



## 2020 Fall Assembly (motions & background material) \_prelim

September 19, 2020

### 1. Motion by the Finance Committee to send \$2,000 from NIA 20 to the General Service Board

#### Background detail:

At the June District 42 Meeting the District passed a motion to distribute \$400 of their own reserves to NY as well as unanimously passing the following: "We move that District 42 petition Area 20 to make a \$2,000 donation to General Service Office, New York."

The motion was also supported by District 11; however, their DCM was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, but her district's support was noted.

This was taken up by the Finance Committee who unanimously recommended it go forward to the Fall Assembly for approval. The recommendation for approval was straight forward:

- While NY contributions are solid, literature sales are down significantly, and operations have been affected. Dipping into the reserves and furloughs have been necessary.
- There are sufficient Area 20 funds available now over the prudent reserve.
- Our Area 20 Treasurer ran an analysis of the maximum outlays Area could expect to incur through year end and we would still be well below the prudent reserve even if incoming funds were reduced.
- ~~Normally we send GSO \$10,000 at the end of the year so this is essentially an advance, we will still take up remaining funds at a future finance committee meeting and assembly.~~
- Money sent to GSB (NOT for GSC, Delegate Support, or Birthday plan)
  - 9/26/2018-----\$10,000
  - 4/30/2018---\$8,000
  - 7/30/2017--\$8,300
  - 10/15/2016--\$8,250Total for last 4 years; \$34, 500

The Primary Purpose Register basic expense items and year over year contribution details on the following pages are also being presented as background for this motion.

**Primary Purpose Register - basic items (PPB) example**

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 7/31/2020	2020 Expected Amount	Remaining if we don't open	Open last Quarter
B01	General Service Conference	The Area Committee is expected to participate in and report on the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental for pre-GSC workshop</li> </ul>	Delegate and Alternate Delegate	\$ 14.99	\$2,000.00	\$ -	
B02	General Service Conference Contribution	The Area Committee is expected to make a contribution for the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	Year-end contribution to GSB for NIA participation in GSC	Delegate reports to the Treasurer the current expenses per the General Service Board	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00	\$ -	
B03	Area Assemblies	The Area Committee is expected to support hosting districts to host four assembly meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 267.94	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,100
B04	Area Committee Meetings	The Area Committee is expected to host four committee meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 890.01	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000.00
B05	Service Orientation Workshops	The Area Committee is encouraged to host roughly eight Service Orientation workshops around NIA per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Alternate Delegate	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 600.00

# Northern Illinois Area 20

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B06	Administrative Committee Meetings	Committees are encouraged to hold roughly ten meetings each year to perform their respective functions per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Conference calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance committee</li> <li>• Operating Committee</li> <li>• Report and Charter Committee</li> <li>• Conference Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Electronic Equipment Committee</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 250.00		\$ 75.00
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mailing services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts Editor</li> <li>• Concepts Co-Editor</li> </ul>	\$ 7,094.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
B08	Area Committee participation in District Committee functions	When invited, Area trusted servants are expected to attend and participate in District service functions including District meetings, workshops, service events, etc., per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This relates to expenses incurred when the District is hosting.</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 500.00
B09	ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	Attend the East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> <li>• NIA Chairperson</li> <li>• Immediate Past Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ 1,586.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
B10	Area Operations	Area trusted servants are expected to operate NIA basic services per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage, postage, mailing services, NIA contribution envelopes, office supplies, post office and postage, printing or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups I, II and III</li> </ul>	\$3,583.06	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 5,000.00

			copying, insurance, Quick Books Online. coffee pots, annual reports, bank fees, Archives repository, GSR Handbooks, canceled check charges, website expenses, electronic equipment maintenance and upgrades					
B11	Illinois State Conference, Area Committee participation	In years in which the IL State Conference is hosted by NIA, thirty-six trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years, the Delegate, Area Chairperson, and Archivist are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years service committee chairpersons who are requested by the NIA Delegate and the Conference planning committee are also expected to attend and participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate every year.</li> <li>• Group I, II and III when it is held in N.I.A. and in other years when Delegate requests participation for Area 19 or 21 State Conference Host Committees.</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B12	Spring Conference, Area Committee participation	Thirty-six Area trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate in the NIA Spring Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups I, II and III</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B13	Big Book Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the hosting district to host the Big Book Conference per the NIA Big Book Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$ -	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00

