

NIA 20 2014 Summer Assembly
June 14, 2014
Palatine High School, Palatine IL
(Host Districts 21 & 28)

The meeting was called to order at 9:02AM

Robert S read the *Why Do We Need A Conference?* by the late Bernard B. Smith from the AA Service Manual.

A quite time was taken followed by the Serenity Prayer

New Attendees

Willie N, GSR Thursday Night BB Meeting
Kate D, Treasurer for Flying Geese
Jay R, Alt GSR NW Oaks
Tom M, GSR for Berger Hall and D10 PI

Mitch M
Kelly, volunteer
Bonnie, Alt GSR Friday Candlelight (D21)
Mick, CPC D51

Anniversaries

Jeff G – 31 years
Jim H – 28 years
Betty G – 34 years
John C – 13 years

Pat C – 7 years
Larry S – 28 years
Chris B – 28 years

Twelve Concepts - read by Darcy

Announcements by host district: Katie S. announced the breakout locations and where to locate rest facilities. Lunches need to be ordered by 10AM

Approval of Spring Assembly Minutes- Urbano advised his name was misspelled and the number of years reported for his AA anniversary should be 10 years. The Spring Assembly minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report, Janet N reported: This report is being presented as of May 31, 2014. The following is our financial status as of this date.

	<u>2014</u>
Contributions/Income:	\$32,816.05
Expenses:	<u>\$17,816.41</u>
Excess of Income over expense	\$14,999.64

Current checking account	\$20,650.81
Current prudent reserve	<u>\$16,860.00</u>
Net Assets	\$37,510.81

2014 Primary Purpose Register

The 2014 primary purpose register thru May 31, 2014 is attached to this report. Actual expenses for each PPB and PPM are listed through May.

The 2014 Spring Conference returned their seed money of \$3000 along with excess funds of \$7,773.13. Seed money of \$3000 was issued to the 2015 Spring Conference Committee.

The Area sent a contribution of \$4,800 to GSO in April.

Can Contributions

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$3,234.82 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$4,442.90.

Green Can Fund: no activity

Expense Reimbursement

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

Finance Committee Report, Mike H reported: The finance committee has met once since the last assembly. Our meeting was after the treasurer had finished with the books for May which showed an excess of about \$20,000, over prudent reserve. We are directing the treasurer to send \$14,000 to GSO. If you look at the bottom line of the Primary Purpose Register, you will see that this amount will be in excess this month after we cover our projected expenses.

Questions/comments: Rich H – is there any way we could hold off and let the NIA service committees know there is an excess of funds and give them incentive to get active? Also, there is nothing on the agenda about sending \$14,000 to GSO; suggest it go to NIA Committee first to determine if the committee could make use of that money first.

Mike H – sounds like a good idea. We'll hold off directing the treasurer if that's what Assembly feels we should do.

Terry W - point of order. The Committee comes with a recommendation and unless the Area votes it down, then I don't think we have an option unless we change the actual rules for conducting business.

Rich H – I would like to make a motion that we have the opportunity to bring it to Committee before we send a donation of \$14,000 to GSO; Betty G seconds the motion

Questions/comments:

Ray M – point of order; sounds like this should be handled as new business; we are not in business now; we are in reports

Judd W – I have a seat on the finance committee. Though the finance committee chair voiced his personal opinion, I'm not sure this is sentiment of the committee. It's the wrong time to ask why we aren't spending this money at home; we are not in the business of stockpiling money and deciding what to do with it.

Terry W pointed out the long form of Tradition 7 and holding onto money without a stated purpose

Robert S – taking the point of order into consideration we will hold off on any action at this time

Operating Committee Report, Robert S reported: the committee met once since our last meeting and discussed a request from a DCM for reimbursement for Spring Conference expenses, which we sent back to district. In other words, we took no action.

Delegate Report, Cheryl V gave a presentation of what occurred at the 2014 General Service Conference. Highlights include:

Literature

1. Revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" passed with clear majority. Complete revamped and with new graphics.
2. A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of Alcoholics Anonymous passed with 1 opposed.
3. Recommended change to Living Sober failed to get 2/3rd majority.
4. Committee considered suggested changes to the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship" and took no action.
5. Proposed changes to the Open Meeting Card failed to get substantial unanimity.
6. There was much discussion in committee regarding the use of the circle and triangle, but we chose to take no action.

Floor Action: Consider a revised Anonymity Statement (open meeting card) and the Conference voted to decline discussion.

7. Consider the use of the circle and triangle on Conference-approved literature as a historical reminder of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Conference voted to decline discussion. Discussed suggestion to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness and took no action.

Floor Action: To create literature which focuses on "Alcoholics in Recovery with Mental Health Issues" be developed. Failed on both first & second vote

Long discussion, some with "frothy, emotional appeal." One member spoke of having a family member in AA who committed suicide.

