers with mailing instructions are with our display in the Mahogany Room.
3. Corrections Breakout session is this afternoon 1/2 pm in the Mahogany Room
4. Corrections Panel this afternoon in Sienna 3., 2:30/3:30 pm

CPC, Erik

We have a very cool panel this afternoon. We have 4 nonalcoholic participants speaking today. April 22nd – CPC workshop in D90. Thanks to Violet for putting it together. We will participate in June in northern Illinois

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employee assistance conference. We had dozens of HR professionals come to our booth and get literature. It was worthwhile and well attended.

Grapevine, Karen

Materials are on display in the literature room. There has been a 50 cent increase effective March 1st for books. Subscription app is currently available for android and ipad and soon available for Microsoft 10 and kindle fire. App allows issue downloads for offline viewing, access to archives, and email articles. Four seasons of service event runs march through December. First season runs through end of may – topic is grapevine in your home group. To participate, submit entry online or in writing. Articles are being accepted now for upcoming issues. Stories for young and sober are due April 5th, AAs in the military due May 5th. Guidelines can be found at aa.grapevine.org. LaVina is accepting stories for Sep and Oct 2017 issues – topic is gratitude. LaVina is celebrating 21st anniversary, District 20 is celebrating on July 1st at lord of life church in lafox from 9am to 2pm. There will be panels and food. There is a panel in Sienna 2 today at 4pm.

Literature, Jim

We had a great workshop this past February 18th. We had 20 people show up for about 2 and a half hours. Using grapevine and literature in meetings panel happens at 4pm today. We are also selling literature in the scion room

Public Information, Tracy

Haven't had any recent workshops. Realized we have both a breakout and a panel today. Next big event coming up is the pre GSC in two weeks.

Treatment, John

It's great to see so many people here. Reviewed pamphlet on aa treatment settings, getting ready to develop panel for spring conference. There is a lot of literature to discuss there. We have a panelist speaking who goes to a lot of treatment facilities. We have a lady coming in from Area 19 who works in the treatment facility field. Discussed panel and breakout with chair in preparation for today. Chair has sent out a lot of SAMSA find treatment.gov stuff – way to find all treatment centers in your district. We are still looking to host a workshop – if anyone wants, we will come to your district.

Administrative Committee Reports (2 minutes each)

Concepts, Heather

We are always looking for articles and content. We are looking for feedback – do you like what we're doing or not?

Electronic Equipment, Steve

Everything seems to be working. Nothing new to report.

Finance Committee, Carl

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We met at previous committee meeting, set some guidelines. We are a committee of 5 and a past delegate advisor. Majority vote of 4 is required for our committee to pass any motions. We'll be meeting prior to next committee meeting.

Operating Committee, Marilyn

Nothing to report

Report and Charter Committee, Carol

The Report & Charter Committee is one of the five administrative committees in NIA 20. Our task is to review and offer motions to revise NIA documents. For the past couple years, our focus has been on the Northern IL Area 20 Service Handbook, currently available on the NIA 20 website identified as the "Service Handbook". There is also a document called the Service Handbook Addenda which list the changes made to the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Handbook since version June 15, 2013. These documents are available in an English and Hispanic version.

The reason we mention this to you now is that we hope you are familiar with the current document and its location as are coming to the end of our review and hope to present a motion to approve the changes to update the Northern IL Area 20 Service Handbook in the couple months. Since the contents of this document guide us in the service work that we do, it is important that it be clear and concise, yet detailed enough to answer any questions that someone would have to perform the duties and responsibilities of a trusted servant.

The last meeting of our committee was on Saturday March 4h in Streamwood. We extended our meeting time from three to four hours to provide us with additional review time. We have also decided to meet twice in April, on Saturday April 1st in Crystal Lake and again on April 25th to hopefully complete review in time to present at the Summer Committee Meeting on May 13th in LaFox.

The committee will continue to review assembly approved revisions to NIA documents to assess the impact on the handbook. We have begun a final review of the whole document for consistency and flow of the information. We thank you all for allowing us the privilege of performing this important service work.

Our committee will also be hosting the April 8th Pre-General Service Workshop at Lord of Life in LaFox where we will meet to discuss the General Service Agenda items and provide our Delegate with our group conscience about these items. There are fliers on the table, please take some back to your district to distribute to your GSR's so that can be the voice of their group.

Web Administrator

No significant website changes or problems have occurred since my last report. We have many new attendees today so I wanted to be sure we all know that the area 20 website may be found at aa-nia.org. It should work fine on all devices from phones to tablets and full sized devices. There is a "Website tour" link right under the top banner that will help orient you to how the site works.

On a phone you can scroll down to see links to all the main functions right there on the front page. In addition to information on events, district and area contacts and links to district meeting lists you'll find numerous tools and resources for groups, districts and area trusted servants. Please take a few minutes to explore and discover.

