

## Northern Illinois Area 20 2020 Summer Assembly Minutes

June 13, 2020

Online Audio/Video Meeting

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery



### Meeting Opening

Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela welcomed attendees and gave some hints about using the Zoom Meetings app.

Ninety-six (96) people registered online for the Assembly, and there were 96 participants in the Zoom meeting room when Carmela called the meeting to order.

### New Attendees

Kevin D. – D40 General Service Representative (GSR)

Nanette S. – D40 Alternate District Committee Member (DCM)/Local Committee Member (LCM) Wheaton

Patty F. – D40 GSR

Joan C. – D11 GSR

Nathan C. – D10 Directory Chair

Todd K. – D11 Grapevine Chair

Darryl A. – D40 Archives Chair

Jennifer P. – D10 GSR

Tamber S. – D40 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair

Ana Z. – D23 Grapevine Chair

Kristen F. – D11 GSR/Alternate (Alt) Accessibilities Chair

Bradley R. – D40 GSR

Randy C. – D90 DCM

### Anniversaries

Rob M. – 4/27, 32 years

Todd K. – 6/10, 44 years

Joan S. – 4/26, 10 years

### Approval of 2020 Winter Assembly Minutes

Note: The 2020 Spring Assembly schedule for March 21, 2020, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Phil made the motion to approve the 2020 Winter Assembly minutes and Karen F. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by simple majority electronic vote.

### Meeting Business

#### Treasurer's Report – Dawn B.

Dawn gave the Treasurer's report, advising the Assembly that the checking account balance on the report submitted at the Spring Committee Meeting in May included a double entry of \$9,000 in deposits, so the total was \$9,000 too high. That error has been corrected in the attached report. Dawn has made a transfer to the savings account to bring the prudent reserve total up to the required 30% of the projected total Area expenses for fiscal

year 2020. She presented a comparison of 2020 donations to 2019 donations from groups and districts. Overall, 2020 donations are good, but donations are trending down due to online meetings with no baskets being passed.

The Treasurer's report narrative is posted on the NIA website and is attached to these minutes.

At the Mic:

Jeanne asked to have the pink and green can funds explained, and Dawn explained the pink can funds are for literature for corrections facilities and the green can funds are for literature for treatment facilities. These funds are restricted for use to purchase literature for corrections or treatment facilities.

Alan U. asked if the Area was considering helping the General Services Office (GSO) with the shortfall in donations that caused them to withdraw operating funds from its prudent reserve account. Much discussion followed about the pros and cons of sending funds from the Area to help GSO. The Finance committee will review this request as regards the Area's Primary Purpose Register (PPR) funds required for operations in 2020, and make a recommendation at the Summer Committee Meeting in August. If their recommendation is to send a donation to GSO, it will be voted on as a motion at the Fall Assembly in September. Kevin K. pointed out that Marilyn recently shared a communication from our Regional Delegate Mark E. that after the GSO letter about the donation shortfall went out, GSO received a record \$830,000 in contributions in May, 2020. In light of that news, Kevin does not think there is a reason for the Area do anything about approving a donation to GSO any sooner than the Fall Assembly.

Dennis L. commented that he hadn't see the Treasurer's reports on the NIA website recently. He has used them in the past to report to his district on pink and green can donations and encourage donations from his district. He is concerned about an apparent drop in pink can donations.

Robert S. asked if the Area was considering adding an online donation app to the website. Carol H. said we currently have a PayPal account for the Area and could set up online donations, but it should be an informed decision made by a future assembly. Earl said that if it was initiated, it could include donations to the pink and green can funds.

**Alternate Treasurer's Report – Steve L.**

Steve said that the Finance Committee had discussed the subject of making a donation to GSO in their recent meeting and would continue that discussion in future meetings. He further said that Karen F., D12 DCM, had been elected Finance Committee Chair. He shared the most recent list of donations to NIA 20 on-screen.

**Approval of 2020 Summer Assembly Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl V. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Chris E. seconded the motion. The motion was approved by simple majority electronic vote.

**Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.**

Marilyn welcomed attendees to the Assembly and thanked everyone for the fruit and candy basket she received from us at the start of the 70th General Service Conference (GSC). Her written general activities report is posted on the NIA website and attached to these minutes.

She talked about her experiences at the shortened online GSC held on May 16 through May 19, 2020. There were 135 voting members present and 26 additional attendees, including GSO staff, technical support, and observers. Marilyn was assigned to the Treatment/Accessibilities committee. Each committee was given three hours to review all of its agenda items and decide which items should be postponed to the 2021 GSC. Each committee was given 45 minutes in a general session to present, discuss, and vote on all items they had kept on the 2020 agenda

and passed out of committee. At 45 minutes, they were cut off, in some cases before a vote was taken on the last item under discussion. Marilyn's Treatment/Accessibilities committee sent their Item A: "Discuss the report on the review of materials related to Bridging the Gap activities" to general session and it was approved as an advisory action. Marilyn also gave information about the Advisory Actions from other committees that were passed at the Conference and will be sent to the General Service Board of Trustees for action. These Advisory Actions will be fully reported in "The 70th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 2020 Final Report" to be distributed later this year.

