

2022 Winter Committee Minutes

Saturday, January 8, 2022

Online Audio / Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Area Chair, Rob M., called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rob made the meeting announcements.

First Time Attendees

Rich N., Alt DCM, D61

John A., DCM, D52

Mike, Alt GSR, D22

Debbie G., GSR, D40

Anniversaries:

Johnna, 12/31/21 - 10 years

Susan, 11/16/21 - 10 years

Erik L., 12/12/21 - 34 years

David T., 11/12/21 - 5 years

Cristie, 12/26/21 - 2 years

George C. 12/11/21 - 41 years

102 years of sobriety celebrated!

Approval of 2021 Fall Committee Meeting Minutes

David made the motion to approve the October 16, 2021 Fall Committee Meeting minutes and a member seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report - Chris D.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Panel 72 Delegate to the General Service Conference. I look forward to working together to fulfill our primary responsibility of helping the alcoholic who still suffers and will, as your Delegate, strive to carry with me, the collective group conscience of all in Northern Illinois to matters before the General Service Conference (GSC). I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all new DCM's and any other new members to the Area committee. We are glad you are all here and hope you all enjoy the Service Orientation Workshop later this morning. As Area committee members, your input and participation are greatly appreciated. Throughout my term, I will seek Area-wide participation and will ask that all who are interested keep me informed of your thoughts on matters I present or issues or concerns that are of importance to you and your group.

It will be my intention to use this reporting time to keep you abreast and informed on issues that are brought to my attention or for which your input is requested. The main

communication channel preferred by the General Service Board seems to be email and I receive several emails on a variety of topics (almost daily at this point). I am still working on the best method to synthesize all the information I am provided so I can present it in a concise and simplified manner. Please let me know if you have any suggestions that you feel might work better, however for the present, it might seem as though we are all drinking water from a fire hydrant!

Introductions, Correspondence and Meetings

Six days in and this is what happening. I received my committee assignments and have been assigned to the Conference FINANCE COMMITTEE and have also been appointed to serve on the ARCHIVES COMMITTEE as a secondary committee assignment.

I have been contacted by both Conference Committee Delegate Chairs (Finance and Archives) and Zoom calls are scheduled for next week for both committees. Zenny M. (GSO Assistant Director of Finance) and Michelle M. (AA Archivist) have taken the lead in scheduling these calls and welcoming us to the committee(s). They have both provided me with documents relevant to the preliminary agenda items for both committees (at this time, only one item for each committee). These meetings are intended as both a meet and greet for the committee delegates, as well as an opportunity for us to become acquainted with possible agenda items which will be discussed and finalized at the January board weekend later this month. Additionally, I have been contacted by our East Central Regional Trustee and a call between the East Central Region Delegates is being scheduled within the next couple weeks. I have also been provided with sign on credentials for both the Conference Dashboard and Fellowship Connect. The dashboard is a repository of conference documents including information on proposed agenda items, background materials, past advisory actions, conference manuals, board meeting minutes and other reference materials. I've only had access for a few days, so I still have much to learn about what's there and how to use it. The access for Fellowship Connect allows me to have access to the GSO database of group contact information that our registrar maintains. Thanks to Chris for the quick lesson!

I also have received the Delegate Communication Kit (via email) and have also been (electronically) introduced to my Conference buddy, Anne S. from Quebec City, Canada. Although she is French speaking, her understanding of English has allowed us to communicate rather effectively.

The General Service Conference, PGSCW & Background Material

As of today, the GSC is scheduled to be held in person on April 24-30, 2022 in Brooklyn, New York. I have not heard anything that would suggest a departure from those plans, although circumstances could certainly arise that might affect that approach. I will, of course, keep you informed if I hear anything different. In preparation for me attending the Conference, we (Area 20) will be conducting a Pre-General Service Conference Workshop (PGSCW) in early April, which will likely resemble last year's format. The final agenda and background material is due to be distributed from GSO sometime around February 15, 2022 and will be forwarded to everyone on the Area committee by our Alternate Delegate, Erik. While he will be the point

person responsible for the distribution of the agenda items and background material, I have taken the liberty of including an updated agenda item list that I received yesterday. This replaces the previous version which was dated December 3, 2021. There will be more discussion about the PGSCW next month as the background is distributed as well as at the upcoming Spring Assembly in March.