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Of particular note is the “NIA Reports and Minutes” link, which contains reports submitted for area assemblies and committee meetings, including today’s gathering. Submitting those reports to the website is voluntary, but you’ll find entries there from most of the officers and some of the standing committees. Referring to the website for those reports may help save a few trees over time and doesn’t require carrying your briefcase.

I encourage all GSRs to keep mentioning aa-nia.org to your groups so they may become familiar with it and eventually contribute their thoughts and experiences so we can continue our efforts to make it a useful recovery tool.

At the mic:

John – do you have an app for the website?

John –

Leslie – D40. Most meetings in NIA Districts 40, 41, 42, 43 are in this app. It is for across the country...

John – meeting lists on area website are for district meetings. An area wide meeting app could be in our future

Marilyn asks committee if there are any district willing to host the 2018 Spring conference assembly

Districts 21 and 28 – offer to present a bid

Districts 10, 11, 12 – offer to present a bid

At the mic:

Ray – In the past, I saw something in writing that suggested that districts that have not had an opportunity to host were given priority. When have these interested districts hosted?

Marilyn - when have Districts 10, 11, 12 and 21,28 hosted?

D28 hosted in 2010

D10, 11, and 12 hosted in 2014

Cheryl – in light of bids, I withdraw my motion.

Marilyn – it has been a reasonable amount of time since districts have hosted.

Barbara – my suggestion is that those who are making bids and then decision is made when something substantive is available to hear about.

Bob – there is no time. We are a year away.

Judd – I think that we gotta remember who we serve and what we’re doing. This assembly delegates authority to area committee. We can’t even accept a bid today. We don’t know if we can put it together at all yet. The best that we could do here is for the assembly to vote to empower the area committee to decide based on bids at May committee meeting.

Rob – I can only say that time is of the essence. Waiting until May might be possible.

Robert – make a decision so committees can start forming – we lose too much time otherwise

Judd – We have to remember that bids are presented. This body has no authority to say you can’t do that.

What this body could do is say Northern Illinois is going to withdraw financial backing for this thing. We can’t tell districts that they cannot

Dan – I think we could still make it happen. No need to rush

Bob – check recording

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Chris – we have to decide today. Couldn't we vote – winner takes next year and the runner up gets the next year

Phil – propose two votes – one as first choice for next year and the second as back up

Cheryl – I think we need a voice of reason. The passion is here to have it. There is no reason all those bids cannot reach out to facilitates and to speakers to reserve and make a commitment in May. I would much rather see a bid come forward that has come forward and been worked out.

Tracey – we were gonna bid last year. Would be better prepared to present a bid if we wait

Carmela – there may be a spiritual principle at play in this process. There is a loving god as he may express himself in our group conscience. When I make decisions quickly, its generally based on my will. I'm concerned that we're driving at a decision today that may be against what our conscience is truly telling us. Collectively – that means the groups, the districts and this body. I'd recommend we give districts time to do the work they need to come and present bids in May and give us the information we need to make a solid decision. We did planning in less than a year. It can be done. I don't think we should rush that decision here today.

Kevin – just because we're trying to have a spring conference for next year doesn't mean we can't move forward on the work to have an assembly weekend as well.

Heather – when I look at this agenda there is nothing in that directly reaches out to the still suffering alcoholic. There is not enough time to plan a conference in this short order. There is not enough time to approve it at this assembly. I have to agree that there is an opportunity to hear information today and decide.

Rob – we should move forward

Kelly – It is on the agenda to take a bid for the Spring Conference Assembly – we should have each district present what they have available.

Kevin – as for bids – all for waiting until May. Robert withdrew the motion because nobody wanted to have it. Now, we're rushing to decide. I'm all in favor of a weekend assembly.

Sheila- being a GSR and getting information I need and not knowing what to do. I didn't want to come today.

Marilyn ends discussion

Marilyn – do we want to hear the bids today?

Voting results

In favor – minority

Not in favor – overwhelming majority

Will wait until May committee meeting to hear bids

Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate, Robert S

I have been involved in getting background material out to all the area committee members. Getting the CD's from our Delegate, printing copies of the Final Agenda and mailing them took a fair amount of time but more importantly cost. The total cost for buying mailing envelopes, labels and postage was \$606.48. In the process of doing this I was asked to place a digital version in my cloud storage file and email a link to a few people because the CD they received was blank. I did this and they were able to access the material – and only the background material – which cost us nothing. I believe that next year that ought to be the primary way of passing the material out to the committee members and only mail out to those who do not have internet

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access. Therefore, I will be talking to our Web Administrator about and presenting a motion for the Area to establish a private and secure cloud storage account that can be used for this purpose. More to follow on that. I appreciate your consideration on the motion I presented earlier, the discuss we had and I look forward to working with the committee as we continue to define what this event will look like in the coming years. April 8th we will reconvene in order to go over all of the agenda items for the 2017 General Service Conference. There are copies of the Final Agenda and a few CD's of background material here for anyone that wants a copy. Please come see me before leaving if you want one.