#### At the Mic:

Cheryl V. asked if items that were postponed to the 2021 GSC will automatically be put on the 2021 Agenda. Marilyn said, yes, that was her understanding.

Chris E. asked if any of the items that were put to a vote in general sessions of the conference failed to pass. Marilyn replied that none of the items failed to pass.

Mary R. asked how districts could get a copy of Marilyn's report. Marilyn will be happy to give a short virtual presentation about the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC to each district. To schedule it, contact her at [odat1984@comcast.net](mailto:odat1984@comcast.net). At this time, she does not know if she will be posting a post-GSC written report.

Ken from D11 asked about the motion to change the wording in the AA Preamble to gender-neutral. Marilyn said that the committee discussed it, but took no action. Cheryl V. said that "took no action" means that this request won't be considered in the future unless it is resubmitted as an agenda item for a future GSC.

A question was raised about the approval of the Policy and Admissions motion to approve observers at the GSC. Marilyn explained that each year two observers are allowed to attend the GSC. These are usually AA's from other countries seeking to learn about how we conduct our conference. Currently, the attendance of these observers is approved at the beginning of the conference. This approved motion will allow the approval process to be concluded prior to the conference.

Tom B. said that one regional trustee candidate was removed from the elections at the GSC. The candidate was not qualified because not enough time had passed since he had been a delegate (see The A.A. Service Manual). This leaves a vacancy in one region. He was not sure which one.

## **Old Business**

### **Cancelled 2020 Spring Assembly Conference Final Report**

Kevin K. has sent a draft final report to Chair Carmela R. and Alt Chair Erik L., but some committees have not yet sent their final reports so it is not complete. He will send a copy to the Area Secretary for distribution when it is complete.

He reported about PayPal not refunding its fee for registrations received more than six months in advance and the \$2,000 deposit that the Marriott did not refund. The committee was supposed to have made \$4,000 in additional deposits to the hotel prior to the event, but it was cancelled before it was time to make those payments. He is concerned that if we ask for a refund of the \$2,000 that they will ask us to pay the additional \$4,000.

Registrations were down significantly from previous years with only 124 registrants at the time the conference was cancelled, and we were well under the 100 rooms required for us to get free use of the conference rooms. The Marriott was not very friendly to us in general; they had originally asked for a guarantee of 200 rooms occupied to fulfill the contract requirements, which Kevin negotiated down to the 100 rooms.

Karen F. asked if we had a credit at the hotel for the \$2,000 deposit. Kevin said that during his last conversation with the hotel, his contact said any credit or refund would require governmental action on business transactions or emergency orders to get a refund. So far, the hotel has been silent on all this. He doesn't know if this will change once normal business resumes. He again stressed that the Marriott was not friendly to us as a group.

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

Kevin A., Conference Committee Co-Chair said they are in a holding pattern for planning the conference. The in-person venue, College of Lake County, is also in a holding pattern regarding future events. The conference may be on-line only. Our committee is still intact.

Karen F., Conference Committee Co-Chair said that their main speaker, Ray M., is confirmed. They still need volunteers for panels.

#### **At the Mic:**

Robert S. said that in the health care field, the general recommendation is to not have any big group meetings until after the first of the year 2021. Kevin A. replied that they are moving more towards an on-line conference because of the potential for attendance limits to still be in place in the fall.

Kevin K. asked if the sign-up sheet for volunteers at the 2020 Big Book Conference from the 2019 Winter Assembly is still in effect. Karen replied that it is. Carol H. asked if the NIA website has a link for signing up to volunteer. Karen was unsure; she will check with the webmaster.

### **Appointments Review**

Chair Carmela R. has appointed additional members to the Administrative committees. The currently approved members on Administrative Committees are:

- Concepts Editor and Co-Editor – Jessica R. and Kris S.
- Conference Advisory Committee – Erik L., Dawn B., Susan H., Carol H., Kevin A. (D10)
- Electronic Equipment Committee – Joe B., open
- Finance Committee – Dawn B., Steve L., Karen F. (D12), Jim A. (D42), Karen D. (D73), Ray M. (Past Delegate [PD] advisor)
- Operating Committee – Marilyn F., Carmela R., Christy B., Chris E. (D21), Sue M. (D72), (2) open DCMs
- Report and Charter – Kate D. (D12), Michael L. (D12), (4) open DCMs, (1) open Spanish member, open PD advisor
- Service Handbook custodian – Cheryl V. remains for current round of changes
- Technology Committee – Earl N., Eric B., Rob M., (3) open
- Web Administrator and Alternate – Earl N. and Eric B.

The NIA Committee Roster will be updated with these appointments.