Financial

I do not have any updated financial information from what was presented last month but will normally provide an update in this section.

2022 Reimbursement Requests

I have not incurred any reimbursable expenses at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris D.

A20/P72 Delegate

Finance & Archives Committee

(nia20del@gmail.com)

Treasurer's Report – Allen J. – no finalized report received

- Profit & Loss:
 - Total Income of \$44,944.09 (7th Tradition Contributions; does not include Pink or Green Can contributions)
 - Total Expenses of \$15,200.51
 - Net Income \$29,743.58
 - I need to get with Dawn to audit that down because we're off by \$10.00 on income.
- Balance Sheet:
 - \$70,911.90 in assets
 - \$23,514.00 in prudent reserves
 - When I get a Finance Committee, and we get a chair, I hope to be able to forward some of this money.
- I didn't get with Dawn or Jeff yet.
- PayPal takes a cut when donations are made.
- P.O. Box is remaining the same, so no new envelopes are needed.
- I'm not on the bank accounts yet.

Alternate Treasurer – Jeff – no report

Service Workshop – Erik L., Alternate Delegate (presentation not provided)

- What is service?
- Speakers:
 - Former GSR: Kelly A.
 - Former DCM: John O.

Officer Reports:

- Area Chair – Rob M.

January 1, 2022

2022 Winter Committee Meeting Cover Letter

Welcome to the Panel 72 NIA 20 Committee, I am so excited to get to serve with you. Hope everyone had a good holiday season. Boy, Covid does not want to let up and although we hoped to do this first meeting of 2022 hybrid, the latest explosion has forced us to push that off to later in the year. So, this meeting will be remote (Zoom) only. Please help me thank District 23 for stepping up to host, but we will have to use their services in the future. This district's enthusiasm is contagious and I'm very grateful.

Even though we are still stuck in Zoom mode, we will get a great opportunity for learning with Erik L. service orientation workshop. The focus this year is on the GSR and DCM. I look forward to a great session.

These next few weeks are always a real busy season for us. We undergo the work of preparing our delegate, Chris D., to attend the General Service Conference in NY (hopefully). It can seem like a tall order. We will get agenda items and background material, we cascade it to our GSRs and our district committee chairs to talk to each other and groups, and then we assemble at our Pre General Service Conference workshop to share our collective group conscience. If this is all new to you, please reach out and ask for help. Active participation is what makes this work. Above all, we need the voices of our groups. DCMs – please drive this with your GSRs and committee folks and let us know how we can help.

We still have a number of openings. Committee leaders have a great opportunity to help our Districts carry the message with the respective committee responsibilities. If you're here to stand for one of those positions then welcome, we look forward to you standing for election at the next assembly.

Lastly, we are still looking for a Concepts Editor and Co-Editor. Robert has done a great job and we are looking for someone to build on that great work. If you know someone who has a knack for editing then we have an opportunity. Please reach out to me.

Below is the registration link for the meeting, please forward it out to anyone that would like to attend. You will also be able to find the link on the area website at aa-nia.org.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUucuuopjwiEtPxNr-1huxdfmgtezOXtCDS>

In service,

Rob M., Panel 72 NIA 20 Area Chair

- **Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B.**

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



**Report from the Panel 72 NIA Alternate Chair
Winter Committee Meeting January 8, 2022**

Hello NIA,

I hope everyone is staying healthy with the new wave of Covid. We were planning busily with District 23 to host in person today. The decision to put safety first was made, so in person is on the backburner for now. Thank you District 23 for your willingness to step up and host. I'm sure there will be another opportunity in the future.

Rob and I are preparing for a wonderful rotation, and I am ready to serve in whatever capacity I'm needed.

I have been preparing to be the liaison to Districts 22 and 23 for the 2023 Spring Conference. We will meet on January 22nd to begin the process.