Staff member came to the microphone and made comments that basically said that there has not yet been clear direction from the fellowship on what is needed, what the focus should be, or who this literature is directed towards. Should it be for the professionals who have mental health patients and alcohol problems? Should it be for sponsors on how to work with people who have mental health issues? Should it be for AA members

8. The pamphlet on spirituality with the title "Many Paths to Spirituality" be approved.
 1. Many people came to the microphone in support of this pamphlet.
 2. Spirited debate in committee and on the floor about a section which reads: "Today I can even recite the Lord's Prayer without feeling guilty since it was pointed out to me in 'How it Works' that I have to go to any lengths to get and stay sober.
 3. There was a section that was removed in Committee that used the G.O.D. acronym for Group Of Drunks because it was pointed out by our Quebec Delegate that this would not translate into French.
9. The Conference recommended that the following recommendation be returned to the A.A.W.S. Board for review and brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature with full background: The committee recommended that "The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature" be further clarified regarding "...needed editorial changes" as noted below by asterisk and bolded text:

"Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have the full authority, without need of further Conference action to (a) select the format or formats in which the approved literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed editorial changes*; provided, however, that no editorial change will be made to the Big Book's Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved literature into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership."

Editorial changes to be limited to factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling; that any other changes made to the substance of the Conference-approved literature shall be through the Conference process.

CPC

1. The statement in the section Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities to A.A. on page 4 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." be revised.
2. The statement in the section How to Make Referrals to A.A. on page 5 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." be revised.
3. On page 6 in the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" deleted "I can't stand the smoking."

Report & Charter

1. Glossary of General Service :

“Advisory Action – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.”

“Additional Committee Consideration – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.”

2. The section called “Secretary and Registrar” in The A.A. Service Manual be split into two separate sections called “Secretary” (existing duties and qualifications to remain the same) and “Registrar.”

Public Information

1. The video public service announcements “Living in Chaos” and “We Know What It’s Like” be discontinued.
2. A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.
3. Changes to the wording of specific questions in the 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire.
4. The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.

Archives

1. The video Markings on the Journey approved.
2. Newly updated video was shown and met with a standing ovation. Approved unanimously.
3. *Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Finance

1. Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur.

Agenda

1. The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference be: “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future”
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:
“Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action”
 - a. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion
 - b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
 - c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
 - d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead
3. The Conference Evaluation Form be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015.
4. The description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, “Conference Committees,” in the 2013-2014 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual, be revised to read:

AGENDA (trustees’ committee: General Service Conference): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire.

Trustees

The slate of trustees, officers and directors elect were presented.

International Conventional & Regional Forums

1. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.
2. An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.

* Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cheryl gave a 75th Anniversary edition Big Book to Tom M, GSR for D10

Questions/comments:

Will presentation be available online? Cheryl – after I have the opportunity to visit districts, will put on the web in an anonymity protected version; I will provide a report so Nicole can add notes to the minutes.

Bill W – did you see the new literature publication B24 unabridged large print Big Book? Cheryl – did not
Ray M – thought I heard you say proposed changes to the sponsorship pamphlet were perceived as good but the cost outweighed it; can you expand? Cheryl – we discussed every suggested change; ultimately the committee felt the changes were good but not necessarily great and decided not to bring any of the proposed changes out of committee

Larry S – in 25 words or less, what does spiritual parity mean?

Cheryl – I don't know...there was some discussion; a trustee of the original conference explained original intent as perfectly bound and that it could go to corrections; still a bit confusing

Rich H – thank you for good and thorough report. Will the electronic voting next year be anonymous or open?

Cheryl – don't know; discussed and will look into cost and feasibility; preference is to be open and that it will be used on elections.

Rich H – it was nice that you gave the anniversary edition big book away. How many sold so far? Cheryl - don't believe they have reported any numbers yet.

The assembly broke for Service Committee Breakout Meetings.

Conference Reports:

1. 2014 Spring Conference, Bob P reported:

Conference Committee chairs were asked to stand; Conference attendees were asked to stand.

Bob reviewed his report...

10% response rate to survey; 9% positive; 1% of the comments were negative

2. 2014 Big Book Conference, Rob M reported on behalf of Jeff L:

Our last meeting was June 1st. Our final flyer was ready and is not being distributed. Our program committee has been in contact with the Spanish Districts and working on topics and times with them. They are also waiting on other panels to respond on topic preferences. The literature committee is staying in touch with CAISO and the literature needs. The Refreshment committee brought in two more lunch menus and quotes. Registration is up and running; can be accessed on the Area 20 website. Our next meeting is June 6th at 1:30PM.

3. 2014 State Conference (Area 19), Cheryl V reported. The State conference, hosted by Area19 Chicago, is coming up August 22-24, at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare. The Conference will include Alanon participation. The Conference Coordinator from GSO will be attending.