### **New Business**

#### **2021 Big Book Conference Host Bids**

Chair Carmela asked if there was any district that wanted to bid on hosting the 2021 Big Book Conference. No district came forward with a bid. Carmela will continue to ask for a host at future committee meetings and assemblies and asked that DCMs talk to their districts. This is a great entry to hosting because it is a one-day conference.

## Open Elected Positions

Chair Carmela R. reviewed the Area election process, including the Third Legacy process for electing officers because the Alternate Area Secretary position is open, and who the voting members are.

### Area Secretary – Alternate

Natalie G., D61 DCM, stood for this position. Her service work includes being a GSR, Alt Registrar and Registrar for D61, as well as currently serving as DCM. Her sobriety date is July 28, 2012. She has read the A.A. Service Manual and other service-related literature. She is willing to do both the Alt Secretary and DCM positions to grow in service.

The results of the vote to elect Natalie as Alt Secretary were: In favor – 61; Opposed – 8

Following the vote, a member asked to give a minority opinion about the election, stating that it was difficult at the Area level to wear two hats. Following further discussion, Natalie retracted her offer to stand for the position until she has completed her duties as DCM at the end of 2020. **No one else stood for the position and it remains open.**

Elections for open Service Committee positions was next. The Assembly voted in favor of conducting Service Committee chair/alt chair elections by show-of-hand electronic votes, rather than Third Legacy procedure. Members can stand for a position or nominate another person for a position. A member asked if everyone in at the Assembly today already has a position, so they could not stand; and Carmela replied that not everyone present does. A member wanted to know how many years of sobriety were recommended for doing area service work. Carmela replied that two years of sobriety are suggested.

No one stood or was nominated for the following positions:

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

### CPC Committee Chair

Jeff L., current CPC Alt Chair, stood for the position and qualified himself. His sobriety date is April 3, 1999. He has held all elected group positions, several district positions, and has served as Answering Service chair, Literature chair, Special Needs (Accessibilities) chair, and Registrar at the area level.

Jeff was elected to the position with no opposition.

### Literature Committee Area Chair – Alternate

Phil M. stood for the position and qualified himself. He has been sober since 1981 and has held most chairs at the district level. He has not yet held a chair position at the area level. He has read the Big Book.

Phil was elected to the position with no opposition.

## Service Committee Showcase

Lisa S. gave an introduction to the showcase, recommending that members use the information in the NIA 20 Service Manual to review the service function of each committee and the roles and responsibilities of the committee chair and alt chair.

She had general guidelines for committee members to:

- Encourage participation of district committee chairs and anyone else who is interested in the work of the committee
- Attend and volunteer at conferences
- Communicate with districts and groups
- Hold workshops on your area of service
- Attend workshops to share your ideas and successes, and find out what others in your area of service are doing.

#### Treatment Committee

Lisa S., Treatment Committee Chair, discussed the main responsibilities of the chair position. She emphasized the responsibilities of maintaining a list of all treatment facilities in the Area so we can provide service to them, and partnering with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee. The pandemic has changed the treatment centers. Lisa reported that detox patient load has increased in some facilities while inpatient treatment has not increased. One hospital has decreased inpatient total from 16 to 9 with only one counselor, and in-person AA service work has generally not been allowed at treatment centers. Some facilities are beginning to move into using virtual meetings to get AA back into their facilities. Unfortunately, many discharged patients are not being given information on Zoom AA meetings. It is important that we somehow continue to provide service to treatment facilities to share our experience, strength and hope and to provide information on meetings and sponsorship. We need more volunteers for virtual meeting and BTG volunteers.

Sandy C., a volunteer from D40, discussed her treatment center experience of conducting FaceTime virtual meetings during the pandemic and how it differs from working with patients in person. She said that while patients are attentive, the lack of individual contact before or after meetings is a drawback to these meetings. Sandy has only had one person ask about Zoom meetings. She indicated that people are more interesting in finding out about recovery houses, or are just planning to go home after treatment. Sandy said not very many people are doing online volunteering. We need to do some adapting to be of service while the pandemic conditions continue.

#### Corrections Committee

Scott M., Corrections Committee Chair, discussed corrections volunteer work. He indicated that the state prisons and county jails are mostly projecting that they will not allow AA's to come in for meetings until Illinois reaches Phase 5 of the Governor's reopening plan, which basically means not until there is an effective vaccine or treatment for Covid-19. Most prisons and jails do not have the means for doing online meetings in their facilities. Sheridan Prison has a meeting run by inmates that is conducted the same as a meeting on the outside, and Scott has recently heard that they may open up for some type of in-person meetings with AA's starting on July 1, 2020.

Scott's solution to this situation is for AA's to take what is available and use it—to go back in time and start corresponding with inmates. He has created a written overview of what AA's can do and has sent it to districts in NIA 20. To sign up to be a prison correspondent, use this link:

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-26correctcorrespondence\\_form.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-26correctcorrespondence_form.pdf).