Looking forward to working with our new Conference Committee to put together some hosting workshops to make bids less stressful in the future. I'm hoping this will help more districts step up to host confidently.

In Service,

Dawn B.

NIA Panel 72 Alternate Chair

- **Registrar's Report – Chris E.**

Area Registrar
PO Box 1511
Palatine, IL 60078

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery



Report from the Panel 72 NIA Registrar Winter Committee – January 8, 2022

Good morning and welcome to the Winter Committee Meeting! My name is Chris E, and I am an alcoholic, and I am *also* your Area Registrar. As your Registrar, it is my responsibility to maintain the General Service Office (GSO) database called Fellowship Connection (FC), which contains the contact information of all Groups and their GSRs or mail contacts, all Districts and their officers and service committee chairs, and the Northern Illinois Area (NIA) officers and service committee chairs. In a General Service structure that relies on precise information to help carry the A.A. message, whether through A.A. recovery or service, FC allows us to improve the accuracy and overall data stewardship of emails, phone numbers and service positions. All of this in an effort to strengthen the communication between the area, districts, and groups.

Last year I had some experience with Fellowship Connection as a District Committee Member (DCM) when GSO provided read-only access to the Area Delegate and DCMs. I became familiar with the group information, service position, and group contacts reports. I used this information to contact GSRs, other group contacts, and meeting locations to find the groups, update their records, help them get listed on websites and in the meeting guide app, and invite groups to get involved in the service structure again. I am preparing a workshop for DCMs to show you how to access FC and use the information in your own Districts. I am planning on scheduling this after new DCMs get their access to the FC website. I am also preparing a workshop for the district servants (usually the secretaries) that maintain the group records and submit the change forms, to show how they can easily submit large batch changes to me and review new information that is needed. The two major changes are being able to register online groups with GSRs that can participate in the service structure, and that GSRs and other Trusted Servants can choose to receive their welcome kits in the mail or electronically.

It has been a busy week for me, trying to get as many forms updated as I could so they would be ready to distribute today. I have created fillable-pdfs, something that many people have requested, of the New Group Form, Group Information Change Form, and DCM/Alt DCM Change Form. They will be emailed out to the Area Committee and posted online. I have also been collecting and confirming contact information for the Area Roster. I heard back from over half the members within the first 24 hours – thank you so much! Third, I have sent the District Servant Position records to DCMs to update and submit the information for all District Officers and Committee Chairs. Please return these to me as soon as possible! I'll be sending out the Groups by District and Group Contact Reports next week.

All forms will be downloadable from the NIA website. <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>.

Submit all forms and requests for information to registrar@aa-nia.org or to the NEW mailing address:

**NIA, Ltd.
Attn: Registrar
PO Box 1511
Palatine, IL 60078**

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris E

NIA 20 Registrar – Panel 72

registrar@aa-nia.org

- **Alternate Registrar – Christy B.**
 - I have not dug into the Alternate Registrar's activity yet; I wrapped up the Secretary's duties by meeting with Kate and Sue.
 - I am happy to learn how to use the Fellowship Connect database.
 - District Business Meetings information will be updated.
- **Secretary – Kate D.**
 - Thrilled to be able to serve with Sue M. as Alternate Secretary
 - Sue and I met with Christy for transition information and job descriptions
- **Alternate Secretary – Sue M.**
 - Thanks to Christy for meeting with us and getting us up to speed
 - Hope to meet Christy soon for exchange of Secretary's laptop
 - I would be happy to update the District Business Meetings information

Conference reports:

- **2022 Illinois State Conference**
 - Neither Michael nor Charles attended the meeting / No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Open Elected Positions:

- Accessibilities Alternate
- Answering Service Chair and Alternate
- Archives Chair and Alternate
- Bridge the Gap Alternate
- CPC Chair and Alternate
- Grapevine Chair and Alternate
- Literature Chair and Alternate
- Treatment Chair and Alternate

If interested in serving in any of these roles, please attend the Spring Area Assembly on March 12th.