DCM's you will need to provide copies of background material to your service committee chairs for their committee. Whether you do that by digital or hard copy is up to your district but they should bring those with them to the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop. You will need a copy of the Report and Charter Background material for our breakout session.

Area Committee Chairs, you will need to have a copy of your committee's background material for your breakout session also.

DCM's and Area Committee Chairs, if you didn't get a copy of the background make sure you see me immediately after we close this meeting so that I can give you a CD before I give them to other people. GSR's, please get a copy of the agenda, pick out two or three items that you find interesting, get the background on those two or three items, from your DCM, and go over it with your group so that you can come to the workshop with your group's conscious.

For those of you that are attending the Spring Conference this afternoon, I hope you enjoy the program, speakers and banquet.

Alternate Chair, Steve M

The Spring Assembly Conference is here. This has been a Great Experience being a part of the Committee. Watching everyone come together in their own roles. Handling the unexpected, with "what is really important". Also working with Scott and District 21 with the Assembly portion of our Event. The planning has been good. I'm looking forward to the rest of the weekend.

Going to the 2017 Big Book Planning meetings and getting to know more people willing to be of service. Good bunch of people in District 71. Their committee is growing.

I had the opportunity to give "The Role of the GSR Presentation" At our Winter Committee Meeting in Lafox. What a great way to be of service.

I was asked to give a presentation of "The Role of the GSR" at District 72 General Service Workshop. The event was hosted by the Stockton Group. We talked about the Agenda items coming up for this years Conference. Around 20 people were present.

We did have to buy a new coffee pot. The old one stopped working.

You've given me a few more opportunities this weekend to serve on a panel and to read the closing statement for the Sunday morning meeting. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Alternate Treasurer, Nicole

Inserted in appendix to this document

Secretary, Carmela

Send electronic reports. Let us know if you need a name badge. I'm glad to hear there are some district secretaries here today. After you get your boxed lunch, feel free to join us in the breakout session room. I'll

NIA 20 2017 Spring Assembly Minutes

March 25, 2017

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg (Schaumburg, IL)

Hosted by District 21

be there until 1:30 or so before the Responsibility and Leadership panel at 2pm. Secretaries, registrars and anyone else who would like to join us are welcome. Review GSR schedule and send any changes.

Alternate Secretary, Kristen

No report

Registrar, Chris

Inserted in Appendix to this document.

Alternate Registrar, OPEN

No report

Chair, Marilyn

I would like to welcome everyone and thank Scott and District 21 for hosting today's Assembly. At this Assembly we will be asking for a district(s) to host the 2018 Spring Assembly/Conference. It still isn't too late to have a conference in 2018.

Also we will hear a motion to add breakout sessions at Spring Assemblies presented by Robert S., Area 20 Alternate Delegate. Also we will have elections for two open positions; Alternate Registrar and Special Needs Chair.

Since the last Assembly that was held on January 15, 2017 I have attended most of the 2017 Spring Assembly/Conference planning meetings, several Report and Charter Committee meetings which have helped me so much to understand Area business. I spoke at one of our Spanish Speaking Districts, District 20. I went to Ohio in February to attend the Conference of Delegates Past and Present Conference. This was my third time to attend. I understood more this year than ever before. You don't have to be a delegate to attend. They have a mock conference to prepare our Delegates for the real conference in the spring. I visited Laura in District 11 and on February 18th I attended the Literature Workshop at LOL.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am followed by the Responsibility Statement.

Appendix

The following documents are included in the Appendix:

- Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer report combined
- Delegate report
- Registrar report

Northern Illinois Area, Limited
P.O. Box 1056
Yorkville, IL 60560



Report of the NIA Treasurer, NIA Spring Assembly, 3/26/2017

Balance sheet

The balance sheet report, updated through 2/28/2017 is attached.

- Bank balance was \$33,953.93 (2/28). After subtracting the restricted funds listed below, our accounts were \$11,963.37 over prudent reserve. This excess will be considered at the next Finance Committee meeting, prior to the Spring Committee Meeting.
- “Green Can” fund (TF literature) balance was \$134.63 (2/28).
- “Pink Can” fund (CF literature) balance was \$4466.93 (2/28).
- “GSO Birthday Plan” fund balance was \$739.00 (2/28).
 - Groups are encouraged to make “Birthday Plan” contributions directly to the GSB. Contributions can be made online at <https://ctb.aaws.org/default.aspx?lang=en> or by check, made payable to “General Service Board”. Contributions by check should indicate “GSO Birthday Plan” the group service number and can be mailed to The General Service Office, Post Office Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-0459.
 - Birthday plan contributions were forwarded to the GSB early in march but are not reflected in the reports from 2/28 (attached, and summarized above). As of 3/26/2017, the Birthday Plan fund balance was \$0.

Contributions/Expenses (Profit and Loss in QuickBooks)

- The QuickBooks profit and loss report, updated through 2/28/2017, shows that year-to-date contributions from all sources totaled \$13,452.97, expenses totaled \$5,703.36, and the net bank balance increased by \$7,749.61.

