

Northern Illinois Area 20

Spring Assembly Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2023

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. Rob welcomed attendees and made the meeting announcements.

First Time Attendees

- | | |
|---|---|
| Monica PD Area 19 | Jeff Plan B Crystal Lake |
| Greg GSR Lake Zurich 12X12 | Ellen EDI Stream Wood |
| Steve GSR Friday Morning Grapevine in D64 | Robert GSR Wednesday Night St Isidor Bloomingdale |
| Cory D52 | Christy Alano Club Elgin |
| Lindsey GSR D21 | Belle D52 |
| Chris D52 | Mike D22 Treasurer |
| Mike Treasurer Winners & Beginners | Paul GSR Spiritual Renegades Group Naperville |
| Roxanne D43 GSR Women’s Spirit Discussion | Jennifer D90 GSR Camden Serenity Group |
| Lisa D22 Alt. Corrections Chair | Barbara Tuesday Night Women’s BB Study |
| Al GSR How It Works Group D43 | Kevin 12:30 Palatine Club |
| Tom CPC Chair D70 | |

Anniversaries Since Last Assembly

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Kelly L PD P66 24 Years | Belle 4 years | Sue 10 years | Jennifer 4 years |
| Aaron 4 years | Jessica 9 years | Jeff 1 year | Debbie 9 years |
| Laura 1 year | Jeff 1 year | Dan 29 years | Marilyn 39 years |
| Jan 34 years | Bonnie 10 years | Sid 12 years | Richard 13 years |
| Alan 24 years | Lisa 3 years | George 42 years | Karen 10 years |
| Johnna 11 years | Mike 49 years | | |

Joe B. made additional announcements concerning the Conference.

Approval of 2022 Winter Assembly Meeting Minutes

Dave F. made the motion for approval, Kevin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Allen J.

Attached is of the usual Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statements for both 2022 and 2023 from QuickBooks, and the 2023 PPR. Below is a brief summary of the main accounts.

Account	2022 Amount	2022 Amount	2023 Amount	2023 Amount
Checking		\$47,030.55		\$40,070.79
Green Can (restricted)	\$1,214.62		\$1,314.62	
Pink Can (restricted)	\$4,414.90		\$5,851.92	
Total restricted		\$5,629.528		\$7,166.54
Net Checking		\$52,660.07		\$47,237.33
Prudent Reserve	(0.3 X \$58,400.00) + interest	\$17,523.97	(0.3 X \$70,565.00) + interest	\$21,169.22
Total		\$70,184.04		\$68,433.55
	Sum Contribution	\$55,240.274	Sum Contribution	\$14,749.35
Interest		\$3.35		
Net Income (YTD)	Sum Income	\$55,236.92	Sum Income	\$14,749.35
	Sum Expenses (per PPR)	\$53,341.93	Sum Expenses (per PPR)	\$16,584.86
Net (YTD)		\$1,894.99		\$-1,835.51

Notes:

- We did receive a contribution from the 2022 Illinois AI-Anon State Convention. Their conference guideline states that they share excess funds with the three AA Illinois delegate areas. Likewise our state and spring conference have similar clauses. So I deposited the check.
- The contribution spreadsheet has been updated to use the 9-digit "Fellowship Connect" ID. The thank you letters will include both the FC ID# and the older 6-digit FNV #. However, the contributions report will only have the FC ID#. I also found out that districts have FC ID# so the contributions report and thank you letters will have those numbers.
- After getting permission from the area committee, we opened an additional NIA checking account for the 2024 Spring Assembly Conference so they can get up and running without the 2022 conference closing their books right away. So, NIA has three conference checking accounts, two for Spring Assembly Conferences and one for Big Book Conferences.
- The \$3,000 ISC seed money was forwarded to Area 19 and the \$3,000 ECRC seed money was forwarded to the Area 22 in December last year. We have received checks from 5 areas and 2 areas did PayPal contributions for a total of \$1,776.24 from the 7 areas. I have not deposited the 5 checks pending outcome of one of today's motions. Unfortunately, I could not hold back the PayPal contributions so \$419.08 was deposited (\$428.58 - \$9.50 PayPal fee).
- We did make a \$10,000.00 contribution to the 2023 GSC (73rd). The breakdown is \$1,800 (GSC) + \$8,200 (extra GSC). With \$7,400 of the extra GSC was to make up for not fully funding our Delegate in 2022.
- Please turn in your reimbursement requests in a timely fashion. Thank you who do turn in your request right away.

