

Since the Summer Assembly, I have attended the Illinois State Conference, made my display board and brought it to both the Summer Committee Meeting and Fall Assembly, and held three monthly meetings of the Area Accessibilities Committee. I want to say thank you to the districts that have updated the meetings on their district websites to include whether they are wheelchair accessible and/or have wheelchair accessible bathrooms. If your district has not done this yet, I encourage you to do so – it will really help people find meetings that they can access and attend.

The Accessibilities Committee today discussed a few topics and came up with a few recommendations we would like to see addressed in Northern IL Area 20:

1. We ask that no portion of the agenda be skipped. Officer reports have been submitted online in the interest of saving time in advance at several Assemblies and Committee Meetings, and those meetings have all ended early. On average this year, through 6 Area meetings, only 5.5 of the 10 (now 9) officers have submitted reports online. Those that are online are not easy for new GSRs to find or are not all named in a way that's easy to understand. Not all of the officers are listed on the Area website with a way to contact them to ask questions. For some in our service structure, understanding the roles of our trusted servants only comes from hearing what they are doing and having the opportunity to ask questions of them. We ask that officer reports be placed at the end of the agenda and only be skipped if we reach the time limit for the Assembly or Committee Meeting.
2. Information about the upcoming Fall Committee Meeting and Winter Assembly is not on the Area calendar, which is the place most people go to first to look for the information. Even though details may not be finalized or a flyer may not be available, the events on the printed NIA Calendar should all be on t
3. Our website used to be translated into Spanish but cannot be found anymore. Further, our website does not have any accessibility tools. We ask that our webmaster and technology committee look into restoring the translated site and implementing accessibility tools through WCAG standards, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. We thank the Service Manual custodian for having the online version of the service manual match the printed version so whenever we reference page numbers it is the same, but it isn't easily useable because the online version is 2 pages per document page. We ask that it be posted as a single page per document page so that people can turn pages online easily.
5. We ask everyone to consider if the resources they share are easily understandable by those new to service, and further, new to the program of AA. Using full titles and entity names instead of acronyms is a great start.
6. If your group, district, or this Area provide literature – consider if it is available in all accessible forms – do you have big books and pamphlets in large print, different languages, braille or audio if available? Will you provide the Plain Language Big Book alongside the 4th Edition Big Book when it becomes available? If you provide Grapevines to the community, do you also provide La Vina? We think that La Vina might be self supporting if every group or district that pays for a subscription in a library, treatment center, police station, etc also paid for a La Vina subscription.

My expenses to date have been \$1305.

Respectfully submitted,

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