The conference committee is looking for volunteers for alcathon and greeters. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know and I will put you in touch with the committee. Robert S has a copy of the State Conference planning committee meeting minutes if anyone is interested.

4. 2014 Ohio State / East Central Regional Conference, Cheryl V reported: The Region is made up of 5 states (MI, OH, IN, IL WI) and comprises 14 Areas. Each year, the Region holds a conference; every other year the Region holds a forum. This year, the conference will be held in Perrysburg, Ohio, July 25-27. NIA has agreed to fund attendance for 6 members from NIA; all are welcome to attend. If any service chairs are going I ask

you let me know so we can advise the program coordinator since they are looking for participation. Will upload a copy of the flyer to NIA website.

5. 2015 Spring Conference, John reported: we elected chairs and co-chairs; acting advisory members assisted us in securing a facility. A contract has been signed with Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. Guest room rates will be \$99 (king or double) and banquet will be \$30 per person. The Program Committee has chosen speakers Eric H. from Barrie, Ontario and Matthew S, from Long Beach CA. Area confirmed that rooms for breakouts are not required.

There were a number of individuals that thought breakout meetings are important; Committee would like advice on box lunches from NIA;

Robert S - service committees will participate in panels after the conference; assembly itself does not do breakouts; will discuss later.

New Business:

1. Motion by Finance Committee for service committee chairs to host workshops

Mike H presented.

This motion has two parts

Part 1

It is moved that the following basic activity be added to the Primary Purpose Register for the current and for the subsequent years

Activity Number	Service Activity	Expected outcome, guidelines and authority	Projected Cost	Allowable expenses
PPB?	Service Committee Workshops	Area service committee chairpersons are expected to host workshops focused on carrying the A. A. message within the scope of one or more service committees. The workshops should be geographically distributed throughout NIA.	\$2250	Mileage, literature, facilities, printing and copies

Part 2

It is moved that the following PPM entries be marked as “complete” in the Primary Purpose Register: PPM-7 (Answering Service Workshops), PPM-23 (Grapevine Workshops), PPM-26 (CPC Workshops), PPM-28 (Treatment Facilities Workshops) and PPM-47 (Special Needs Workshops)

Questions/comments: John C – Panel 58 Past Delegate; why is this not a specific number of workshops?
Mike – because we don’t know how many will be held in a particular year. The motion accommodates for 9; could be more or less.

Tom B – Panel 42 Past Delegate – I don’t see rent on here; Mike H - we could add facilities as an allowable expense;

Carmella R – is it the intent that these workshops are hosted by the service committees and not necessarily requested by specific district?

Mike – it could be or it could cover multiple districts; it doesn’t matter which committee does the workshop they would all be covered

Rob M – who’s responsible for accounting on PPB? Mike – it would be handled by the NIA treasurer

Betty G – we’re having a workshop on June 28th; place is being paid for by the district; can I bring cake?

Robert S – according to PPM, that would not be included.

Jim W, NIA PI chair – in terms of PPB, once 9 workshops have been realized then what? Mike – we haven’t been having that many workshops throughout the year.

Christy – is \$2,250 for all 9 workshops? Mike – yes, or \$250 per workshop

If limiting to \$2,250, then you would need an additional motion to add funds? Mike – no, we would either go over or under.

Robert S – we operate on PPR we don't count money that's a projected cost. It's an idea, we don't limit people to dollar amounts.

Kelly L – are we limiting this item to \$2,250 or is this a projected cost? Mike – the projected cost is purely a budget item;

Gary F, DCM D73 – thought we just spent 6 years creating the primary purpose system so we could get away from bickering about money; why are we going back to the old system when we spent so much time creating this system? Mike – I'm not familiar with old system; this seems to be a better way to do it rather than have the elected committee put forth a motion for each workshop

Robert S – under responsibilities of the service committee chairs, they are to hold workshops – it doesn't state how many

Judd W - whether we are talking about PPM or PPB – the purpose is to allow us to reimburse and execute the responsibilities of our service positions.

Jim H, Grapevine Chair – when I came in as Grapevine chair, Judd asked me if I was going to do 25 workshops; I said I didn't think so and we discussed what this motion is designed to do.

Cheryl V – I speak in favor of this motion; as Judd pointed out, this was an oversight in the service manual we have a bullet on it that says we will fund workshops; this provides opportunity for each service chair to do workshops.

Carol H – will the committee accept a friendly amendment for discretion for allowable expenses?

Mike H – yes, willing to accept that

Joe S, CPC – I'm opposed; I understand the mechanics are to help the standing committee not to jump through so many hoops but part of my growth is to learn from mistakes

John C – need clarity on background and motion; 9 service committees perform 9 workshops in other words-81 workshops?

Rich H – part of me likes it but I'm against the motion; what I don't like is if we live in primary purpose then the standing committees will learn to ask the committee for money and not have someone else do their work for them

Terry W – motion to call the question

Betty G seconds motion

Robert S clarified who can vote.

