

Northern Illinois Area 20

Summer Committee Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2022

In Person and Online/Video

Meeting Opening

The Northern Illinois Area 20 Chair called the meeting to order at 9am. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees and made the meeting announcements.

Total Attendees

15 people on zoom and 35 in person:

9 Area Officers

15 DCMs & Alternates

8 Area Service Committee Chairs & Alternates

5 Past Delegates

1 Appointed Committee Member

12 were not members of the Area Committee

First Time Attendees

Jeff B. Alt DCM D70
July 18th

Julie J. D43 Secretary
July 11th

Chris (inaudible)
years July 8th

Anniversaries since last assembly

Steve C. 38 years June 19th Jeff D. 6 years

Javier 13 years July 28th Joe B. 9 years

Tom B. 45 years July 23 Kate D. 16

Approval of 2022 Spring Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Officer Reports

Delegates Report: Chris D.

Chris was not able to attend today's committee meeting. Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Delegates-Report-Summer-Cmte-Mtg-080622.pdf>

Alternate Delegates Report – Erik L.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt.-Delgate-Report-Summer-Committee-8-6-22.pdf>

Treasurer’s Report – Allen J.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Treasurers-Report-03AG2022.pdf>

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Balance-Sheet-03AG2022.pdf>

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Profit-and-Loss-03AG2022.pdf>

While at the microphone, Allen also reported the Crystal Lake PO Box is still open and receiving contributions. In November this box will be closed. Check the pink and green can labels for old address. Also, please make sure you specify the contribution is for green or pink can.

Jeff L. the Alternate Treasurer added that there are envelopes with the current address on the table for everyone to take to your districts.

Alternate Treasurer – Jeff L.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-Contributions-2022-1 .pdf>

Area Chair – Rob M.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/06-Summer-Committee-Chair-Report-2022.pdf>

Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B.

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alternate-Chair-Report-Summer-Committee-2022.pdf>

Questions/Comments from the floor:

- Publicizing the GSR workshop on a national basis was suggested.
- Area Chair asked for a sense of the attendees if we should loan the earpieces for translation purposes to the National Corrections Conference. After a short discussion, all were in favor.
- Clarification was needed for the interim Answering Service Chair. It is confusing. The agenda listed Cheryl V., as the chair, not interim. And, it is not listed as an open position under new business. We have never listed an open position this way. We have never used an interim chair in the past.

Area Chair responded that it is just to meet the needs of the position on an interim basis. I have not appointed her to the position. I have accepted her willingness to volunteer.

A suggestion was made that the answering service should still be listed as an open position under the new business section in the agenda. That way it will be clear.

- Clarification was also needed for the Accessibilities Chair. Susan H. is still listed on the roster as chair but on the agenda the position is listed as open.

Rob clarified that Susan will be stepping down as Accessibilities Chair to become the Concepts Editor at the Fall Assembly.

The Alt. Registrar will make the correction to the roster at that time.

Registrar – Chris E.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/6-2022-Summer-Committee-Registrar-Report.pdf>

Chris will be out of the Country for two weeks from the 12th -26th, so if you need anything, go to Christy.

The Chair then stated that Chris had done a lot of research for the 2 motions he has. During that process it was discovered that assembly and committee meeting minutes and the agenda should be sent to the whole Area roster not just the Area Committee. We have not been adhering to the guidelines regarding who receives the minutes prior to approval. We will be making that correction and going by the guidelines as written.

Alternate Registrar – Christy B.

Here is the link to the full report:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt-Registrars-Report-NIA-Summer-Comm-Mtg-2022.pdf>

Secretary – Kate D.

I just wanted to make sure everyone received the email version of the Spring Committee Meeting minutes July 26th? I had \$131 of expenses for printing and mileage. Also, I want to invite all the district secretaries and DCM's and recordkeepers to the monthly meeting. The flyer is on the table. We are going over the district secretary job description. Please join us!

Alternate Secretary – Sue M.

I attended the Secretary/Registrar monthly meeting for District Secretaries and recordkeepers. There is a limited supply of flyers on the table for that event. DCM's, please grab one for your secretaries.

Also, on the table there is a limited supply of the GSR/District meetings list for Area 20 districts. Please see me for any changes like, contact name, phone number, email address, zoom info, meeting place and time or email me at alt-secretary@aa-nia.org. Please remember that this document is not anonymity protected. It is to be used within the fellowship only. Do not post on your district website.

To those giving reports today, please bring a copy up to the front table or email it to me or Kate. Having the reports is helpful when we type the minutes. Even if it's handwritten on a napkin! We still want it!