2022 Big Book Conference

- We would entertain a bid today for the October event.
- Christy offered to be part of a non-district-specific sponsored Big Book Conference; Lisa expressed interest and they will be put on the Agenda for the Spring Assembly for their bid.
- Refer to Northern Illinois Planning Procedures on the Area Website for more information on what is required.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed positions:

- **Operating Committee:** Rob, Chris D. and Kate and 4 other DCMs to be named later
- **Finance Committee:** Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer plus Rich and other DCMs
- **Report and Charter:** Kelly Lambert and other DCMs to be named later
- **Electronics Committee:** Joey and Mike and additional DCMs to be named later
- **Conference Advisory Committee:** Dawn, maybe Kevin and additional DCMs to be named later
- **Technology Committee:** Earl, Marilyn and Carmela
- **Concepts Editor:** Open
- **Archivist:** Ray (interim)
- **Web Administrator Alternate:** Open
- **Service Handbook Custodian:** Cheryl

DCMs, if you have a specific interest, please let Rob know.

DCM Reports:

- **Sarah, D21** – no formal report, but has big shoes to fill; we have an Alternate DCM, Debbie
- **David, D23** – Jill is our alternate DCM, looking forward to serving, disappointed we didn't get to host today, glad to be co-sponsoring the 2023 Spring Conference with D22
- **David F., D22** – My head is spinning and I'm really excited to be co-sponsoring the 2023 Spring Conference with D23
- **Jon, D52** – Big shoes to fill; we're interested in hosting summer or fall assembly
- **Keith, D72** – No formal report; thanks to Sue for getting our District off of life support
- **Charles, D42** – Struggling with filling all committee positions; co-chairing with District 10 the Illinois State Conference; speakers lined up, Website is up and running
- **Steve, D70** – Set up ad hoc committee for disbursements of funds over prudent reserves, all unregistered meeting are taken off the Belvidere schedule
- **Jill, Alternate D23** – introduced self
- **Debbie, Alternate D21** – introduced self
- **Aaron D43** – Inheriting a District that has very little need for improvement
- **Phil, D62** – New meeting in Plano, The Purpose of this Book
- **Michael, Alternate D22** – introduced self
- **Johnna, D28** – District is sponsoring monthly speaker meeting, will post in chat; happy to have an Alternate DCM, Tracy
- **Jeff, D70 Alternate** – look forward to serving

Is any District interested in hosting the Spring Assembly either in your District or at Lord of Life Church? No one committed.

INTRODUCTIONS / REPORTS:

- **Robert, Concepts Editor** – Needs to rotate out and will help replacement get up to speed
- **Karen F., Bridging the Gap** – Looking forward to attending Corrections Conference
- **Phil M., Corrections** – State prisons have been shut down since the start of Covid for AA meetings; County jails open sporadically depending on local Covid outbreaks; George is our Alternate
- **George, Alternate Corrections** – Grateful to be serving at the Area level

- **Susan, Accessibilities** – many people have barriers to meetings, has checklists for meetings
- **Desiree, Grapevine** – Taking baby steps, no orientation yet; Workshops 2nd Thursday of every month
- **Scott, Literature** – Thanks for letting me serve; made some inroads for the Literature Committee
- **Ed, Alternate PI** – Lisa and I will boilerplate stuff and bring PI people from the Districts; talking about a Galesburg Workshop
- **Earl, Technology Committee/Webmaster** – Technology Committee has been inactive for several years and we will select a Chair; send reports to me to post on Website; Archives created their own page on our Website; committees/individuals have the ability to update pages; rules for posting flyers; looking for Alternate Webmaster

OPEN MICROPHONE:

Allen – add to Spring Assembly Agenda to vote on disbursing excess funds

Steve K. – Jim Elliott passed away several weeks ago

Christy – It's okay to come into an Area service position without serving first at District level

Chris D. – Thank you for today's service orientation; NIA Service Manual is online on Area website; The A.A. Service Manual with Twelve Concepts for World Service are available through aa.org

Georgene – GSR for Three Legacies Group; open Speaker Meetings every 5th Sunday at 7:00

Erik – Rob did an excellent job in chairing his first Area meeting; motion to close meeting

Meeting closed with The Responsibility Statement.