Primary Purpose Register (PPR)

- The PPR combines information from the balance sheet, profit and loss report, and NIA Guidelines. The PPR that is attached to this report includes remaining entries from 2016 that have not yet been reported as complete and entries for 2017 what were approved by the 2016 Winter Assembly. As always, the current PPR is available online at <http://aa-nia.org>.

Office Depot purchasing card

A pricing contract is in place with Office Depot and all NIA officers have a physical Office Depot purchasing card. I am still working with Office Depot on this but it appears that getting physical cards for each of them may be the only way forward. More will be shared on this at the Spring Committee Meeting.

US-IRS and IL Secretary of State Taxes

- The required Annual Corporate Report which is due before 4/1 was sent to the IL Secretary of State.
- For 2017, NIA’s registered agent, required by IL SoS, will remain Dennis Johnson in Sugar Grove.
- For 2017 and for the foreseeable future, the NIA Accountant will be Diane Johnson in Yorkville.
- 2017 IRS tax filing is due by 5/15. I have already begun working with Diane on this so I don’t anticipate any delay beyond the filing due date.

Respectfully submitted,
Judd W., NIA Treasurer – Panel 66
treasurer@aa-nia.org

NIA, Ltd.

BALANCE SHEET

As of February 28, 2017

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Cash	
Checking	11,962.13
Restricted Funds	
Green Can	134.63
GSO Birthday Plan	739.00
Pink Can	4,466.93
Total Restricted Funds	5,340.56
Total Checking	17,302.69
Prudent Reserve	16,651.24
Total Cash	33,953.93
Total Bank Accounts	\$33,953.93
Total Current Assets	\$33,953.93
TOTAL ASSETS	\$33,953.93
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Liabilities	
Green Can	134.63
GSO Birthday Plan	739.00
Pink Can	4,466.93
Total Liabilities	5,340.56
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$5,340.56
Total Current Liabilities	\$5,340.56
Total Liabilities	\$5,340.56
Equity	
Fund Balance	20,863.76
Net Income	7,749.61
Total Equity	\$28,613.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$33,953.93

NIA, Ltd.

PROFIT AND LOSS

January - February, 2017

	TOTAL
INCOME	
7th Tradition Contributions	
Contributions - District	1,000.00
Contributions - Group	12,452.15
Interest	0.82
Total 7th Tradition Contributions	13,452.97
Total Income	\$13,452.97
GROSS PROFIT	\$13,452.97
EXPENSES	
Primary Purpose Basic	
B01-17 2017 General Service Conference	113.00
B03-16 2016 Area Assemblies	57.90
B04-17 2017 Area Committee Meetings	231.27
B05-17 2017 Service Orientation Workshops	400.00
B07-16 2016 Concepts Newsletter	67.32
B07-17 2017 Concepts Newsletter	84.00
B08-16 2016 Area Committee participation in District Committee functions	536.60
B09-17 2017 ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	1,186.48
B10-16 2016 Area Operations	202.88
B10-17 2017 Area Operations	1,828.33
B13-16 2016 Big Book Conference, hosting	-2,487.64
B13-17 2017 Big Book Conference, hosting	2,500.00
B17-17 2017 Service Committee Workshops	112.60
B20-16 2016 National AA Tech Workshop	870.62
Total Primary Purpose Basic	5,703.36
Total Expenses	\$5,703.36
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$7,749.61
NET INCOME	\$7,749.61

NIA Alternate Treasurer's Report

Report date: 3/11/2017

The address for the NIA Treasurer for the Panel 66 rotation is: Northern Illinois Area, Ltd., P.O. Box 1056, Yorkville, IL 60560. Contribution envelopes are available at every NIA Assembly and committee meeting. Please complete the form on the envelope when making contributions to NIA so we can correctly account for your contributions.

In service,
Nicole E., NIA Alternate Treasurer
alt-treasurer@aa-nia.org

Summary of contributions received from 1/14/2017 through 2/26/2017

Date deposited (All)

Row Labels	Sum of Contribution amount
Pink Can contribution	\$2,668.26
District contribution	\$1,000.00
Green Can contribution	\$14.00
Group contribution	\$12,452.15
Grand Total	\$16,134.41

Date deposited (All)

Sum of Contribution amount					
District	Group number	Group name	Contribution type	Total	
	10	120246 Grapevine Group	Group contribution	\$30.00	
		127397 Early Birds Group	Group contribution	\$30.00	
		155891 Beginners Group	Group contribution	\$36.00	
		600993 Miracles Do Happen Group	Group contribution	\$50.00	
		602117 Easley Does It Group	Group contribution	\$30.00	
		646390 Shed Group	Group contribution	\$60.00	
		647883 After Work Study Group	Group contribution	\$50.00	
		652531 Road Of Happy Destiny Group	Group contribution	\$30.00	
		665831 Red Door Group	Group contribution	\$75.90	
		703220 Earlier Risers Group	Group contribution	\$100.00	
10 Total				\$491.90	
	11	120853 Twelve Steps To Freedom Group	Group contribution	\$35.00	
		608430 Cary Wednesday Step Group	Group contribution	\$63.00	
		610896 Winners & Beginners Group	Group contribution	\$262.00	
		654091 Design For Living Group	Group contribution	\$58.50	
		675317 Being New In A.A. Group	Group contribution	\$250.00	
		675712 Attitude Adjustment Group	Pink Can contribution	\$590.26	
			Group contribution	\$1,569.00	
		689268 Monday Night Priority Big Book Study Gro	Group contribution	\$67.68	