John C – point of order; at the last assembly, it was approved that if the web administrator was not present then the alternate web administrator could vote. Robert S - correct

Vote to call the question: Majority in favor – question is called; we will vote on motion

Vote taken: a 2/3 vote is required

In favor: 51

Opposed: 7

Motion passes

Minority opinion: John C – I don't like the vagueness of motion; it states no specifics on the number of workshops or number of committees. Also, it's in two parts with one vote, which I find objectionable.

Would anyone like to change their vote? No.

Motion carries.

2. Motions by the Treatment Committee to fund Chair participation at the BTG Workshop in Sept 2014; Betty G presented:

The Treatment Facilities Committee moves to reimburse the Treatment Facility Chair for participation in the 2014 Bridging the Gap Workshop in Kansas City to be held on September 5-7 2014

Activity	Expected outcome, guidelines and authority	Projected Cost	Allowable Expenses
Participation @ 2014 BTG Workshop	NIA Treatment Chair and alternate to participate and learn from the 24th annual BTG weekend in Kansas City, Other BTG volunteers are active in BTG across the country. Reimbursement will be delegated to Treatment Facilities Committee.	\$1000	Expected expenses include transportation, lodging and conference registration.

Questions/comments:

Rob M, NIA Alt Answering Service – how did you come up with \$1,000 for one person? It seems excessive; Betty – it’s for 2 people

Vote taken: a 2/3 vote is required

Minority opinion: none

Motion passes

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

Betty G presented the motion.

Questions/comments: Sharon – who are the people buying these books – those facilitating a meeting in a treatment facility or facility workers? Betty – alcoholics who carry the message into treatment centers Weezie, Alt Treatment Facilities – we brought large print Big Books into a local treatment facility; we number and sign-out for use by those in treatment at the treatment center meetings.

Barb H, DCM D21 – have the people doing this treatment work asked their groups or district whether they have funds; Betty – a request has been put out to one specific person who I tried to connect with the district; can’t answer

Kim, GSR D11 – is request equal to the amount in the motion or is it to be prepared for future; Betty - amount is to cover a period of time; intent is books will be for use as loaners in treatment centers;

Jim W, NIA PI – is intent that you have an inventory of big books and as districts report in they will be available to those districts? Betty – the literature is for people to use when they are carrying the message into a treatment facility

Robert S - unlike other PPMs, this has a cap of \$1,000; is intent that once you’ve spent it, you cannot spend any more? Betty – if we use it up and need more I will ask for more

Does this eliminate PPM 35? Betty – I was told PPM35 was eliminated at the committee meeting on May 10th Cheryl V – contemplating this since May committee meeting – I don’t think this is an NIA responsibility. I believe the language of the heart is drunk to drunk and my responsibility is as an AA member. I think books should be provided by AA groups and AA members; role of area is to provide the tools to the districts who help provide the tools to the groups.

Rob M – I agree with what Cheryl said

Carol H – agree with Cheryl but the reality is how many people bring the message in and supply big books? As an AA member, I should be doing it but we don’t always have the funds. If individuals are carrying the message in, we need to provide them with the literature they need.

Tom B, Panel 42 Past Delegate – we talked about sending \$14,000 to GSO, but first things first - we should carry the message. When we buy literature it supports GSO as well. The groups and individuals provided this money and I don’t think their intent was to just have NIA to send on to GSO. It’s a simple request.

Terry W, Panel 54 Past Delegate – I note that a few years ago NIA spent money so PI could put big books into libraries; I don’t see a difference between that and this; we need to trust our trusted servants; that if given money, they will use it responsibly.

Ernest L – sort of support this because we have folks in our district coming out of treatment centers without literature. On spiritual level, we need to carry our program as its written – then we will have recovery – otherwise, it's just detox.

Jim W – Betty answered my question earlier – this is just money available to use to carry the message to treatment centers.

Barb H – I'm in agreement with Cheryl. The primary purpose of the group is to carry the message and groups should be self-supporting; therefore the group should be responsible to support the purchase of literature. I would be willing to support a request from a specific group, but just having money available detaches from the group that should ultimately be giving their support.

Jen M, DCM D23 – I've been going to SHARE for 4 years without being affiliated to any group; I use the book and follow the steps. I don't see problem with supplying people with what they need to carry the message.

Robert S – can we take a vote before those standing at the mic to express opinions

Robert S read motion. Asked to take a vote

Vote taken

Majority in favor

Would minority like to speak – None

Motion passes

4. Motion by PI Committee to provide workshops (if Finance Committee Motion fails)

In light of motion 1 passing motion 4 was withdrawn.

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

Debbie P was appointed to replace Michelle H on the Conference Advisory Committee

John C was appointed as Alternate Web Administrator

6. Accept Bids for 2015 Big Book Conference - no bids were presented

Robert – there are a few items that we need to deal with. I spent time during the service committee breakouts taking to different groups. For clarity I want to review the process;

Our Finance Committee sits with the treasurer and alternate and reviews spending trends and prudent reserve to make sure we can do business. The committee determined that we have funds in excess of \$20,000 over the cost of doing business; they recommended sending \$14,000 to GSO.