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		guidelines and historical practice.						
B14	Spring Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the Spring Conference Committee to host the NIA Spring Conference per the NIA Spring Conference Guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 3,750.00		
B15	East Central Regional Forum	The Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Forum (held every two years.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B16	East Central Regional Conference	The Area Delegate and Alt. Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Conference every year (held every year except those with International Conferences.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Delegate</li> <li>• Alternate Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
B17	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter (If needed)</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• This relates to expenses incurred when the Area is hosting.	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00

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B18	Annual Bridge the Gap Weekend Workshop	The Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson or their replacements, as appointed by the BTG Chairperson, shall attend the Annual BTG Weekend Workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTG Chair</li> <li>• BTG Alternate Chair</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
B19	IL State Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the State Conference Committee to host the IL State Conference per our guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee		\$ 750.00		
B20	National AA Technology Workshop	Either the Website Administrator or the Alternate is expected to attend the annual National AA Technology Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Administrator or</li> <li>• Alternate Website Administrator</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
B21	National AA Corrections Conference	The Corrections Chairperson and Alternate Corrections Chairperson shall attend the Annual Corrections Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrections Chair</li> <li>• Alternate Corrections Chair</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
<b>Primary Purpose Basic Totals:</b>					<b>\$ 24,336.42</b>	<b>\$ 78,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,825.00</b>
<b>Group I:</b>		<b>Group III:</b>		<b>Group II:</b>				
Officers and Alternates		Administrative Committees		Service Committee Chairs and Alternates				
• Delegate		• Operating		• Answering Services		• Corrections		
• Chairperson		• Finance		• Archives		• Grapevine		
• Treasurer		• Report and Charter		• Accessibilities		• Literature		
• Secretary		• Electronic Equipment		• Bridging the Gap		• Public Information		
• Registrar		• Conference Advisory		• Concepts Service Letter		• Webmaster		
				• Cooperation With The Professional Community				

<b>Year over Year Donations to NIA (Jan- Aug 2019 vs. 2020)</b>																					
<b>Group Donations</b>																					
	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>													
<b>2019</b>	3058.12	4423.38	2873.06	2595.19	5764.38	2432.73	6522.21	3723.91			31392.98										
<b>2020</b>	0	16130.1	3505.21	2587.12	999	678	1476.51	1684.5			27060.44										
											<b>4332.54</b>	<b>Difference 2019 to 2020</b>									
<b>District Donations</b>																					
	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>													
<b>2019</b>	1442	1310.19	743.85	216	2030	0	1782	3200			<b>10724.04</b>										
<b>2020</b>	0	400	250	1693.5	775	2312	0	500			<b>5930.5</b>										
											<b>4793.54</b>	<b>Difference 2019 to 2020</b>									
											<b>9,126.08 Less donations January through August 2020</b>										

- 2. Motion by District 21 that our Area Delegate write a letter to the General Service Board requesting this agenda item be added for consideration at the upcoming General Service Conference: A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating “The Conference agreed that General Service Board should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups,” by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.**

**Background detail:** the letter being sent by District 21 to the GSB requesting the item be considered for discussion by the Conference.

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**District 21 | Northern Illinois Area 20**

**P.O. Box 1003, Palatine, Illinois 60078-1003**

August 24, 2020

To whom it may concern:

The Palatine Angle Group proposed a change at our District meeting in January 2020 to allow AA to receive donations from Clubs, providing they have no outside commitments or connections. The group believed it was wrong for District 21 to reject a donation from our local club, because it came from a group of alcoholics. They understand the reasoning for the decision the District made but believe the GSC Action used to make that decision is outdated and needs to be revised.

The District voted in February 2020 to support the group in requesting that this change be considered by the General Service Conference. It has been almost 50 years since this matter was last addressed by the GSC. We believe it is time to reevaluate the decision that was made in 1972 to determine if the reason for the GSC Action is still the same. Therefore, we are proposing the following motion to be considered by the GSC and request that it be added to the agenda of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference in 2021:

*A request to reconsider and possibly change the 1972 GSC Action stating “The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome*



*from Groups,” by sending a new questionnaire to clubs to determine if the reason for the previous Action is still the same, and if appropriate, to change the policy.*

It is known that meetings for other 12 step programs take place at our local club and that they pay rent to do so. It is not known if the money received from those groups is kept separate from money collected from AA meetings. We believe the donation that the District received and returned in December 2019 was from money collected from AA members and made in good faith to our District. By conducting a survey of clubs, similar to the one done before the 1972 GSC Action, the GSC can determine if money received from Clubs is contributed by A.A. members only, and if so, to make the proposed change.