11	698797	Sat. AM Mens Step - Dawn Patrol Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
	699065	Men's Priority Big Book 5B Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
	708825	Spiritual Progress Group	Group contribution	\$61.20
11 Total				\$3,036.64
12	126433	Dry Dockers Group	Group contribution	\$182.50
	165716	Common Garden Variety Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
	645698	Deerpath Sunday Nights Group	Group contribution	\$44.10
	664612	WOW Group (Women On Wednesday)	Group contribution	\$78.00
(blank)		AA Approved Literature	Pink Can contribution	\$50.00
		Saturday Mornig Meeting	Group contribution	\$50.00
12 Total				\$424.60
20	163294	Grupo Mi Ultimo Refugio	Group contribution	\$20.00
	688838	Grupo Doce Promesas	Pink Can contribution	\$37.00
			Green Can contribution	\$14.00
			Group contribution	\$10.00
(blank)		District 20	District contribution	\$40.00
20 Total				\$121.00
21	104828	Wanderers #IV Group	Group contribution	\$35.00
	672152	Wanderers #45 Group	Group contribution	\$40.00
(blank)		Countryside Church Group	Group contribution	\$100.00
21 Total				\$175.00
22	120644	West Side Grapevine Group	Group contribution	\$75.00
	126340	Friday Morning Eye Opener Grp	Group contribution	\$73.00
	145124	Early Birds Group	Group contribution	\$54.00
	164500	New Horizon Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
	614385	Monday Second Shifters Group	Group contribution	\$105.00
	615946	Today's Gift Group	Group contribution	\$75.00
	656609	Monday Night Big Book Meeting Group	Pink Can contribution	\$75.00
			Group contribution	\$50.00
	667861	Tuesday High Noon Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
	681573	As Joe & Charlie See It Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
	706085	Fellowship Of The Spirit Group	Group contribution	\$67.00
(blank)		District 22	Pink Can contribution	\$23.00
			District contribution	\$500.00
22 Total				\$1,187.00
23	632081	Wanderers 50 Group	Group contribution	\$75.00
23 Total				\$75.00
28	104365	Saturday Morning Mens Group	Group contribution	\$150.00
	104755	Lake Zurich 12 & 12 Group	Group contribution	\$91.00
	128554	Sunday Night Salem Group	Group contribution	\$135.00
	134171	No Name Group	Group contribution	\$76.20
	175230	Wanderers Priority Big Book XIII (Men) Gr	Group contribution	\$51.00
	175535	Wednesday Night Beginners Grp	Group contribution	\$30.00
	600334	Tuesday Night 12 & 12 Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
	630250	Sun Morning Early Birds Group	Group contribution	\$60.00
	634567	Living In Recovery Group	Group contribution	\$88.75
	658285	Monday Night Serenity Group	Pink Can contribution	\$79.00
			Group contribution	\$20.00
	713901	Wednesday Night Women's Way	Group contribution	\$20.00
	716904	Still At It 12 & 12 Group	Pink Can contribution	\$35.00