Rich H – Panel 62 Past Delegate. I'm not sure making a motion is the correct procedure. My problem is procedure; when we bring stuff to the table it's passed thru committee first to let districts know what we're doing. This wasn't brought to committee and wasn't on the agenda. I'm asking our chair to do your job and make sure procedures are followed. This morning they almost weren't.

Cheryl V – question Rich, if the finance committee reported to NIA committee meeting their intention would that answer your question? Rich - yes. I agree that would be a good solution. DCMs then have an opportunity to take to their groups.

The finance committee is supposed to work with standing committees to make sure they don't need the money.

John C – when these committees were formed never was it said they would make directives; they would make recommendations but not directives. They are making decisions and we need to stop doing that. Making big mistakes with primary purpose

Larry S, Panel 56 Past Delegate and non-voting member of finance committee - we initiated this process whereby the finance committee reports sum of money and we wait for your response; we need to change the way we do things – need to be responsible and do the work and find new ways to support it and be active. If we're not spending it, it's going to NY. Issue is not the money but the activity.

Terry W – after Rich's remark is there still a motion on the floor? Robert S – no

Manus S – I support Larry's comments. If you want your service chairs to do things make it easier to give them money. I'm on finance committee – we looked at it historically and were not spending the money.

John C – presented the following floor motion: We move that the motion presented by the finance committee for contributing to GSO or any other entity be recommitted to the finance committee and be brought to the Area 20 Summer Committee Meeting then to the Area 20 Full Assembly so that we, the groups of Area 20, can reach a true group conscience.

Rob M seconds the motion

A vote was taken to hear the motion: vote to hear the motion – passes

Questions/comments – There was much discussion.

Robert – question is, does this Assembly want to send \$14,000 to GSO or wait?

Larry S – point of order. That's not the question; there is a motion that was seconded and needs to be voted on

Robert read the floor motion.

Business decision only requires a majority.

Vote taken: requires substantial unanimity

For 17

Opposed 32

Motion fails

Minority opinion: Mike H – gave you my opinion earlier and apologize because that's not the opinion of the committee;

We could do a lot with \$14,000

Carol H – I don't like the thought of hanging onto money either but I think it's unfair to make our committee members go thru this. Something's wrong with the process. It shouldn't be so hard to get the funds to do the work.

Tom B – I know we put you thru the wringer – we should think before we rake you over the coals; I agree with Larry that if nobody has the guts to do this we should pass the money on. This system is broken – we should think about how to help the drunk in Illinois.

After hearing from the minority opinion, there were people who changed their vote.

Open discussion:

Terry W – if you heard Cheryl's presentation you would have heard what is needed for each group to contribute to NY to be self-supporting; money is paying for groups to receive services – we kind of owe that debt to NY

Larry S – I voted for the motion and am in favor of sending money to GSO; many of our groups object to large sums going to NY. We need to establish a procedure we can live with.

Robert S – I think we agree we need to figure out how to avoid this happening in the future. The discussion right now is what to do with \$14,000. We will talk about changing how we do things at another time. Not talking about procedure right now.

Nate - procedure broken but recommendation is sound – we asked finance committee to make a recommendation and they did.

Rob M – based on what Cheryl read – not for us to hold onto; it's exactly what 7th tradition states; need to send to NY based on our current bylaws

Betty G – call the question

Cheryl –she can't call the question in comments

Nate - Call the question

Robert – a vote of “yes” sends money back to finance committee and keeps it here.

A “no” vote sends money to NY now

Vote taken: requires substantial unanimity

In favor - 17

Opposed – 26

Motion fails

Less than substantial unanimity; sending the money on to NY.

Point of order – Jeff G

Neither group had a 2/3 majority? Robert – correct

Motion fails because it didn't go either way.

Robert - There was not substantial unanimity in the “yes” votes. I think there is a clear message to the finance committee to figure out how to clear this up.

Carol H – we voted on the motion but originally what we were going to vote on was whether we approved the finance committee's recommendation.

Robert – motion was to prevent that

Carol – original recommendation we have not voted on.

Robert – that doesn't require a vote

Joe S – can I bring a floor motion that we allow the finance committee to do their job as we've instructed.

I move that the windfall amount of approximately \$7,000 be set aside so NIA can discuss at next committee meeting what to do with excess funds.

John C seconds motion

Questions/discussion: Sharon – are we overturning last vote? Robert – no

Susan – can we change what's already happened to the money?

Rich H – this has turned from a point of procedure to a point of money

John C – there was no specific dollar amount in the motion

Larry S – in the end, I think we all want to send the money to NY; we need to develop a procedure that really works. Suggest to Robert that we follow procedure and send money but make a commitment to come up with a process that can be discussed at the committee meeting. Let's give the money and then fix process.