Lastly, I am looking forward to the State Conference next weekend. Hope to see you all there.

Comment from the Floor:

When I saw the change for answering service, I wanted to look through the assembly minutes to see if I missed anything but didn't have the minutes. He then read the secretaries responsibilities saying that minutes should be completed 2 weeks after the meeting. Sue responded by saying Kate and I are working on the consistency of getting the minutes out sooner.

Conference Reports

2022 Big Book Conference – Christy B. Committee Chair

The 2022 Big Book Conference Committee has been meeting monthly on Zoom to plan the conference and we are making good progress. The conference will be held Saturday, October 29, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Parkview Community Church in Glen Ellyn. The conference will not be hybrid because the church lacks the technological capability to host large hybrid events.

This year, the host committee is made up of AA members from several different districts because no district presented a bid to host. I am grateful that several other AA members felt as I did that the annual Big Book Conference was very important to the Area. We were able to make the bid as an Area-wide committee, and it was accepted. Our only open position is Public Information committee chair.

We have Tim R. from the Chicago area sharing his story as the morning speaker and Tim H. from Louisville, Kentucky, speaking about his experience with using the Big Book to stay sober as the afternoon speaker. We will have our flyers that include a mail-in registration form available at the Illinois State Conference next week. The flyer and online registration will be available on the bigbookconference.aa-nia.org website in the near future.

Starting tomorrow, Sunday, August 7, 2022, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., we will be meeting twice a month on Zoom to continue planning. It's not too late to volunteer to help with the conference. If you are interested, please send an email to bigbook@aa-nia.org to sign up and start receiving the information for the Zoom meetings.

Robert S. added that the flyers will be forthcoming, as soon as the QR code is completed. The flyer will be given to the DCM's and available at the Illinois State Conference/ECR Conference.

Illinois State Conference/ECR Conference – Lorrie D10

I have been helping with the conference. The last planning meeting was today so I am here to give the report. I have the program and map if anyone would like to see it. We have two bands scheduled for Saturday night. There are 323 registrations, 222 for the banquet and 115 for box lunch. Ice cream social 121. There is still time to register. Use the QR code on the flyer. Please do so by Tuesday. We have had a lot of fun planning it.

Questions from the floor:

- Is there a room available for ad hoc committee meetings? She will get that information.
- When is the last day to register on-line? Lorrie responded with, “yes, up to the day of, I think. They have allowance for a few last-minute registrations, but not necessarily for banquet and ice cream social.”
- Are there any registrants outside of Illinois. She did not know if there were any.

2023 Spring Assembly and Conference – Dave T D23 and Dave F D22

Dave and Dave reported there will be no ice cream social due to the cost. Banquet is \$52. Box lunch is \$15. We have 2 webmasters to start making the updates to the website and registration. Mid-August it will be completed. We’ll have a table at the State Conference with flyers.

Questions from the floor:

- Clarification was requested for the ice cream social. The Hospitality Chair promised ice cream on Friday night! Dave said...no it was not in the contract. We thought we could do it in the hospitality room but it was a NO! No ice cream in the hospitality room. Liability issues!

Old Business

Open elected positions were reviewed. As discussed earlier Susan H. will be appointed as Concepts Editor. Open positions are:

- Accessibilities Chair
- Answering Service Chair & Alternate
- Archives Chair & Alternate
- BTG Alternate
- CPC Chair & Alternate
- Grapevine Chair & Alternate
- Literature Alternate
- Treatment Alternate

Desiree would like to be re-elected as Grapevine Chair at the upcoming Assembly. If you know of anyone interested in these positions, please ask them to attend the Assembly in September.

New Business

Appoint Susan H. as Concepts editor. This was discussed in the Chair’s report.

Motions:

- Area Finance Committee motion to fully fund the NIA Delegate for the General Service Office
Here is the link to the full motion:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-Motion-to-Fully-Fund-NIA-20-Delegate-for-GSC.pdf>

Questions and comments from the Floor:

- Have we ever not funded the Delegate to the GSC? Since we have been funding it, we should just put it in the PPB.
- The PPR is a list of activities and we should not focus on the money. The money is listed for the finance committee so we can adequately set the prudent reserve. The amount listed is irrelevant. It does not limit what we can pay. The focus is on the activity.
- When we say “fully fund”, what does that include? It was explained the this cost is only for the conference including meals and travel. “fun” stuff is covered out of pocket. The Delegate gets a letter indicating the cost of the GSC per Delegate.