Dawn B., Chair of the 2020 National Corrections Conference, said that the conference scheduled to be held at the Hyatt in Schaumburg was cancelled. She has rescheduled with the Hyatt for 2022; the 2021 conference is already scheduled for New Orleans.

#### Literature Committee

Kimberly T., Literature Committee Chair, discussed the function of the committee. She had some suggestions for using literature to help AA and the newcomer during this pandemic period where online meetings are the norm.

- Download pamphlets from the GSO bookstore and attach them to emails to newcomers, or send them the links to the appropriate pamphlets.
- Change group rules to allow electronic devices during in-person meetings for reading the Big Book or 12 & 12 to avoid the possibility of cross contamination from sharing books.
- Buy extra copies of the Big Book or 12 & 12 so each group member can have their own to support the group and AA literature sales.
- Buy extra copies of Big Books to hand out to newcomers as you meet them. You can always leave one at their front door to avoid personal contact, if necessary.

Kim also mentioned that she thinks the large print version of the first 164 pages of the Big Book is one of the best kept secrets of AA literature.

### Grapevine Committee

Susan H., Grapevine Committee Chair, attended an online Grapevine workshop put on by Oregon AA's that included presentations from Grapevine staff members from GSO. Two Grapevine workshops are being presented by AA in Hawaii this year: a general workshop on June 20, and one on writing Grapevine stories on July 18, 2020.

AA started the Grapevine in 1944 as a means for Bill W. to communicate with the fellowship. It has become the international journal of AA. Stories are submitted by AA's and each story is read by three AA's who select the ones to be published. About 150 stories are received each month. The 2021 monthly topics are listing on the Grapevine website, if you are interested in writing an article on one of the topics. Each monthly issue has a section with stories on the selected AA topic for the month; a section with stories about the steps, traditions and AAs' personal stories; and a section with other useful information and articles for AA's.

In Susan's district they include one past Grapevine issue in each newcomer's packet. She mentioned that the Grapevine has made the January through May 2020 Grapevine issues available online free of charge to help AA's during the pandemic shelter-at-home period. Members can subscribe to receive the Grapevine quote of the day online and to the Grapevine YouTube channel. Sandy C., D41 Grapevine Alt Chair, said their district has a great Grapevine meeting on Saturday nights. Todd K., D11 Grapevine Chair, and his co-chair have prepared a 10-minute Grapevine presentation to give at groups in their district as requested. They hope to do one at each of the 150 meetings in his district, either online or in-person. He is will to present at other districts if asked.

## **Service Committee Breakout Sessions (2:00 to 2:45 p.m.)**

### **Service Committee Reports**

#### **Accessibilities – Dwayne G. / Rachel B.**

Not present

#### **Answering Service – Tracy F. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Tracy has plans to attend district meetings in the Area when they are again being held in person to talk about their answering services and how the Area can help them. He has an updated version of the answering service map of the Area that he will post on the NIA website.

#### **Archives – Jeff K. / Alt Chair is vacant**

So far this year the Archives Committee has done the following:

- In January 2020, incoming committee chair (Jeff K) met with incoming Area Archivist (Cheryl V) and outgoing Area Archivist (Ray M) to review the Area archives collection at the Elgin storage facility, in order to become acquainted with the archives collection generally and to decide what materials to use in the Archives Display at the Spring Conference/Assembly in March.

- From early January through mid-March, the archives chair worked closely with the Spring Conference planning committee's point person on archives (Sarah W) regarding set-up and operation details for the archives display room at the Conference. Unfortunately, the Conference was cancelled in mid-March due to Covid-19; however, the Spring Conference Planning Committee's final report includes a detailed summary of the archives room set-up and operation plans that will help guide archives display planning for future area conferences.
- On April 21, the committee held a virtual "archives breakout session" via zoom to discuss the two (2) archives items on the GSC agenda to provide guidance to our Area Delegate (Marilyn F) regarding same at the May 2 PGSC Workshop. A written summary of the April 21 discussions was sent to Marilyn, and a verbal summary was given at the PGSC workshop on May 2.

The following were discussed at Archives committee breakout during the Summer Assembly:

- Area chair will continue to expand/update area-wide archives committee roster contact info to improve communications and help better serve district/local archives
- Area available to help any district with any archives-related workshop or similar event and to provide resources/tools to address any archives-related problem or question.
- Area committee wants to sponsor an Archives Service Workshop later this year if possible.
- District archives chairs gave status updates during breakout:
  - District 40 (Darryl A) (sorting and cataloging archives collection)
  - District 43 (Bruce M) (group histories, cataloging collection, digitizing written material, possible workshop)
  - District 64 (Ed W) (organized and inventoried collection, scanning underway)
  - District 73 (Gary F) (group histories, archives presentation at Fall Roundup)
- Other District archives news:
  - District 43 held successful "long-timer panel" via zoom on 5/9/20
  - District 42 is hosting "long-timer panel" via zoom on 7/25/20
- Other general discussion:
  - Details involved in archives scanning/digitization projects
  - Status and possible next steps re NIA History Book revision project

In service, Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA 20

### **Bridging the Gap – Chair and Alt Chair are vacant**

#### **Concepts – Jessica R.**

- The Summer issue of "Concepts" has dropped and been delivered to your mailbox. If you do not receive "Concepts" newsletter in the mail, both the English and Spanish versions are available on the area website.
- Cost for Spanish translation of the Summer issue was \$274.45 (12 pages)
- Articles for the Fall issue of "Concepts" are due August 9th.