Miscellaneous

- If you are making a PayPal contributions please clarify if this is a Personal, Group, District, Pink Can, or Green Can contribution in the "**memo area**". If the contribution is from a group, please clarify group number or group name and location in the "**memo area**" so that we may credit the correct group. You can also follow up with an email to treasurer@aa-nia.org if you missed putting in the group information. I have been reaching out via email to make sure the correct entity gets credit for the contribution.
- Clubs, please remember we cannot accept contributions from you. We WILL accept contributions from groups meeting at your clubs.
- The Crystal Lake P.O. Box has been closed with the Streamwood P.O. Box as the forwarding address.
- 7th tradition contributions forms can be found on the NIA website (www.aa-nia.org). It's on the home page or on the "**Forms for Group Use**" page. Please note that there is no check boxes on this form for "Pink Can" or "Green Can" contributions so you must identify them as such.

Alt Treasurer – Jeff L

Copies of my report are on the table, it has contributions from January 17th to current, District by District. The full report can also be found on the NIA website.

Marilyn PD Panel 70 –

Northern Illinois has a tradition that as one delegate rotates out and the new delegate rotates in they pass on a Recovery Unity Service stamp. John, the panel 32 delegate ordered this stamp, and his name is on the box. 20 delegates have signed it. So, I will give it to you, Boss! You sign the paper and give it to Cheryl.

Delegates Report

Thanks to everyone for being here today, especially those that might be new. It's been quite a while since all of us were gathered at a Spring Conference with an embedded Assembly and I'm delighted to see all of you here today, both in person as well as our participants on Zoom. My report today includes updates from the General Service Office and associated Staff, the Trustees committees, our General Service Board, as well as the Grapevine and AAWS boards. There is also an accompanying slide deck that follows closely to but not exactly to this written report. Not all content in this report is shown in slide deck so please review this report in it's entirety for all the latest updates. I have added an (pp) in this report when there is an accompanying slide. Additionally, please be aware there are hyperlinks in this document that contain links to additional documents which contain full reports with additional details.

(pp)RECENT ACTIVITIES

It's been a busy time since my last report at the Winter Committee meeting on January 21. Some of the "major" events are listed below January 2023- Received full committee rosters for Conference Finance and Archives committees and have now begun have "meet & greet" committee calls for both committees. Attended January Board Weekend in New York from January 27-29. Attended Literature, ICRF, Conference, Archives and Finance & Budgetary committee meetings. Also attended Monday morning General Service Board meeting. Our East Central Regional Trustee has also written a very detailed 14-page report on the activities from this weekend which can be seen here.

TRUSTEE'S LITERATURE MEETING

5th Edition BB - Reading 100 (2600 submitted) stories a month; either draft or progress report at 74th. Same evaluation process for new and old stories.

- Stories not utilized could potentially be used for pamphlets (or Grapevine).

Plain Language BB-

- Reading room for members of conference delegates (1 hr. on Sunday -Thursday). Will have members of trustee committee present.
- Currently on Ch 6; complete by June. Goal is to have first 6 chapters for conference members in April.
- Steps will not be changed in plain language translation Literature Cost Increase
- AAWS has sent out a letter informing the fellowship an upcoming price increase affecting our English, Spanish, and French books, booklets, and pamphlets. The new prices will go into effect on April 3, 2023, and generally reflect a 20% increase on books and a 30% increase on pamphlets (with rounding and some minor adjustments). You can view the letter here.

TRUSTEE'S ICRF MEETING

- Staffing at hotels has been difficult, suspect in 2025 things will be different
- Contracts with hotels has been taking longer d/t this
- Regional hospitality rooms – when will that process start?