28		719094	Nooners Group	Pink Can contribution	\$20.00
(blank)			Thursday Night Big Book Study Group	Pink Can contribution	\$32.00
			Stillwaters Thursday Night Women's Big B	Pink Can contribution	\$64.00
28 Total					\$981.95
40		139541	Glen Oaks 449 Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
		146676	C.D.H. Sunday Morning Group	Group contribution	\$39.60
		176124	Gift Of Sobriety Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
		600336	Twelve Steps To Willingness Group	Group contribution	\$20.71
40 Total					\$115.31
41		117713	Stepping Stones Group	Pink Can contribution	\$64.00
		120247	Solution Seekers Group	Pink Can contribution	\$60.00
		137538	Lombard Kitchen Table Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
		170702	Tuesday Nite Big Book Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
		171276	New Hope Group	Group contribution	\$196.90
		180103	Couples In Recovery Group	Group contribution	\$250.00
		627761	Lombard Lunch Bunch Group	Pink Can contribution	\$39.00
				Group contribution	\$253.15
		637845	Genesis II Group	Pink Can contribution	\$36.00
		697094	Wednesday Serenity Group	Group contribution	\$85.72
41 Total					\$1,039.77
42		104344	Samaritan Big Book Group	Pink Can contribution	\$84.00
				Group contribution	\$100.50
		104637	Darien Thursday P.M. Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
		104654	Highlanders Group	Pink Can contribution	\$51.00
				Group contribution	\$95.80
		122219	Dr. Bob's 12 & 12 Step & Trad Gp	Group contribution	\$100.00
		126443	One Day At A Time Group	Group contribution	\$40.00
		131678	Grateful It Works Group	Group contribution	\$120.00
		132959	Tuesday Serendipity Morning Womans Gr	Pink Can contribution	\$31.00
				Group contribution	\$80.00
		143222	Parish House Big Book Group	Group contribution	\$40.00
		170240	Sober Not Somber Group	Pink Can contribution	\$78.00
				Group contribution	\$210.00
		177066	Step Into Sobriety (SIS) Women's Group	Group contribution	\$150.00
		600913	Acceptance Group	Group contribution	\$70.00
		604096	Finders Keepers Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
		605348	Thank God Women's Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
		608720	We Are Group	Pink Can contribution	\$65.00
				Group contribution	\$40.00
		647853	Salt Creek Group	Group contribution	\$100.00
		655927	Humble Beginnings Group	Group contribution	\$150.00
		679832	24/7 Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
		696588	Life Is Good Group	Pink Can contribution	\$459.00
		708082	It's All About Me Group	Group contribution	\$21.25
42 Total					\$2,210.55
43		104272	Sunday Big Book Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
		146628	Beginners Sampler Group	Group contribution	\$73.00
		155901	Anniversary Group	Group contribution	\$60.00
		165272	How & Why Group	Pink Can contribution	\$166.00
				Group contribution	\$188.10

43	178942	Hope For Today Womens Group	Pink Can contribution	\$255.00
	606539	Thursday Discussion Group	Group contribution	\$900.00
	637746	Do Not Be Discouraged Group	Pink Can contribution	\$100.00
	648705	Beyond Any Length Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
	683110	Daily Reflections Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
	691334	Wanderers 30 Group	Group contribution	\$100.00
	693126	Swinging Sobriety Sisters Group	Group contribution	\$200.00
	719127	Saturday Morning Men's 12 + 12 Study Gr	Group contribution	\$62.50
43 Total				\$2,224.60
51	134454	H.O.W. Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
	140822	Big Book Believers Group	Group contribution	\$107.00
	640384	Manhattan Kitchen Table Group	Group contribution	\$45.00
	640883	New Hope Step Group	Group contribution	\$225.00
	643273	Candlelight Discussion Mtg Grp	Group contribution	\$90.00
	657249	Living Room Group	Group contribution	\$21.00
	659565	Saturday 12 Step Group	Group contribution	\$60.00
	705132	Wednesday Night Ladies Group	Group contribution	\$45.00
	705741	A New Life In AA Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
	(blank)	Lemont Boondocks	Group contribution	\$57.00
51 Total				\$720.00
52	178844	BLT Group (Better Living Today)	Group contribution	\$135.00
	613245	Primary Purpose Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
	655944	Women To Women Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
	685865	Steps Our Solutions (S.O.S.) Group	Group contribution	\$105.00
52 Total				\$310.00
61	123798	Keep It Simple Group	Group contribution	\$95.00
	134943	Early Birds Group	Group contribution	\$150.00
	146299	Prayer & Meditation Group	Group contribution	\$100.00
	146390	We Are Not Saints Group	Group contribution	\$36.00
	161010	Willingness Group	Group contribution	\$75.00
	172797	Step By Step Group	Group contribution	\$36.00
	610847	Dawn Patrol Group	Group contribution	\$300.00
	612847	Phoenix Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
	650203	Twelve & Twelve Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
	695363	Geneva Saturday Night Open Group	Group contribution	\$90.00
61 Total				\$932.00
62	127727	Saturday Niters Group	Group contribution	\$60.00
	173661	Young At Heart Group	Group contribution	\$25.00
	671120	As Bill Sees It Group	Group contribution	\$26.70
	677697	Recovery Discovery Group	Pink Can contribution	\$15.00
			Group contribution	\$42.00
	699614	Serenity Now Group	Group contribution	\$31.00
	701331	12 Ways To Stay Sober Group	Pink Can contribution	\$10.00
	(blank)	District 62	District contribution	\$150.00
		HALT Club AA Sun AM Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
62 Total				\$389.70
64	174027	Saturday Morning Alive Group	Group contribution	\$58.50
	177764	Big Book On The Prairie Group	Group contribution	\$40.00
	672158	It's In The Book Group	Group contribution	\$62.40
64 Total				\$160.90