#### **Cooperation with the Professional Community – Jeff L. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Since the spring committee meeting, I attended the Pre-GSC Workshop Zoom meeting and ran the CPC breakout. CPC only had a few items to discuss but they were worth discussing like most agenda items at the GSC.

I also attended a National CPC Workshop put on by Area 11 in New Jersey titled "Be Friendly with Our Friends". There were over 80 in attendance from the US and Canada. One of the Speakers was Ivan L., Class A Trustee and Federal Judge. I found the workshop very informative and got a lot of useful knowledge on CPC. I would like to thank Susan H. for sending me the invite. I did forward the Zoom meeting information and invite to all the District CPC Chairs and alternates. I am looking forward to future workshops.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeffery Lambert – (Alt) CPC Chair (aajlambert2@aol.com)



**Corrections – Scott M. / Mark H.**

Scott has had no literature requests from any corrections facilities. Kane County, Sheridan Prison, Lake County, McHenry County, and DuPage County are all okay on literature. He had nothing to report beyond what he discussed in the showcase session.

**Grapevine – Susan H. / Alt Chair is vacant**

Susan had nothing further to report after giving her showcase presentation.

**Literature – Kimberly T. / Phil M.**

Kimberly reported that in the breakout today they discussed the Pre-General Service Conference workshop breakout sessions. They confirmed that they liked the online format and that they could attend more than one GSC breakout because they were scheduled over several days. District 11 has newcomer packets and wanted ideas for getting them to newcomers, so they shared ideas on that topic including using virtual newcomer packets.

At the Mic:

Kevin A. made a general request to committee chairs that they post information about workshops, etc. on the NIA website so district people can find it. Susan H. said she had sent the Grapevine workshop information to all the district Grapevine committee chairs, which is another way to reach district committee chairs.

**Public Information – Rich S. / Ed M.**

Ed M., Alt PI Chair, reported they had used a Zoom meeting to get all the district PI chairs together. According to Steve M., past PI Chair, the program to put AA information billboards in 11 districts (in 13 counties) is currently halted, but will be restarting. Ed talked about the current situation in medical facility waiting rooms where there is no longer any place for us to put AA literature. He is suggesting that districts work to place Big Books in English, Spanish, and French (if needed) in local libraries.

At the Mic:

Cheryl V. suggested that the PI committee could explore placing eBook versions of the Big Book in libraries.

Alan U. asked about the status of the PACE bus PI program in District 10. Kevin A. said that the D10 PI Chair has statistics on that. Kevin said they will not be renewing the program; the return on investment was not great. The district will present a final report on the program at a future Area meeting.

**Treatment Facilities – Lisa S. / Rich H.**

Since taking over as Treatment Chair and Richard as Alternate Treatment Chair in the new year, we started off strong:

In January, Richard and I met for the first time to get together and discuss how we got into this work and our passion for helping others serve in the treatment setting. We briefly reviewed the Treatment Kit which was sent to me following the fall elections. We discussed reaching out to the District Treatment Chairs as soon as received the list from our Registrar.

In February, I reached out to our Registrar Carol H. There were not many new Treatment Committee Chair service positions updates from the districts at that time and none of them had been updated in the new system. We were provided with a list of previous District Treatment contacts to get started with. Rich and I also met with former Area Treatment Chair John R. and were provided historical information and experience which would help us with future NIA 20 Treatment “best practices”. During the month of February, I began to receive calls from Districts inquiring about literature for treatment centers in their areas.

In March, I placed a bulk literature order with the GSO for 100 Big Books in accordance with the NIA 20 approved decision to provide literature to Treatment Committees in districts where there is no financial assistance to further support our NIA 20 trusted servants in carrying the message into treatment centers. The total of this discounted bulk purchase was \$888.25. For this I will use Green Can funds in the amount of \$701.85 first; with the balance of \$186.40 from the Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) which supported the use of these funds.

Two days before I prepared to distribute literature throughout Northern Illinois, Governor Pritzker issued the stay at home order. I was able to get one case of books out before the shutdown, but then everything stopped. Treatment centers statewide adopted public health policies to adapt to new COVID-19 safety regulations. So here we are. But that's not here we stay. As things change – and they will – we will continue to reach out to the District Treatment Chairs during the next couple of months and exploring how we can better serve their needs throughout the Area.