Delegates Report Continued:

- Expecting more than 50K. Budget around 50k in attendance but can have around 65k in attendance.
- Site selection 2035
 - o 6 sites; 2 cities declined to put in a bid, Anaheim, and Las Vegas.
 - o 4 sites are the least we've ever seen. Phoenix, NOLA, Toronto, Indy
- Motion to invite all 4 to present in April; passes
- 11a – 2025 virtual component
 - o Do not think hybrid will be investigated d/t not having a need
 - o Alanon is doing this and charging for the virtual component

TRUSTEE'S ARCHIVES MEETING

- The Archives team responded to approximately 1468 requests and accessioned, cataloged, and filed 345 pieces of new material in 2022. A recent onsite exhibit highlights the publication of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to commemorate the 70th anniversary of its publication. The committee workbook has also been updated and now has a red cover.

TRUSTEE'S FINANCE MEETING

- Gross literature sales year for 2022 are \$11,999,441. This exceeds the 2022 budget of \$11,000,000 by nearly \$1,000,000 (8%) and is \$287,249 (2.5%) more than last year. This is the highest annual gross literature sales since 2019.
- Contributions for 2022 are \$10,557,295. This is 96% of the 2022 budget of \$11,000,000 and is \$218,576 (2%) less than last year.
- Cash Position: As of January 20, 2023, operating cash is \$485,369, which represents 1.5 weeks of the proposed 2023 operating expenses of \$17,085,479.
- AAWS/GSB 2023 Budget- The 2023 budget proposes expected operating revenue of \$18,791,320 and operating expenses of \$17,085,479 for a projected operating surplus of \$1,705,841 before depreciation expense of \$1,200,000.
- Budgeted gross literature revenue of \$15,900,000 is \$4,900,000 more than the reforecast for 2022. This includes a price increase of 20% on English, Spanish, and French books and a 30% price increase on English, Spanish, and French pamphlets. Contributions are projected to be \$10,500,000, which is \$500,000 less than the 2022 reforecast but roughly the same as the actual amount received in 2022.
- Total operating expenditures in the 2023 budget are \$17,085,479 for 2023, which is \$459,217 more than the 2022 3.0 budget reforecast.
- Total 2022 circulation of the Grapevine magazine was 58,813. This is compared with a budget of 60,017 and 2021 actual of 65,053. Income for the year was \$1,463,761, which is \$56,542 less than budgeted and \$38,538 less than the \$1,502,300 achieved in 2021. Costs and expenses of the magazine for the year were \$1,882,701, which was \$42,789 more than budgeted and \$73,773 more than the \$1,808,929 in 2021. After adding interest earned, there was a deficit for the period ending December 31, 2022, of \$404,940 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$305,608.
- Total 2022 circulation for La Viña was 6,685 compared to 6,480 budgeted and 6,411 in December 2021. Income from magazine sales was \$77,482 compared with a budget of \$38,734. After deducting the costs and expenses of \$714,086, a shortfall between revenue and expenses of \$636,604 resulted for this service activity. This compares with a budgeted shortfall of \$564,947 and a shortfall of \$388,646 for 2021. The shortfall for the La Viña service activity has been funded by a transfer from the General Fund of the General Service Board.

Delegates Report Continued:

- Grapevine 2023 Budget- The 2023 budget assumes an average paid circulation of the Grapevine magazine of 47,751. Grapevine ePub is forecasted to be 2,619, Grapevine Complete at 2,100 and App paid subscriptions at 1,500. Total income for the year is estimated to be \$1,291,004. Total costs of expenses which include Editorial costs, Circulation costs and General & Management costs, are \$2,150,078. After adding interest earned and the cost of the App Development Fees, there's a budgeted deficit of \$1,102,074.
- La Viña 2023 Budget- The 2023 budget projects total content-related revenue on the magazine of \$52,360 and a total Gross Margin of \$63,229. After deducting costs and expenses of \$716,808, the 2023 budget reflects a shortfall of \$653,579.
- Reserve Fund Report- As of December 31, 2022, the reserve fund balance net of Grapevine subscription liability is \$ \$12,949,059 pending recalculation of the subscription
- Liability by Grapevine. This is less than the \$12,852,286 balance on December 31, 2021, because the Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee authorized an emergency withdrawal of \$200,000 to support Grapevine operations. GENERAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING / BOARD RESIGNATIONS
- Linda At the request of the General Service Board, Linda Chezem resigned as Class A trustee and Chair of the General Service Board effective January 29, 2023.
- Josh E – General Service Trustee resigned effective February 19. A copy of his resignation letter was forwarded to the delegates last week. Please email me if you would like a copy.
- A meeting has been scheduled for March 16 from 6:30-8P as an online Q&A session for delegates to ask questions of the General Service Board and hear more on this topic. I will communicate what I learn after the meeting.(pp) Attended Conference of Delegates Past & Present in Columbus Ohio from February 10-12All 14 East Central Region delegates were in attendance along with our East Central Regional Trustee, Cathi Clark. Also heard talk from visiting GSO guest Karina C.(pp) Final Agenda Items. The final agenda items were received (minus literature) on February 17, 2023. Per a conference advisory action from last year the background material for all items (minus Literature) was received at the same time in all three-official language (English, Spanish and French). The Literature background was then received in all languages about 4 days later. All the final agenda items and background material has been forwarded to the Area via this link. There are also excellent summaries that have been compiled by Area's 06 & 50, which are available here. As I receive updated background, I am updating the information in the "Separate Committee PDF's" folder. Zoom breakout sessions have been scheduled for the last week in March to discuss all the agenda items; and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop will be April 1 in McHenry. I look forward to your active participation in the process and am available to visit groups or Districts to discuss the agenda items on request.(pp) GRAPEVINE NEWS

See slide deck – Grapevine has announced plan to begin development on a new app designed to offset to plummeting revenues from the print magazine. The app will NOT replace the current print magazine but will serve to augment it and will be tailored specifically to those who desire to receive digital content on the phones and computers. The app is set for release in September 2023.

The GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The General Service Conference will be held in Brooklyn from April 22-29. I will be arriving on Thursday April 20. I have already attended one Finance Committee call with two more scheduled prior to the conference. I will also be helping to conduct a Conference Archives Committee call as well. There are currently 84 final agenda items covering the 13 committees. The link for the final agenda items and background material is here. I look forward to your participation in the upcoming Pre-General Service Conference workshops to hear your groups collective group conscience!!

Delegates Report Continued:

Additional Notes-

- Delegates fees have been paid for 2023.
- Attended West Central Regional AA Service Assembly in Omaha. NE. last weekend. As a region, they send their regards to the ECR (Extremely Cordial Region)!!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris D.

Panel 72 / A20 Delegate

**I have not yet calculated my 1st quarter reimbursement request but most of that expense will be for my attendance at the Conference of Delegates Past and Present

CONFIDENTIAL

This report may contain members' full names or other confidential information and should not be shared outside the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Chris's slide deck can be found on the NIA website.

Old Business

-Area Administrative Committee appointments approval:

The Finance Committee, Operations Committee and Report and Charter remain the same.

-Election of Open positions:

The open positions were reviewed.

Jim T. asked to stand for Bridging the Gap Chair. After qualifying himself, a majority vote was taken. He was elected to finish the remainder of the rotation.

Kim D. asked to stand for Alternate Registrar. After qualifying herself, a majority vote was taken. She was elected to finish the remainder of the rotation.

New Business

-2024 Big Book Conference host bids – no bids were presented.

-Motion to Increase the Mileage Reimbursement Allowance

Motion

It is moved that the mileage reimbursement be increased from \$0.40 per mile to \$0.50 per mile retroactive effective to January 1, 2023.

Background

NIA last raised the reimbursement rate on June 18, 2011, from \$0.28 per mile to \$0.40 per mile.

NIA reimbursed expenses to date for a total of 5,122.7 miles in 2022 at a cost of \$2,049.08. An additional \$0.10 would have cost another \$512.27 total.

On December 19, 2022, the IRS announced the 2023 mileage reimbursement rates. Starting on January 1, 2023, the following rates apply to personal cars, minivans, trucks, SUVs, and panel trucks:

- 14.0 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations
- 22.0 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 65.5 cents per mile for business miles driven

The 2011 increase was \$0.11 less than the business reimbursement. This would make the new rate "prudent" along with being comparable to what we have historically been done.