	65	(blank)	District 65	District contribution	\$60.00
65 Total					\$60.00
	70		122494 East Side H.O.W. Group	Group contribution	\$128.65
			145204 The Upper Room Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
			175694 Traveler's Rest Group	Group contribution	\$100.00
			176256 Augury Group	Group contribution	\$23.45
			616115 Healthy Solutions Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
			704726 McFarland Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
70 Total					\$332.10
	71		127172 Tuesday Nite Fellowship Group	Group contribution	\$35.00
			135496 Fox Valley Group (Non-Smoking)	Group contribution	\$20.00
			143422 Back To Basics Group	Group contribution	\$15.00
			165715 Pass It On Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
			167119 24 Hours A Day Group	Group contribution	\$20.00
			177974 Back To Basics Group	Group contribution	\$30.00
			614570 Fresh Beginnings Group	Group contribution	\$80.00
			654357 Sycamore Monday 5:30 12 & 12 Group	Group contribution	\$40.00
			660537 Pass It On Group	Group contribution	\$50.00
71 Total					\$320.00
	72		104692 48 Club Group	Group contribution	\$10.00
72 Total					\$10.00
	73		173198 How It Works Group	Group contribution	\$70.00
			645840 A Way Of Life Group	Group contribution	\$90.00
			667354 Davis Junction Group	Group contribution	\$60.00
73 Total					\$220.00
	79		626106 Aprendiendo A Vivir	Pink Can contribution	\$100.00
		(blank)	District 79	District contribution	\$200.00
79 Total					\$300.00
	91	(blank)	District 91	District contribution	\$50.00
91 Total					\$50.00
		(blank)	615496 Unknown Number	Group contribution	\$30.00
			Personal Contribution	Pink Can contribution	\$50.00
			New Hope Group	Group contribution	\$64.39
			10AM Womens 12 Step	Group contribution	\$22.00
			Thursday 12&12 WSAC	Group contribution	\$50.00
			Wanderers 117	Group contribution	\$30.00
Total					\$246.39
Grand Total					\$16,134.41

Delegates Report
Spring Assembly
March 25, 2017

Hello All,

I sent out an email on February 18th that described the progress of getting all the background material from the Delegates dashboard to the individual members. I am hoping that everyone received their materials in plenty of time to discuss with your districts and committees for the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 8, 2017. Please remember that we will not be voting on any agendas items; what I really need is to have your input for a group conscience on what you and our Area would like to see happen as far as the agenda items. Concept IV talks about the right of participation, this is for all A.A. members weather you are a voting member or not. Please plan on attending the workshop.

Besides having the background material copied to a CD, I had tried using a drop box to send the materials to the Area officers and a few past delegates, it appeared that went well. After finding out that the background material was one large file, I had also sent all the DCMs the background material with individual committee folders though the drop box. I only received one response, so I am not sure how that worked for the DCMs or even if they received it.

February 10-12 I attended the Delegates past and present conference in Perrysburg OH. I was able to present our candidates for the East Central Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large U.S. I also presented a final report of the State Conference and ECR conference. A big thank you to Carl and Carol for having all the needed information for me to present to the conference.

On February 18th I had a great A.A. day. It started out with me and Marilyn attending the walk though for the 2017 State Conference being held August 11-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont. I then attended the Area literature and Grapevine workshop that was held at the Lord of Life Church in La Fox, which was very informative and fairly well attended. I finished up the day going the DuPage open that was at the Parkview Community Church, in Glen Ellyn. I would have to say that that was a great way to end a busy day. I got to know a little more about our Alternate Delegate Robert S. and our C.P.C. chair Eric L.

Below are a few notes from the January meeting of the Trustees and members of the General Service Board. The entire report is one hundred seventeen pages and they have not yet been approved. The Trustees' parts of the report are the items that mostly were forwarded to the conference agenda.

SERVICES

Corrections

New avenues of communication were opened between Texas A.A. and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice through a special meeting with area corrections chairs that was also attended by the current chair of the trustees' Committee on Corrections. The group discussed showing our new corrections video "A New Freedom" on closed circuit TV within several TDCJ units, with the potential of reaching hundreds of inmates with our A.A. message of hope.

International

The International desk is working with the Publishing Department to produce the 24th World Service Meeting Final Report. In addition to the print version, the W.S.M. Final Report will be available for the first time in an anonymity-protected, digital format that will be posted on the W.S.M. Dashboard. The 25th W.S.M. will be held in Durban, South Africa, October 6-11, 2018 and the theme will be "Our Twelve Traditions: A.A 's Future in the Modern World."

Literature

The Holiday issue of Box 459 (in French, Spanish and English) was distributed in early December.

Nominating

In October the Nominating assignment sent a reminder of the January 1, 2017 deadline for resumes for regional trustee candidates in the East Central and Southeast regions and for Trustee-At-Large U.S. to area delegates in the United States. The staff on the Nominating desk also assisted with the preparation of the General Service Board slate of officers.

Public Information

The newly translated video P.S.A., "I Have Hope," is scheduled for release in January 2017. A vendor has been selected to distribute and track the video P.S.A. "I Have Hope" in English and French, and to redistribute "Tengo Esperanza."