- A Motion brought by Robert S. to also fully fund the NIA Delegate for the General Service Conference

Here is the link to the full motion:

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Motion-to-Fully-Fund-Delegate-Expenses-for-the-GSC.pdf>

Robert Snipes, Past Delegate Panel 68, stated that he is withdrawing this motion out of respect for the motion being presented by the Finance Committee. The Area Chair respectfully accepted the withdrawal.

- The Area Registrar brings 2 motions to define the duties for the Alternate Registrar
 - Motion to amend the Duties & Responsibilities of the Registrar and to create Duties & Responsibilities for the Alternate Registrar
Here is the link to the full motion:
<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Motion-to-update-the-Registrar-and-Alternate-Registrar-Duties.pdf>
No questions or comments from the floor.
 - Motion to make the Alternate Registrar a voting member of the Area Assembly in their own right
Here is the link to the full motion:
<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Motion-to-make-the-Alternate-Registrar-a-voting-member-of-the-Area-Assembly.pdf>
No questions or comments from the floor.

DCM Reports

- **Sarah B. D21** – We have a few new GSR’S, and group in the district to host workshop in September for 1,2,3. Flyer is forthcoming. It will be on the website? The District meeting is still hybrid. We just purchased all the equipment needed to stay hybrid.
- **Terry M. D40-** We just had our picnic with about 100 in attendance. Our Delegate came to the last meeting with close to 30 in attendance. Great presentation on his journey to new York. We also hosted the Drop the Rock workshop last month with 60-70 people. Great speaker. Eric will be coming soon once I set it up with him.
- **Dave F. D22-** Chris E was at our meeting and gave a great presentation on the GSC. Our District meeting is tomorrow, Phil M, Area Corrections Chair will be there to speak. Our picnic is next Saturday. Needless to say, I will not be going!!
- **Renita D12-** We have a lot of things going on. Next month we will be hosting the fall assembly at the Lord of Life Church. We are in need of stories for our newsletter to coincide with the month for a step/tradition. Please submit! We are available at aadistrict12.com. Our Answering Service Chair has decided to stop using the current service and will now use Googlephone to save money. A Corrections workshop is coming up in October for pre-certification. Flyers will be at the next assembly. We need volunteers at the jail, usually on Monday. District 12 will soon be hosting a Speakathon and Alcathon.
- **Sid I. D11** We just started hybrid. In July we started back at McHenry County jail. I am excited about doing that. We need women volunteers to get that going again. We will be hosting the Winter Assembly at Church of Holy Apostles, 5211 Bull Valley Rd. in McHenry. A Flyer will be at the next assembly. Dec. 10th looking forward to that! We will be doing a walkthrough at the church soon. We are participating at Soberfest. The panel topic is Three Legacies, Recovery, Unity and Service. Last thing, D11 concepts study is 3rd Thursday on line flyer is on the area website.
- **Karen D. D73** - District 73 business meeting location has moved to Sterling and is being held in person and on zoom the 3rd Friday night at 7pm. We voted to try this location for 3 months and our 3 months will be up at our August 19 business meeting. I will notify Registrar and Alt, Secretary and update our website with our new location address if we agree to stay at this location. We voted to have zoom and in person business meetings and purchased equipment to have this option. I have contacted Chris D., our Delegate, and he will be sharing his GSC report at our September 16, District 73 business meeting either in person or on zoom.

I have attended Registrar/Secretary zoom meetings & hope to attend the Answering Service zoom meeting this Wednesday, Aug 10th with Cheryl.

- **Steve C. D70** - We continue to work on updating our Answering Service contacts, provide books & literature to our 6 Correctional facility meetings to those that are now able to have meetings. We also have new PI & CPC chairs that are working on verifying & providing libraries in our District with Big Books and 12 & 12, working on providing PSA’s to our radio stations and creating AA information to papers. Our website has had some issues and I have contacted Steve C. from District 70. He has helped me to contact his District 70 webmaster and we are trying to get them figured out and keep our website current with schedule & fliers. Attendance is good. 30 people at our last district meeting. We added a finance committee to our District guidelines

to approve over-runs on committee's budgets, with a vote of approval at the August District meeting. We have a surplus of funds \$3500 over our prudent reserve. We donated \$2000 to the GSB earlier this year. At the August District 70 meeting, we had a motion and a vote to donate \$1600 to GSB. That passed and only required a simple majority vote for the first vote. The next vote the following month at the Sept. meeting will require a 2/3 vote to pass.