Speaking of the needs of the Area. Something to put on to the Area radar for the future relates to our partner committee Bridging the Gap. The BTG weekend workshop has been canceled for 2020 on the western side of the state in September. They were able to reschedule in September 2021 at the same hotel. Back in 2019 when this was being planned, NIA 20 agreed to provide support with hospitality and speakers. Once we elect a new BTG Chair, our support will once again be requested and appreciated.

In love of service,  
Lisa S., NIA 20 Treatment Chair  
Richard H., NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair

## **Administrative Committee Reports**

### **Archivist – Cheryl V.**

As with many committees, not much going on for this Archivist. As part of rotating, I visited our repository in January with Ray M., our outgoing Archivist, and Jeff K., our newly elected NIA Archives Chair. At that time, we were reviewing potential items to use for the Spring Conference. Sadly, we know what happened here.

I have been unable to get back down to the repository, nor have Ray and I been able to exchange keys so that I might visit on my own.

Jeff and I have been contacted by Monte K., previously of DuPage County and sponsee of Tex B., a previous Concepts editor. Monte has a vast inventory of issues from 1989 to 2000. He is looking to find missing Concepts editions that Tex was part of, and has offered to give us any duplicate issues we may not have along with digital copies of any and all he has. Our digital archives that I have found so far date back to 2004. I need to visit out repository to find out what we have, and what we might share. I hope to do this in the near future.

One of the things that I would like to complete as Archivist is the conversion of our older paper archives to a digital format. This will require scanning and working with PDF files. Having electronic files on a hard drive that is only has limited access is not a long-term goal. It is my hope to find a way to make these versions more accessible. This would require a secure, electronic locations to protect anonymity. The other option is to create anonymity protected versions that could be made accessible on the website. More will be revealed, but I would be interested to know if this body thought that a subscription to Adobe Acrobat (approximately \$180 per year) would be a normal expense of the Archivist's budget so that they would be able to do this type of work.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl V. NIA 20 Archivist

### **Conference Advisory Committee**

Erik reported that the committee held its first meeting on May 14, and that no chair has been elected yet. They are discussing how they can help support conference committees with venue selection and hotel contracts. They discussed virtual meetings in general and how to determine timelines for decisions about cancellations of in-person meetings to avoid forfeiting deposits.

### **Electronic Equipment – Joe B.**

Not present

### **Finance Committee – Dawn B.**

Dawn reported that the Finance Committee motion to fully fund the Delegate's expenses for the GSC is being postponed for now. It will be revisited later. The committee discussed the printing costs for Concepts and the possibility of an electronic version to be posted on the NIA and districts' websites. They are asking the Spring Conference committee to pursue a refund of the \$2,000 deposit with the Marriott Hotel. They will be reviewing the 2020 Primary Purpose Budget and donations to verify that the Area will have sufficient funds to operate in 2020. This needs to be done before any recommendation for sending a contribution to GSO can be made.

### At the Mic:

Alan U. asked if the discussion of the contribution to GSO could be speeded up. Area Chair Carmela replied that the Finance Committee will discuss it first; then it can be placed on the Fall Assembly agenda for voting, if their recommendation is to make a contribution. We will discuss it at the Summer Committee Meeting in August. The soonest we could vote is in September, about 90 days from now.

Additional discussion ensued with Karen F., D12 DCM, and Dawn B., Area Treasurer, reminding the Assembly that the Area must have funds to meet its \$78,000 in budgeted 2020 expenses before any contribution to GSO can be considered. A member asked what would happen to Area finances if groups decided to contribute to GSO first, and the Area second. Dawn replied that while it could affect the Area, a group, being independent, can have a group conscience vote to decide to do that if they feel the need to support GSO first. Kevin A., D10 DCM, stated that the Area cannot hastily discard financial prudence to support GSO, and reminded members that GSO had received a record \$830,000 in contributions in May. Much of their support comes from individuals and groups. It was suggested that GSRs take the matter of GSO contributions back to their groups and districts to encourage support of GSO.

### **Operating Committee – Carmela R.**

This committee has had no activity to report.

### **Report and Charter Committee**

This committee has had no activity to report.

### **Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V.**

In the Spring of 2019, the Assembly (3/23/19) passed a motion to translate the NIA Service Manual into Spanish. This was completed, but the handbooks were never printed. In preparation for the Spring 2020 Assembly I was asked to prepare the Spanish version for printing. I found that the translated electronic version had lost all formatting. Formatting allows for the automated creating of the Table of Contents. In the effort of correcting this problem, I found a section of the manual had been missed in translation, along with updates needed to two sections based on motions from the Summer Assembly (6/22/19). A request was made to the previous translator, and these portions were integrated into the Spanish version. The electronic files were turned over to our Alternate Delegate, Chris D., and Area Chair, Carmela R. for the purpose of printing.