Rob M – I think he already did that

Robert S- finance committee recommends we send excess money to NY; a motion to send only \$7,000 at this time

Robert took a sense of assembly.

Original motion was defeated to hold money here

So we are following finance recommendation to send \$14,000 to NY

Larry – point of order - we already discussed this

Service Committee Chair Reports

Robert – please present your written report to our secretary or email your report to her.

If you have any announcement please step up.

Archives, Jeff G reported: 7 attended the breakout. After introductions, we discussed the updated “Markings On The Journey” video and getting several copies for use in the Area. A motion to this subject will be forthcoming. We had a discussion on archives workshops and various topics to be included in them. We would like to host workshops throughout the Area and welcome input from any district who wants to work with us. GSO archives is putting together a traveling exhibit that should be available later this summer. If you want this display available for an event, let me or Ernie know and we will work with your event committee. Ray, or Archivist, suggested that to take better care of our archives we may need to identify an improved location/facility. The committee agreed with Ray to explore options before doing so.

CPC, Joe S reported: Our East Central Region hosts a 3 day service conference every year; it's in Perrysburg, OH this July. Their committee has invited our Area 20 CPC Committee to participate on a panel.

We would like to know: what experience to bring there, and what type of ideas you expect us to bring back home.

1. More of the CPC activity happening in NIA-20, the footwork on the ground that we can share with our 5 state Region.
2. Their experience, strength and hope, with CPC activity, and how we might package that up, and bring it all back to Area 20.

Please send your thoughts and activity to Bill and Joe, at CPC@aa-nia.org.

Recent activity: May-June 2014

District 62: We had the joy of visiting another district meeting and sharing a bit on the WHY of CPC activity: seems just as vital today, as it was 70+ years ago. Thanks Amy!

Note: We are delighted to come visit any monthly district meeting, whether there is 5 minutes or 30 minutes in your meeting agenda.

District 41 and District 42: Once again, Walt, Julie, Bob, and many hardworking servants in that neighborhood, carried the message into the annual Haymarket Symposium for Addictions Professionals. They got the pamphlets, a CPC display, and many meeting schedules, then setup an information table. One excellent idea that came from this year's participation, courtesy of Jeanne Mc, was to schedule an OPEN meeting on campus, each night after the symposium lectures. The Professionals stay there at Elmhurst College for 3 days each summer. Most addictions counselors have some knowledge of AA. It seems many would also benefit from a hands-on understanding of our Traditions 3 and 5.

Note: Some Areas used to have quarterly "Open Information Meetings", geared toward the Public and Professionals. Maybe we can get together with our fellows in the PI Committee, and put on a Breakfast or Luncheon "Open Information Meeting" later this year? Please let us know if you hear of any such activity going on in Area 20.

District 42: About 4 years ago, the corporation that bought Sister Ignatia's hospital in Cleveland, decided that having recovered alcoholics sitting by bedsides of patients in the detox ward was a bad idea. Evidently, DuPage County Hospital in Area 20, sees that type of 12 step work saving them millions of dollars.

Each month, District 42 has a service or recovery workshop on 1 Saturday morning. This coming month it will be PI, last month they invited CPC along with a hospital administrator, to sit on a panel.

The administrator sat next to Joe and laid out a very emotional description of the gratitude she has for thirty + servants that show up to visit alcoholics in their detox ward. A disciplined group from our fellowship around District 42 follows the rotation schedule so that every morning, every night, every single day, a recovered woman and a recovered man show up, with our basic text, and ask the patients if they want to chat.....The hospital saves a lot of money when these patients are not re-admitted as frequently and that is exactly what is happening.

There were some hoops to jump through, but now the template exists for us to follow.

Does your local hospital have a detox unit?

Upcoming activity: (please let us know)

August 2nd, in DeKalb there is a 2 hour workshop. Cheryl V, our Delegate, will speak a bit on service structure and her experience at The Conference;; Dawn, our Registrar, will share about sponsorship and service sponsorship, and Area 20 CPC committee will share on helping our Professional Friends recommend us. Contact Tracy, DCM District 71 at Chieffalk1952@aol.com, or CPC@aa-nia.org.

Possibly a visit to District 21 in July (let us know Barb...)

Grapevine, Jim H reported: We had 6 people from Districts 10, 22, 23, 28, 41 and 79. Our guest from D10 joined us for her personal love of the printed word and new interest in the Grapevine. June 15, 2014 is the 70th Anniversary of the Grapevine.

Literature, Francisco; no report submitted

PI, Jim W; no report submitted

Corrections, Pat C reported: we had 8 attendees including San and myself.

Corrections workshop will take place in Bartlett IL on August 9th, 1-4 pm. Dawn B will talk about JUST an organization providing services to inmates in DuPage County Jails. They are looking to bring more AA meetings into the jails.