Regional Forums: The Southeast Regional Forum held in Orlando, Florida December 2-4 was the final Forum of 2016. Attendance was 433, with 254 first timers. For the year, total attendance at the four Regional Forums plus one Additional Forum was 1,804, including 1,077 first time attendees. Board members, and Grapevine staff totaled 49 trips to Forums, including 10 different trustees, five different Grapevine directors, four different A.A.W.S. directors, and eight different special workers from G.S.O. and Grapevine. Preparation is also underway for the 2017 General Service Conference and the Regional Forums site selection process for the 2020 Forum calendar that will take place at regional luncheons.

Treatment and Accessibilities

The revised Accessibilities Service Kit will be available in February for new Accessibilities chairs, and will include the Accessibilities Workbook, the revised pamphlet "Serving All Alcoholics," the revised A.A Guidelines on "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" and "A.A Guidelines for Sharing the Message with the Deaf Alcoholic," along with the new Accessibilities Checklist. The search for an A.C.M. continues.

ARCHIVES

Through 2016, Archives handled approximately 1,450 requests for information and research, as compared to 1,300 in 2015. In the coming months, Archives will begin to retrieve records temporarily stored off-site and appraise such records for final disposition. Additionally, over 50,000 pieces that are mostly utilized by staff and Archives for reference purposes will also be assessed. The goal is to preserve documents with continuing reference and historical value while eliminating material that is no longer relevant.

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATION/SERVICES

The Technology/Communication/Services Committee reviewed the following:

A report on G.S.O.'s A.A website analytics from August 2016 through October 2016.

A suggestion to add an option to G.S.O.'s records for A.A. entities to be listed as either a meeting or a group.

The 30-day pending period for new groups being added to G.S.O.'s group registry, and whether information should be developed clarifying the purpose of the pending period for the Fellowship.

The committee also held a conference call with A.A.W.S. directors to discuss the future vision for G.S.O.'s A.A. website. The Board approved the following recommendations brought forward by the TCS Committee:

PUBLISHING

Gross sales

December gross sales were under budget with actual gross sales at \$1,005,674, which is a \$204,387 or 16.89% negative variance against budget of \$1,210. For 2016 through the month of December gross sales were under budget: \$13,502,905 actual sales vs. estimate of \$13,707,484, which is a \$204,579 or .15% negative variance.

Web sales

Total web sales (A.A.W.S. Online Bookstores) for December 2016 stood at \$631,577, which accounts for about 69% of total sales for the company. Sales on the 828 online store (primarily Intergroup/Central Offices and other bulk orders) for December are \$449,764 and B2C sales (individual customers) stand at \$181,813.

Digital books

Total eBook gross sales for January through December 2016 stand at \$227,611 with 58,277 units distributed.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Circulation, Development and Customer Service: The EEP reported the following: Grapevine's "Grow Your Grapevine" outreach effort was updated in October. To date, over 3,000 responses have been received; pricing alternatives for AAGV, Inc.'s products are being evaluated with the circulation vendor; notified the AAWS Publications Director that AA Grapevine, Inc. will put all licenses and trademarks on hold until further notice; the quarterly Grapevine & Your Group email newsletter will resume distribution to group contacts from the FNV in March 2017; continuing successful e-renewal efforts; the auto renewal test showed negligible results on existing subscriptions but will be applied to all new subscriptions.

Grapevine Editorial Report: The senior editor reported that recent issues of the Grapevine magazine have included Atheist and Agnostic AA Members: Fellow alcoholics share their experience, strength, hope and challenges, how they get active and stay sober in AA (OCT 2016); Classic Grapevine: Articles from our Story Archive, featuring stories from the new GV book "Our Twelve Traditions" (NOV 2016); and Remote Communities: Stories by AA members in remote communities and those who do service in that area. Also includes sober holiday stories (DEC 2016). Recent publications include the new GV book "Our Twelve Traditions" - Print & eBook.

Grapevine Web Report: The senior editor reported monthly web traffic is averaging at 42,000 unique visitors and 196,000+ page views.

La Vina Report: The senior editor reported that recent issues of La Vina have included AA in Prisons: Stories of experience, strength and hope inside and out of jail (JULY/AUG 2016); The Third Legacy in the Hispanic AA Conventions (SEPT/OCT 2016), and Carrying the Message/Holiday, featuring a special section of stories from the winner of the 2015 LV Subscription Challenge (NOV/DEC 2016).

A few events coming soon to the East Central Region.

The East Central Regional Conference this year is combined with the 64th Annual Indiana State Convention which is being held July 14th – 16th, at the Grand Geneva Convention Center in Fort Wayne Indiana. If you are interested in going I have a few Pre-Registration forms that were sent from GSO or you could go to <http://area22indiana.org/StateConvention2017.html> the Convention site.

Also, the East Central Regional Forum is held in Springfield, IL November 17-19th, 2017 at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. More information can be found on the aa.org web site @ http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_EC_registrationform_2017.pdf

If you have never attended a regional conference or regional forum both of these are very close. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy this weekend at the conference, if you are not registered yet you still can. See everyone again April 8th.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Kelly L.
Delegate
Area 20/panel 66
Grapevine Committee