As stated in our Service Manual, under Cost Reimbursement Philosophy, "While the Primary Purpose finance model attempts to provide sufficient financing for all the activities of the Assembly it remains the responsibility of trusted servants to spend the Assembly's money prudently. It is expected that we as individuals will likely participate financially in our service experience. Thus Primary Purpose Register items should not be expected to cover all costs incurred during our involvement in service."

Questions and Discussion:

A friendly amendment was requested to change the wording of the motion. Specifically, to remove the .40 cents per mile and replace with the current IRS allowance for business miles driven. The author of the motion declined the friendly amendment request leading to a point of order discussion. The friendly amendment was then brought as a motion to amend the wording as stated above. After a second, questions and discussion, the assembly voted to accept (using simple majority) this motion to amend the wording from .40 to the current IRS allowance for business miles driven. No minority opinion.

Questions and discussion on the full motion was resumed. The substantial unanimity vote was passed.

Minority opinion was heard. No one went to the microphone to change their vote. The motion was passed.

Motion

ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE MOTION #1

Panel 62 Past Delegate makes a motion to have our Area 20 Treasurer write up to 13 checks or PayPal reimbursements. One to each Area of the East Central Region that sent checks or PayPal payments, in the amount received from these Areas that they sent to help cover the loss of the \$3,000.00 East Central Regional Conference Seed Money incurred by Area 20.

BACKGROUND - There was a \$12,537.42 loss while Area 20 was hosting the 2022 Illinois State Conference/East Central Regional Conference. Which included \$3,000.00 seed money from the East Central Region. This loss obviously has nothing to do with lack of attendance and participation. The other Areas of the East Central Region play no role in this whatsoever. The only financial agreement between the Area 20 Host Committee and the East Central Region is to return the \$3,000.00 seed money to the East Central Regional Treasurer. They merely trust us with their seed money and attend if possible and upon invitation. With all the

New Business Motion continued:

above said, they did their part, with attendance and participation on Panels as requested and should not be responsible for any financial losses incurred by Area 20. We need to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. We must return those payments covering the loss of the East Central Region Seed Money, with a kindhearted note of appreciation for their great generosity, asking them to please accept the fact that we need to do this on our own to heal and move forward with this. We as an Area, as a Group, must take responsibility for this.

After questions and discussion, the motion failed. There was no minority opinion.

Service and Administrative Committee Reports

- **BTG – Jim T**
Jim will be at the BTG breakout as well as corrections and treatment. If anyone has experience with BTG that is where I will be.
- **CPC – Jan S**
We are seeking volunteers. This month the committee met with addiction counselor students at COD along with their professor. I got an interesting call from a high school. They wanted us to come and talk to their staff but were very leery because the staff has a stigma about AA which is exactly why we want to talk with them. We have events in April. Downers Grove High School and Addison Trail High School. In May we have the opportunity to go to Elmhurst College to present to nursing students. In June, a major show, The National Association of Employees Assistance Program. We're busy and need help to carry the message!
- **Corrections – Phil M**
Our county jails are doing well. We have a strong group of volunteers. We are making headway in getting back into the state prisons. We have gotten back into the Joliet Treatment Center, holding meetings Saturday at noon. I just got some encouraging news that one of our volunteers has been in touch with the warden at Stateville Penitentiary about meetings there. I continue to talk with the Chaplains at Sheridan and look forward to getting in there. Volunteers are contacting me to get involved. Everything is going well. I am happy to be of service.
- **Literature - Scott T**
Had nothing to report but knows he has something coming up soon! The literature crew is meeting on the 22nd of this month and as soon as this conference is over, I will get right into it.
- **Public Information – Lisa S, Ed M**
Lisa - We have been working on increasing attendance at this event. We participated in Spring Conference planning sessions. Alanon has reached out to PI to assist with providing materials to local libraries all throughout DuPage County. The Glen Ellyn library specifically asked for AA and Alanon literature and speakers to conduct informational sessions to library patrons. The Alanon contact asked for PI to provide materials to all the libraries in DuPage County. We will work with the District PI chairs to make sure that occurs this spring. We are excited to be able to host the PI breakout prior to the workshop to review the 19 agenda items. Communication to the District PI chairs has been sent out already as to the date and time.
Ed – I just wanted to comment that it has been great working with Lisa and great to see new people here.
- **Concepts Editor – Susan H**
Thanks to everyone who contributed articles. The newsletter is sent electronically to the Area Committee, so it is available to be sent to your group and meeting members. I did not print any copies of the newsletter to bring here today. If someone needs a copy just email me. It is translated in Spanish which is the quarterly expense we have. We are looking for contributors. If you want to see something in the newsletter, I am open to ideas.