- **Raul D20** - We have a new group in Crystal Lake. We are working on the institution in Hanover Park. McHenry and Cook County corrections are starting to work over there. September 12-14th we celebrate the Hispanic convention in Massachusetts. The CPC's will be going. We are still organizing for the BB conference so we can be involved.
- **Aaron D43** - District meetings monthly with over 40 participants. We have been actively taking meetings to the DuPage County Jail, treatment and detox centers. We recently approved a technology committee to be a resource for our groups. We now have welcome packets for online attendance. Our Answering Service made a change to a new carrier. And is more cost effective and much easier. We did a pilot program first to make sure it would work. AA event of the summer is the picnic on 9/11.
- **Dave T. D23** - Answering Service Committee will phase out current phone number and use the Google Voice. Text messages are welcome. No cost for this instead of what we were paying, \$107 to \$120 monthly. We now have a prudent reserve. It will supplement the District needs for 3 months. We will look at the budget every year. As a result of Google Voice, new cards and stamps are being made so correct information can be passed along.
- **Gary P. D64** - We invited Chris to come first Wednesday in September. We did zoom for only a few months then went to in person. The Area Treasurer and Chairperson have come to District meeting. They have not convinced us yet to send any money to the Area! We think the Area you has too much money! We will address this when Chris visits.
- **Lorrie D10** – filling in as the DCM. We do have good participation, partly due to hybrid meetings and we have purchased equipment. We are starting back in the treatments centers. They have no Big Books or 12x12's. We are getting some through the District and a group. Are any Area funds available for this? There are pink can contributions, we do go into Lake County Jail. Our picnic is the last Saturday of August.

Alan, Area Treasurer shared, according to our balance \$832.94 in green can funds. There is \$4,000 for treatment. That request should come through Area Treatment Chair, Mark Weber.

- **Jonah D28** – We are still meeting on zoom. More participation than if we only met in person. A lot of open positions so we are looking for even more participation. Some head way has been made, we have an active corrections chair. Our website was revamped. D28 is alive and well!

Service and Administrative Committee Reports

- **Answering Service – Cheryl V., Interim Chair**

In June I reached out to our Chair, Rob, and volunteered to serve as interim Answering Service Chair until someone could be elected. It became clear at the Summer Assembly that there were several Districts that were struggling with their Answering Services. Without an NIA chair, these Districts looked to be trying to figure things out on their own. This highlights the need for our

Area chairs to help bring our 26 Districts together to share their service experience, strength, and hope.

In early July I sent an e-mail out to those District Answering Service Chairs, and their Alternates, which were registered with the Area. Because we had only a small percentage, I also sent the e-mail to DCMs and their Alternates. I received responses from 9 people.

As a result, I set-up 2 Zoom meetings, one last Monday, August 1st, along with a second one that will take place on Wednesday, August 10th. The meeting this last week included 8 people from 5 Districts. There is frustration with the services provided by one of the services that has been widely used in the Area. This was a company that was bought out by a larger company. The consensus was the service has not only deteriorated, but costs have gone up, in some cases almost doubling.

One of the things shared was the challenge of keeping contacts lists up to date. It seems that alcoholics can be hard to keep in contact with, through moves and drinking. Services charge for every call they make, whether someone answers or not. In addition, a good share was to suggest that people put the phone number for the service into their phones. Seems most of us don't take calls if we don't know who is calling. Districts are also moving to texting instead of calls. One District sends out the text to 10 men or women, and the first one who responds takes the call.

I would encourage people to talk to people in their Districts to step up and fill this all important role at the Area level. The opportunity to have one drunk talking to another is one of the best 12th Step work we can do.

- **BTG – Karen F.**, We are still in need of an alternate. I have communicated to several people on how to use BTG in their districts and how it works best with CPC Corrections and Treatment. Having a link on the District website can help connect people locally. Our district bought a stamp for BTG literature. I received a couple requests from the Area BTG website and was able to connect people. The process does work. I updated the BTG volunteer list I got it down to 216 from 370. I did this all by hand since I am tech challenged.
- **Corrections – George P.** Alternate Chair filling in for Phil who is in Joliet Correctional Facility holding a meeting. We are very frustrated because prisons are closed except for Joliet. Several people have mentioned that jails are open and meetings are going strong. We are going to district meetings to meet those active members at that level. There is money available for literature so if you are interested in getting literature into facilities, it is available. Also, were trying to get in touch with a PI person for our conference this fall but was unsuccessful so I will be doing it.
- **Literature - Scott T** I have been working with State Conference Literature Chair so the room is set up and properly staffed. I really enjoyed meeting someone new and making things happen that works for our fellowship. We will have the room ready on Friday. There has been some communication from the Big Book Conference committee. I am willing to help! I have had a few conversations with district literature people to give guidance. I will be reaching out to them. I am hoping to have more information on the Area website soon.