Bill W will talk about his experiences in the Lake County Jails

Dan L will talk about Volunteering in the penitentiaries in the Illinois Dept of Corrections system

The issues around easily ordering big books from GSO have been resolved. Dan keeps a few cartons of big books on hand so if you need them for jails and prisons Dan can ship immediately.

The group had questions about Bridge the Gap as it relates to corrections AA work. Southern Illinois and Cook County have existing Bridge the Gap for Corrections that work well. We have work to do at the district and area level in NIA 20 get a program started.

Answering Service, Rob M reported: The answering service committee met on June 10th and identified the following committee tasks:

- Working on a redesign for the Area 20 answering service list (blue sheet).
- We have instated a plan to contact each of the district answering service chairs and offer to attend the district meeting.
- We are creating a survey and plan on canvassing the current chairs to look at current costs and call volumes. Once compiled we will deliver back to each district.

We continue to look for opportunities to assist any of the districts.

Special Needs, Chris B reported: Attendance: 2 (Urbano S. NIA Special Needs chair, Chris B, District 21 SN Chair). Urbano provided Chris full AA Accessibility Kit, and contact information for ASL translators.

Discussed the following:

NIA has budget available for purchase of literature.

District chairs should form committees to share the workload and provide 12th step opportunities.

Possible need for meetings in local retirement facilities.

Large Spanish speaking population in district 21 - we need to have Spanish language literature available for use.

Need to get better turnout for this chair in NIA.

Action steps:

Chris will talk to admin at retirement facilities and assess needs in District 21.

Will try to recruit volunteers for Special Needs work.

Order big book and 12/12 in braille and Spanish for District 21 use.

Secretary, Sharon R reported: NIA Secretary, Nicole E. was chairperson. There were 7 in attendance including Nicole; three District Secretaries, Kim, Sharon, and Katie; Mary F, LCM-11; Dawn B, NIA Registrar and Carmela R, alternate NIA Registrar. Nicole provided a list of NIA Officers who asked to be included on District Meeting Minute distribution. We discussed the standards of minutes, sharing our best practices. Nicole asked us to review the Area Secretary Handbook and report back any questions, concerns or updates that we might want to consider.

Treatment Facilities, Betty G reported: the literature supply was replenished; Spanish treatment facilities workbooks are available; attending meetings at district 42; participating in Haymarket institute in Elmhurst with BTG.

Conference Advisory – Ray M reported we met during lunch and are beginning process of putting together ongoing paperwork for any district that decides to step up. Working with a couple of districts who are putting together bids.

Alt Web Administrator, John C reported: Waiting until July 6th for annual web updates

Electronic Equipment Committee, Ed reported:

1. We recently purchased a speaker tripod stand to replace the one that was damaged during transport from the Spring Assembly in Gurnee. The cost was \$64.94. This expenditure is covered in PPB 10. Thank you Robert for taking care of this. He will need to be reimbursed for this purchase.
2. All major equipment (mixer, speakers, wireless receivers & interpreter's unit) is in good condition and proper working order. In the next couple of months some cables may need to be replaced.
3. The committee is currently working on an inventory of all equipment as noted in the NIA 20 Service Handbook. It is being done in spreadsheet format so it can be easily updated. This gives us a picture of what the Committee is responsible for as well as a report for insurance purposes.
4. Anyone with NIA 20 electronic equipment (computer, projectors, etc.) in their care, please let your Committee know so we can be record on the inventory. You can e-mail information to emsvents@yahoo.com

Report & Charter, Lisa S reported on behalf of Bill E: The Report and Charter Committee is charged with insuring the accuracy, timeliness and consistency of all required documentation of the NIA. With the recent appointment of the Alternate Web Administrator, the Report & Charter Committee was asked to review both the unabridged and abridged Service Handbooks regarding the new position. We've met several times in person, and via conference call, to address this task. We've identified several areas needing change in both handbooks. We've found and suggested corrections or additions to five separate pages where we needed to add the Alternate Web Administrator position (Unabridged Service Handbook Pgs. 40, 45, 48, 66, and 67).

The process identified other items needing attention, such as updating the wording used when identifying the position and role of the individual who maintains our website from "webmaster" to "Web Administrator." Corrections were made in six different places within the Unabridged Service Handbook (Pgs. 25 (2X), 100, 85, 81, 60, and 111) and once in the Abridged Service Handbook (Pg. 24). In addition, it was identified that in both handbooks the web administrator website address was incorrect. In both versions it reads: aania@aa-nia.org. It should be webmaster1@aa-nia.org.

It was discovered that the Alternate Registrar and Alternate Secretary responsibilities and duties are not included in the service handbooks. The committee believes a statement should be added that define those positions. The committee is in agreement that by adding a bullet point "Alternate Registrar to Assist the Registrar (or Alternate Secretary to Assist the Secretary) as necessary" would suffice. A member of our committee will contact the Secretary and Registrar to advise that we are looking to add this information. We are looking to recruit additional (at least two) members for this committee. The committee would like to look at all areas of northern Illinois to promote inclusivity. As always, anyone from the Linguistic Area is welcome.