Service Committee and Administrative Reports continued:

- **Archivist – Cheryl V.**

Cheryl V - Please come to the archives room. One thing Ray and I are doing is buying new displays that are lockable and lighter. We have misplaced the keys for the storage unit that is packed full but I'm sure they are there somewhere!

Ray M – I am the outgoing Archivist, and I will continue to support Cheryl's efforts. I just wanted to let you guys know that I have spent a lot of time with the material we have in archives that has meant a lot to my sobriety. The activity of doing it has meant a lot to my sobriety. I had the opportunity to sit down yesterday for about 1 ½ hours with someone from Chicago who is involved with their archives. I always had this notion that their archives must be like gold because they were there before us. They have the words of Bill Wilson and I have this image in my mind of what it must be like. I got the answer yesterday that they are all sitting in a room unorganized and they're just beginning to do the work as a committee to figure out what they have. They are organizing incoming items as they come in. I think that is remarkable because it was exactly the state of our archives when I showed up. It is now a little better and Cheryl is making strides in moving us into the technology age and I only have some vague notion on how to support her but soon we will, hopefully, have the ability to not only have the material available to you on the Cloud (with limitations of who can see it due to privacy and anonymity) but also be able to search through the material for documents like minutes and motions. We talk about old stuff but there are new tricks in technology that we need to be aware of, so I thank Cheryl for stepping up to participate in that process.

- **Finance Committee – Rob M.**

We did meet. New DCM on the committee is Steve K. We are looking for a third DCM or Alternate DCM to serve with Steve and Sid. No chair yet so I will continue to head up that committee. No actions were taken at the meeting.

- **Technology Committee – Rob M.**

We continue to work on better serving the Area. Earl has not been able to help much as he is recovering from surgery.

<h2>Officer Reports</h2>

- **Alternate Delegates Report – Erik L.**

Since our Winter Assembly, our turnout for the Service Orientation Workshop in January was outstanding – I appreciate the 3 DCM's – Aaron, Sarah, and Sid, as well as Ray M. for participating – great experience shared and hopefully our new GSR's and DCM's took something away from the workshop. In February, I was honored to attend the Conference of Delegates Past & Present in Columbus, OH. We have some great trusted servants in the East Central Region and it was a great opportunity to see how our delegates prepare and to get a glimpse of how the General Service Conference is structured and organized. It was great to hear from our Regional Trustee Cathy C. – we are well represented. Today, we will hear briefly on the schedule for the virtual breakout meetings to review all the agenda items at the upcoming General Service Conference. There will be a total of 11 individual meetings beginning March 22 through March 30. The schedule will be communicated today and more details will be sent out next week for log in info and web links. Thanks to all our respected Committee Chairs and past Delegates for chairing these individual meetings. All of this work will then culminate at our Pre-General Service Conference Workshop April 1 in Woodstock. Our delegate Chris D – will be well prepared! My YTD expenses through today are \$270.71 – for hotel and registration to the CDPP.

Officers Reports continued:

- **Area Chair – Rob M.**

I have worked with the Finance Committee to appoint members. Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend the CDPP. I have been working with Earl and the technology committee. My expenses to date have only been printing expenses. I do not have the exact total.

- **Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B.**

Spring Conference 2023 is here, and it has been a pleasure working with the Dave's and the committee to produce the conference for Area 20. Districts 22 and 23 have done an excellent job on every level to make this conference happen for us. Kudos to them for their dedication and commitment to Area 20. The work for the 2023 Big Book Conference, planned for November 4, 2023, at Lord of Life, has begun. We will be meeting at the beginning of April to continue planning. The bank account has been switched over to the new committee. They are beginning to plan speakers and the program. I look forward to working with them until conference completion. Work has begun for the three districts hosting the 2024 Spring Conference. The hotel contract is signed, and we are waiting on food prices at this time. The next GSR committee meeting will be on Zoom on April 13th. I will be sending out the flyer to the DCMs soon, and it will also be posted on the site. PLEASE ask me to visit your District meeting or workshop. I'm happy to come and observe, participate in any way you need, or make the coffee.