- **Public Information –Lisa S. Ed. M.** Ed M. and I have been communicating all throughout the summer months, working with NIA 20 District PI Chairs to develop ideas for workshops. Currently in the planning process for the fall is a PI workshop on the western side of the state involving D90 and possibly a workshop in D70 following that. I attended my first virtual National PI/CPC Working Group last month. Over 80 + individuals in this group meet monthly and share their PI/CPC experience throughout the US and Canada. The goal of this group is to help improve the A.A. message of recovery through the use of the Internet. Members host independent workshops, including an upcoming “Getting to Know PI/CPC with Class A Trustees” scheduled for Sunday, August 7th at 4:00 pm PST (6:00 pm CST). Ed M. and I have been sharing information Area-wide regarding the many A.A. activities taking place in NIA 20. We have shared the registration flyer for the IL State Conference and East Central Regional Conference and the “Save the Date” for both the 2022 Big Book Conference and the 2023 Spring Conference and Assembly to encourage attendance and participation. We both will be at the IL State Conference and hope to see you all there!
- **Technology Committee and Web Administrator – Earl** Thanks to Tech and Electronics who put together the technology to do this Hybrid. Delegate reports and things that come from the GSO go with all the other agenda items and reports on the website. Anything outside of the delegate report you will find it on the Delegates Page.

Regulations say we are only post on the website events within Area 20. We overlooked this during the pandemic for virtual events outside of the area. Regs say we should not do this. In discussing this with Rob, we decided to stop doing that until directed otherwise. We will post for Area events if all information is stated like who’s hosting. There can be nothing about gambling or 50/50 raffles. On Thursday we discovered that we are exceeding our limit of visits per month. Which means there were problems opening the website. It is time to upgrade with GoDaddy. This is due to increased activity and uploading and downloading jams things up. It cost \$188 prorated over the next 26 months. It is now upgraded.

We still need an Alternate Webmaster. I am happy to do it but am past my rotation.

Tech Committee and mostly Rob and I are working on a solution for our emails. Most emails are forwarded to personal emails. We will be meeting soon to move forward on this. Then all that is necessary after each rotation is to change the password. The ad hoc committee is going to move everyone to Microsoft One for the shared cloud. I would like the financial people to know that the only person who doesn’t have and needs a laptop is the Webmaster. We should do that for the next Webmaster.

Sid, Finance Committee chair shared that we have talked about forwarding money to the GSB. Districts should be aware that this will most likely be presented at the assembly.

- **Concepts Editor – Robert Snipes** The Fall edition is in the process of being put together. I have asked for articles on working with others/12th step submissions.

Rob thanked Robert for all the hard work he’s done for the last 2 ½ years.

Open Microphone

Cheryl V. Panel 64 PD, I would like to encourage the chair to offer lunch, even if we are only here for half a day. It is almost noon and I have an hour and a half drive and I have hypoglycemia. So, me driving home then having lunch is not a good thing!

Dawn B – Is chairing the National Corrections Conference November 11-13. If you've ever wondered about corrections work or wanted to know about it, this will definitely turn the page for you. It's at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg. I would love if some groups would help in the hospitality room and you can volunteer to do that on the NCC website. Thank you.

Renita D12 - My homegroup will have a speakathon. There will be speakers from District 12 and 11, Aurora, Area 19 and several other people at the Waukegan Alano Club on September 3rd from 12-5pm. The only thing we will charge for is the food. All are welcome!

Chris E. – I just wanted to share a tidbit. When we say AA is US and Canada, we also have in our structure Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, The British Virgin Islands, Antigua, Barbados, and other Caribbean Islands. Chris talked about that in his report. They are very hard hit and need help for services and carrying the message. It's just helpful to know that it's more than Us and Canada.

Joey, - D61 is having their picnic today starting at noon in Lyons Park in Elburn. It's 5 minutes from here. Great food and live music.

Sue M. There is a wedding card for our Delegate Chris D. Please stop and sign it on your way out!

Sarah DCM D21 I had failed to mention there will be a picnic on September 11th in Rolling Meadows hosted by Palatine Club and an open mic night after the 8pm speaker meeting on Saturday September 24th.

Ed – Just wanted to share how great it is to see the inside of that church. I am looking forward to seeing some of you at the Illinois State Conference next weekend.

Robert motioned to adjourn. Meeting ended at 11:39 am. We closed the meeting with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA 20 Alternate Secretary