Some of you may recall there was a substantial revision to the Service Manual that was approved at the Winter Assembly of 2017 (12/9/17). This change is what prompted the need for the complete translation of the Service Manual as just reported. This change removed various documents from the “basic” manual and returned them to stand alone documents. These are the Planning Procedures, Website Policy and Guidelines, and the Primary Purpose Finance historical documentation. I have pulled these documents from the archived Spanish version of the manual and am trying to prepare these for posting on the website. I have been having difficulty in converting them to PDF files. As soon as I find a way to work around this, I will get them to Earl to post.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl V. NIA 20 Service Handbook Custodian

### **Technology Committee – no Chair elected yet**

Earl N. reported that the committee has had no recent activity. They are looking for two or three more members, who do not have to be DCMs or techies to be appointed. Once they have a full committee, they will elect a chair.

### **Website Administrator - Earl N. / Eric B.**

Earl reported that the districts are continuing to transition to their own websites with district funding. There are only two districts left on the NIA account. We continue to work on transparency between and among districts with compatible software, etc. He has received fewer written reports since the lockdown started. Earl asked each committee chair to go to the committee’s page on the website and add information on what your committee does in our Area. Right now, many of these pages only have the generic statement from GSO about what the committee does. We could use more multi-media content for these pages.

## **Officers’ Reports**

### **Alternate Delegate – Chris D.**

#### **Welcome to the 2020 Summer Assembly!!**

First off, thanks to all for attending our Area’s very first VIRTUAL assembly. Also, huge thanks to our Delegate Marilyn F., for providing such a great report today on her conference experience.

This is actually my first Assembly report as your Alternate Delegate and I remain honored and privileged to serve Northern Illinois.

One of the primary responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate is for me to help facilitate Areawide Service orientation workshops. For those of you that might not be aware, these workshops are completely funded by the Area, meaning we’ll cover the cost for the venue, refreshments, printed materials and other associated expenses. **All you need to do is invite us and we’ll be glad to come to your district or group and discuss service.** We are happy to provide Area trusted servants for panel discussions and will also be glad to work with service “junkies” in your own area.

Speaking of workshops, I had a workshop scheduled to take place in District 80, however with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the workshop had to be canceled. This was particularly distressing as I was looking forward to meeting with and having more involvement with those in District 80. As of today, a new date has not yet been scheduled.

Since then as has been necessitated by circumstance, we’ve gotten better and better with virtual meetings (such as today) and now realize that VIRTUAL SERVICE WORKSHOPS are certainly a viable option. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss additional details, plan an agenda or set a date.

I've also attended the recent committee meeting and Pre-General Service Conference workshop since my last assembly report.

2020 Reimbursement Requests – I have no additional reimbursement requests since my last report.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris D. – NIA 20 – Alternate Delegate – Panel 70 ([nia20altdel@gmail.com](mailto:nia20altdel@gmail.com))

**Chair – Carmela R.**

They say you learn your service position by the time you rotate. I suspect that will be the case for your Panel 70 Chair! I have been part of several meetings lately, to learn, mostly. I am a part of Area service sharing sessions, hosted by Area 19, another Area Chair Rap session group where chairs from across the country gather to talk about a variety of topics.

I am also part of the Illinois State Conference Policy Committee. This committee is talking about making policy updates to write contingency planning language into the guidelines and include virtual programming ideas in the program section. This might be something to consider for our own planning guidelines moving forward. I have also been skilling up on the use of Zoom and its capabilities for our Area. Thanks to a partnership with our Registrars, we have an updated registration process and reporting. We will see how it goes for our first Assembly and rework if needed.

Thank you all so much for your invitations to participate in workshops and district meetings. I will be with District 10 on June 28th for a brief talk about service in NIA 20. Please feel free to invite me wherever I can be of service to your Districts and Groups.

**Expenses to date: \$631.70**

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 Conference of Delegates Past and Present (CDPP) \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela R., Area Chair, [chairperson@aa-nia.org](mailto:chairperson@aa-nia.org)

At the Mic:

Karen F. asked about the format of the upcoming State Conference and the Area Summer Committee meeting in August. Carmela said the State Conference would be a one-day virtual conference. The format of the Summer Committee Meeting has not been decided yet.

**Alternate Chair – Erik L.**

Erik assisted the Spring Conference committee with winding down after the conference was cancelled. He has been attending the Illinois State Conference committee meetings. He will be a participant in an upcoming D43 workshop on June 22. The Conference Advisory Committee has held its first meeting, and Erik is corresponding with some host committees for upcoming events.

**Registrar – Carol H.**

Carol will post her written report on the NIA website. The GSO fellowship database is still not fully functional. She has sent out Group Lists from GSO to the DCMs and district secretaries or registrars to disseminate to groups to collect information. She requested that the DCMs collect the information from the groups and send it to her in one package for database updates.

At the Mic:

Chris D., Alt Delegate, said that he got some district updates in the DCM breakout meeting that he will forward to Carol. A DCM asked how to update GSR information, and Carol said to use the GSR/Group Change Form. Carol asked the DCMs to make updates to the Excel worksheet she sent them by adding a line to the worksheet with the new information to avoid mixing up old and new information.