DCM Breakout, Amy L reported: Kelly asked DCMs to consider hosting a service orientation workshop.

Robert S - We have a PPB activity now to provide workshops; we had a long discussion about money. Committee members and DCMs and GSRs it's upon you to start spending money here on service.

Treasurer's Breakout, Judd W reported: There were 3 in attendance including NIA Treasurer and Alternate. Topics of discussion included difference between Area and District, contributions, reimbursements, and legal requirement of a tax exempt corporation. The motion submitted by Treatment was also discussed. District treasuries were also discussed including how to open and bank account.

Officer Reports

Alternate Treasurer, Judd W reported: A summary of contributions received from 1/6/2014 through 5/31/2014 was presented.

The address for the NIA Treasurer for the Panel 64 rotation is: Northern Illinois Area, Ltd., P.O. Box 51, Lake Bluff, IL 60044. Contribution envelopes are available at NIA Assembly and committee meetings.

Please complete the form on the envelope when making contributions to NIA so we can correctly account for your contributions.

Alternate Delegate, Kelly L reported: I attended a meeting of the Area Officers on June 1st which is helping the Area 20 Officers to help the Area 20 members. Basically we discuss ideas to better serve the area and help each other with our responsibilities. I hope the DCMs and Area committee chairs are taking advantage of the extra personalized assistance. Another idea that came from our meeting was to have Area committee chairs attend the DCM breakout and provide a small presentation in hopes of being able to do a similar presentation or workshop within the district. One of the Area committee chairs accepted the invitation.

Last week I sent out all the contributions quarterly reports to all the DCMs and their alternates. The reports show your district's meetings with the amount contributed to GSO. Also, which meetings are still considered active even if there was no contribution amount.

I am hoping that at the DCM breakout a district or two would announce that they would like to have an Orientation workshop in their district. As I mentioned before, if I do not have any takers today I will be putting one together and have it held at the Lord of Life Church in LaFox.

I am looking forward to the East Central Regional Conference hosted in conjunction with the Ohio State Conference.

Alternate Chair, Marilyn F reported: Since the last Assembly that was held on March 29, 2014 I have attended the following:

04/12/2014 – 2014 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop
04/19/2014 – 2015 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting
05/03/2014 – 2014 Big Book Conference trip to Glen Ellyn for walk-thru
05/04/2014 – 2014 Big Book Conference Planning meeting (Wheaton)
05/10/2014 – Area Spring Committee Meeting
05/18/2014 – 2015 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting
06/01/2014 – 2014 Big Book Conference Planning meeting
06/08/2014 – 2015 Spring Assembly/Conference Planning meeting

I would like to thank Lisa Snipes for all of her help in ordering and delivering to me six (6) new NIA signs.

Secretary, Nicole E reported: Please send your reports from today's meeting to me electronically. If you required a new or replacement name badge, please let me know.

Registrar, Dawn B reported: Please mail all group information changes to NIA20 REGISTRAR, Box 196, 684 S. Barrington Rd (4B Plaza) STREAMWOOD IL 60107.

Information updates since 03/29/2014

Total Since 05/10/2014	
Group information	
New groups	5
Folded/Inactive	2
Group contact information	59
District/Individual	28

contacts	
Area contacts	3
Total updates	97

All update requests that were received before 05-05-14 have been processed in FNV.

We will continue to send welcome letters from the area to new GSRs. The packets include the following:

- a welcome letter from the area
- a snapshot of the group's information from FNV
- NIA contribution envelope

Chair, Robert S reported: I am looking forward to our Summer Assembly. This will be the first full assembly since the first of the year and new rotation of area members. It is also a new location for us, well at least that I know of, being hosted by Districts 21 and 28 in Palatine.

The finance committee is presenting a motion that brings into line our Primary Purpose Basic reimbursement guidelines with the responsibilities of our Area Service Committee Chairs. In this way the chairs will no longer have to present motions to hold workshops for their service position, these will be "built in." This should make it much easier for them and the group and/or districts that want them to do a workshop in their locations. It will be nice to have our PPB and Guidelines consistent.

We will also be taking bids for the 2015 Big Book Conference. If you have not already talked about doing this, get on the phone with your district members and make that decision this week. Even if you decide not to place a bid for 2015, consider bidding for 2016. If you start planning now it will be a lot easier. Also there is no reason to wait until the last minute, start planning now.

Most importantly, Cheryl will be presenting her report from having attended the General Service Conference. From what I have already heard, there are a lot of exciting things that she will be talking about, *so you do not want to miss this*. Lastly, BRING YOUR SPONSEES

Open Mic

Adjournment