- **Registrar – Chris E.**

Welcome to all the new DCM's. I hope you are all here today. I want to share some information in my report that will be helpful to these new DCM's and new trusted servants in area 20 for 2023. The biggest function of the Registrar is to update and maintain the database of group records. Our ability to carry out our primary purpose is only as good as the information we have. Without accurate records there cannot be communications with the Districts, Area Committee Chairs and the GSR's and groups. New Group and Change Forms are on the NIA Website that you can print out. The forms that I have created have all the information I need, the forms from the GSO do not. So, use our forms. If you use the GSO forms, I'm just going to have to contact you and ask for more clarification. Most District secretaries handle group forms, but your district might have a GSR contact or LCM that does it. Check with your DCM to know who you send the completed forms to so when they go through your District contact, they get filled out correctly the first time then I don't have to hunt you down for information! If your group is new there is a 30-day waiting period after which you will get your welcome letter and kit. Unfortunately, all the kits are still on backorder but are available digitally. There are links in my report which I will email out. I updated the DCM and District Committee Change Forms to include both personal email for registration and an optional service position email for communication. I've been getting a lot of forms with service position emails, but I cannot register you that way with GSO. We'll gladly use it to communicate with you at the Area level. I also translated some of the forms into Spanish. I am working on the rest of them. So, DCM is mcd, GSR is rsg, Secretary is Secretaria. That was not done by GSO on their database. So, I have taken care of it. The Area Committee Roster was on the table this morning. When printed it does include the full names and cities where we live since we are not anonymous amongst ourselves. The roster sent out by email to committee members is anonymity protected, a decision this assembly made in 2011 and reaffirmed last year in the motion to update the Registrar's duties. I got a lot of questions about that from the new DCM's, so I want to put that out there today. Lately, I have also received a lot of new group forms with the word meeting in the group name and so I asked for clarification if it is a group or if it is just a meeting and the answer overwhelmingly is no, this is just a meeting. So, just to clarify, groups continue to exist after the meeting ends.

Registrars Report Continued:

AA groups continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hours, a quote from AA literature. Groups are ready to provide 12th step help when needed. We are made up of people who gather for sobriety and support each other. We hold meetings, of course, but we also fellowship before and after, hold events, go on retreats, and celebrate anniversaries in special ways. So, we keep track of groups at the Area level and GSO level and the districts will keep track of meetings for websites, the meeting guide, and directories. If you have questions about a form you have submitted recently or if you are a DCM or Area committee chair and want rosters, come see me during lunch. I am behind on getting information entered. I am 100% in AA this weekend, so if you come to me you will have it later today. I also hosted a workshop on using Fellowship Connection and new group forms on February 19th, it was short notice so I will host another one in April. It will either be the 16th, 20th or 22nd. If you are a new DCM or District Secretary and want to attend and one date is better for you than another, see me and let me know or I will just pick which is best for me but I want to do what is best for you so you can attend. My expenses to date are \$232 for PO Box and mileage.

- **Secretary – Kate D.** No Report
- **Alternate Secretary – Sue M.**

On the table are a limited number of copies of the District/GSR meeting list for Area 20. I will continue to periodically email the updated list to the committee. Please remember this list is confidential and only to be used within the fellowship. I attended the February and March monthly meeting for district secretaries and recordkeepers. Our next meeting is on April 4th at 7pm. An email with zoom invite is sent to the committee roster prior to the meeting and anyone can attend! A limited number of copies of the flyer are on the table. If you have misplaced your name tag, please see me for a replacement. I have not submitted any reimbursements to date but will do so after the mileage motion is voted on today.

Rob added to his report: We have gotten a lot of input from the Spanish community. We are going to start translating our officers' reports in Spanish using Google Doc or Google translate for our Spanish members. This is long overdue. Something formal will be forthcoming.

After Open Mic, the meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement. There was no motion recorded to close.

The next meeting is the Area Committee Meeting being held on Saturday, May 20th at Lord of Life Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA Alternate Secretary