**Alternate Registrar – Rob M.**

Not present

**Secretary – Christy B.**

Christy reported that she met with two district secretaries in the breakout session today and discussed taking minutes. They are planning to work on finalizing a revised District Secretary's Manual that is currently in first draft.

**Meeting Closure with Open Mic**

**Open Mic:**

Cheryl V., Area Service Manual Custodian, needs help with translating the Secretary Duties and Responsibilities section into Spanish.

Carol H., Area Registrar, needs help contacting the Spanish Language districts for information on DCMs and Alt DCMs, as well as other district officers/committee chairs.

Carmela is concerned about the ongoing problem of not being able to offer Spanish translation for the virtual assemblies and committee meetings.

Johnna announced that his district sent a special contribution to GSO. All the groups he has attended recently have had announcements suggesting that individuals make contributions to GSO.

John O., D43 DCM, said his district placed an ad in the May 31, 2020 Chicago Tribune about AA. It was printed in all editions of the Tribune. It included a graphic of a computer and read:

Building a fellowship,  
anytime, from anywhere,  
for anyone who has a desire to stop drinking.  
aa-nia-d43.org

**Adjournment**

Dave F. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl V. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Fall Assembly will be held on September 19, 2020. A decision will be made at the Summer Committee Meeting in August if it will be a virtual meeting or conducted in person with location to be determined. If it is held in person, it will be hosted by District 22.

**NIA 20 – 2020 Summer Assembly Minutes  
Attachment 1 - NIA 20 Delegate's Report**



June 13, 2020

Hello Everyone and Welcome to the Summer Assembly.

Mark E. who is our East Central Regional Trustee, sent an e-mail to all the Delegates in the East Central Region. He reminded us that he is on the Trustees Nominating Committee and the Committee is tasked with helping to replace eight Trustees at the 71st General Service Conference.

He is looking for candidates to serve as the East Central Regional Trustee and a second candidate to serve as the Trustee at Large – U.S.

So, I am taking this opportunity to speak to you, and those who feel they are qualified to consider serving our Fellowship, to give Mark E. a call to discuss the job, its requirements and the benefits.

Right now, there is an opening for an A.A.W.S. Non-trustee Director. If you or anyone that you know might be interested please let me know and I will forward the information that I received.

I missed the Spring Committee Meeting because I was at the Virtual General Service Conference that day and I will be giving my report this morning.

If any of the districts or group meetings would like me to give a short virtual presentation of the 70th General Service Conference, please contact me. I would love to do that. [Odat1984@comcast.net](mailto:Odat1984@comcast.net).

I heard that today and tomorrow there is a virtual meeting for Founders Day. I hope to log in after this Assembly.

I have included a letter that I received from the General Service Office:

**SUBJECT:** 2020 International Convention Virtual Site - Coming Soon! ... We will be up and running on aa.org by July 1, 2020, to coincide as closely as possible with the original Convention date, and the site will be available throughout the entire month of July. Please stay tuned for updates on aa.org.

Just in from Mark E.: May contributions to GSO were \$830,000.00, a record amount.

I have attached to this e-mail the February 3, 2020 GSB First Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes. [GSB Board Meeting Minutes are posted in the Delegate's Reports folder on the NIA website.]

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn F.  
Delegate – Panel 70  
Northern Illinois Area 20

**NIA 20 – 2020 Summer Assembly Minutes  
Attachment 2 - NIA 20 Treasurer's Report**

**Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.  
PO Box 808  
Streamwood, IL 60107-2971**



**2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer  
NIA Summer Assembly – June 13, 2020**

**Balance Sheet**

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

- Checking account balance: \$12,064.90
- Operating funds balance: \$6,701.63
- Restricted funds balance: \$5,363.27 and consists of:
  - "Pink Can" \$4,661.42
  - "Green Can" \$701.85
- Savings account balance: \$23,514.00 (Prudent Reserve)

**Profit and Loss Statement**

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

- Total Contributions: \$26,341.36
- Total Expenses: \$24,171.41
- Net Operating Income: 2,169.95 which is the amount that our expenses exceed our income in 2020

**Miscellaneous**

- We now have (almost) full Finance Committee. We met on Friday to go over the guidelines and also to discuss some business. We elected a chair.
- I have mailed donation envelopes for when meetings are up and running again to all Districts that I could get an address for on their District website. Many District websites have Covid information, so maybe the address got shuffled. THE DISTRICTS I DO NOT HAVE ADDRESSES FOR;
- 28, 52, 61, 62, 64, 72, 73, 79, 80 and 91. If someone could please email me the address, I will send envelopes.
- The NIA insurance has not yet been paid; the agent is still shopping out plans. Usually this runs us between 3000 and 3300 dollars.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn B., NIA Treasurer – Panel 70  
[treasurer@aa-nia.org](mailto:treasurer@aa-nia.org)