**Background:**

District 21 made an initiative in 2019 to get our local Club more involved at the District level. This resulted in a few club members attending the monthly District meetings and a few groups selecting GSR’s. Their involvement resulted in the Club sending a donation check in November 2019.

The Operating Committee of District 21, Northern Illinois Area 20, in a meeting on Dec 15, 2019 discussed what to do with the donation check from our local Club and recommended to the District as a whole to return, with regret, the check received from the Club in accordance with guidance from the GSC.

The District voted on Dec 17, 2019 to accept the Operating Committee’s recommendation. The minority opinion indicated understanding why it violates the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and GSC Action; however, the opinion is that anyone that attends the meetings at the local Club is part of AA therefore the money should be accepted. He further stated that there is a difference between Clubs being an outside entity providing money versus a hospital being an outside entity.

The rationale used by the District for rejecting the donation was from the following:

- A GSC Advisory Action in 1972 states: “The Conference agreed that G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from Groups.”
- *A.A. Guidelines –Relationship Between A.A. and Clubs* states that “Further guidance was given by the 1972 General Service Conference, which advised that the General Service Board no longer accepts contributions from clubs. This decision was based on returns from a questionnaire sent to all clubs.

The answers indicated that the difference in club operating procedures was too great to enable the General Service Board to decide whether money received from a club was contributed by A.A. members only. (Of course, the General Service Board does accept contributions from A.A. groups that meet on club premises.)”

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris E., DCM, District 21, Area 20

**3. Motion by the Concepts Editor and committee: It is moved that the Concepts Newsletter be distributed through digital means, including emailing and publishing on the NIA Website, with copies being printed and mailed for members who do not have digital capability.**

**Background details:**

In June of 2020, the Finance Committee asked that the Concepts Newsletter be distributed by digital means only due to the excessive cost of printing and mailing.

In the prior Area Service Guidelines (pre 2019) the Concepts Editor’s responsibility included mailing the Concepts Newsletter. During the Report and Charter revision (2019) mailing the newsletter was removed in favor of giving the Concepts Editor the freedom to distribute as they see fit. During the last Committee meeting, there was opposition to distribution by digital means only and the Concepts Editor and Co-Editor were asked to develop a motion to address this.

The Current (2020) Primary Purpose Register includes the following:

Activity #	Service Activity	Expectation Per Guidelines	Allowable Expenses	Reimbursement Authority	Proposed Amount
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	Mailing and supplies Printing or copying Mailing services	Concepts Editor Concepts Co-Editor	\$13,000.00

**The proposed revision would be:**

Activity #	Service Activity	Expectation Per Guidelines	Allowable Expenses	Reimbursement Authority	Proposed Amount
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce and digitally distribute the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	Microsoft Publisher license, translation, into Spanish, printing, mailing and postage	Concepts Editor Concepts Co-Editor	TBD

**Breakdown of 2018-2019 expenses related to the newsletter:**

**Spring 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,493.95
Returns	<u>\$92.52</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,586.47

**Summer 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$1,853.41
Returns	<u>\$74.72</u>
Total for Issue	\$1,928.13

**Fall 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,101.03
75 Additional Copies Print & Ship	\$107.41
Returns	<u>\$41.29</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,249.73

P.O. Box Rental - 6 months	\$50.00
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**Winter 2018**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,485.28
Translation to Spanish	\$274.45
Returns	<u>\$95.40</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,855.13

<b>Total for the Year</b>	<b>\$9,669.46</b>
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**Spring 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$1,868.96
Translation	\$324.35
Returns	<u>\$51.30</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,244.61

Mail Permit	\$235.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$59.99

**Summer 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$2,206.04
Translation	\$349.30
Returns	<u>\$144.42</u>
Total for Issue	\$2,699.76

**Fall 2019**

Printing, Postage, Mailing	\$3,019.83
Translation	\$399.20
Returns	<u>\$174.00</u>
Total for Issue	\$3,593.03

P.O. Box Rental	\$59.00
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<b>Total for the Year</b>	<b>\$8,891.39</b>
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