

## Northern Illinois Area 20 Fall Committee Minutes October 19, 2024, In Person and Online/Video

MINUTES DISCLAIMER: THE MINUTES ARE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL PUBLICATIONS AND SHOULD BE USED FOR AA PURPOSES ONLY

**Meeting Opening:** The Northern Illinois Area 20 Chair called the meeting to order at 9am. The group participated in a quiet time and the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees and meeting announcements were made. 12 Concepts for World Service short form were read. First time attendees and anniversaries since fall Assembly were recognized.

**Approval of 2024 Summer Committee Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Officer Reports

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**Delegates Report - Erik L.** - Since our Fall Assembly last month, I've attended and participated in the following: Sept. 8 ISC 2025 Planning Committee, Sept. 19 District 41 delegate report in Elmhurst, Sept. 20 District 73 delegate report in Dixon, Oct. 16 Agenda Committee joint meeting with Trustees Conference Committee. 74th GSC Final Report is available at aa.org. Printed reports in both English & Spanish are readily available. International Convention July 3-5, 2025 Vancouver. Additional housing blocks are being worked on – if you don't have a room yet, keep checking the site. Finance: Updates for Q2, 2024 will be out after the October Board Meeting. Contributions through Q2 (June 30 YTD) were \$5.6 million vs. a plan of \$4.9 million (13% increase). Gross literature sales through Q2 of \$7.0 million vs. a plan of \$7.9 million (10% decrease). Literature profit of \$3.7 million vs. a plan of \$3.9 million (7% decrease). Operating Expense through Q2 of \$9.2 million vs. a plan of \$9.6 million (5% decrease). Current Prudent Reserve Fund – 6.33 months. Some upcoming planned events: Nov. 6 ECR Monthly Meeting; Nov. 9 Area 20 Big Book Conference; Nov. 10 ISC Planning Committee; Dec 14 Area 20 Winter Assembly; Dec 15 ISC Planning Committee; Jan. 25 General Service Board Meeting. My expenses year-to-date are \$2,353.24, largely related to workshop travel, attendance at the CDPP in Muncie, IN, delegate presentations to districts, and participation at the ECR in Grand Rapids, MI and State Conference in Springfield. Note that the expenses for attending the Conference are paid directly to the GSB from Area 20 and I was reimbursed for my travel expense by the GSO.

### Treasurer's Report – Dave F

English - [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Treasurer-Bal\\_PL-Report-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Treasurer-Bal_PL-Report-EN.pdf)

Spanish - [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Treasurer-Bal\\_PL-Report-ES.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Treasurer-Bal_PL-Report-ES.pdf)

**Alternate Delegate – Lisa S** Since the Fall Assembly meeting last month, I participated in the 2025 Illinois State Conference planning meeting on Sunday, 9/8/24. We had been meeting bimonthly but will move to a monthly and more frequent planning schedule as we move into the new year. We are looking forward to hosting the ISC next year and will be reaching out to area Trusted Servants as we look for continued support and commitment. I was honored to attend the D52 District meeting in Kankakee on Tuesday, 9/19/24 to meet with their service committee chairs and GSRs and provide a brief Area and GSO update, as well as offer support to their District Committee Member (DCM), Steve K. There are some truly dedicated A.A. member in D52 and it was truly a pleasure to meet with many of them. NIA 20 Area Chairs assisted me with a Service Workshop in Wheaton in D40 on 9/21/24 to share what each of their committees does to carry the message through service. Presenters included Dawn B., Robert S., Jan S., Jim T., and Kevin A. All did a tremendous job, and I am very thankful to DCM Sandy C. and the District for their participation. I attended the virtual North American Alternate Delegates (NAAD) monthly meeting on October 1st. Meetings are a combination of either sharing sessions or presentations by one of the eight regions representing the U.S./Canada. During this month's meeting, Alternate Delegates from across North America and Canada reviewed and shared information on Concept 9: Leadership Development in A.A. as presented by Alternate Delegates representing Western Canada. On 10/5/24 Dawn B., Aaron V., and I participated in a Service Workshop in D70 Rockford. Many thanks to DCM Steve C. for the invitation and for the district members who attended. Several Area members, including Aaron V., Grapevine Alternate Chair Karen

W., D43 DCM Laura V and Alternate DCM Stephanie H., and CPC Chair Lisa G., worked with DCM Dave K. in hosting a service workshop in D71 Northern Illinois University in DeKalb on 10/12/24. We were joined by a Young People in AA panel, including Patrick M., Sanela R., and Diego G. It was a great day to carry the message of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. My expenses year to date through mid-September 2024 are \$3,350.84. Please let me know how I can be of assistance to your District!

**Chair – Dawn B** - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Chair-Report-EN.pdf>

**Alternate Chair – Aaron V**

English - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Alt-Chair-Report-EN.pdf>

Spanish - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Committee-Alt-Chair-Report-ES.pdf>

**Registrar – Rob M** – Rob gave an oral report. No written report was submitted.

**Alternate Registrar – Kim D** - I apologize for missing the last several area meetings. My business travel was on those dates. I have maintained Fellowship Connection for the Groups and all their service positions. Sent out reports to DCMs and all Service Committee Chairs. As described in my responsibilities, I will send quarterly reports after the Fall Committee Meeting. Please let me know if you need a detailed list of who will receive them. All group forms can be downloaded from the NIA website: <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. If you need any information or want to submit forms, please send them to [altregistrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:altregistrar@aa-nia.org) or the mailing address above. As of now, the expenses for 2024 are at 0, and there have been no expenses since the last report.

**Secretary – Sue M – English & Spanish:** <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Comm-Mtg-Secretary-Report-EN-ES.pdf>

**Alternate Treasurer – Mike H** – Mike was not in attendance. No written report was submitted.

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### Conference Reports

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**2024 Big Book Conference – Kim S** 190 people currently registered. Lunch registration is extended until Monday. Use the QR code for easy registration. Our program chair recently moved to Arizona. George and I are working on a list of all the panelists. We did not have Spanish speaking moderators but I think we just got that solved.

**2025 IL State Conference – Jeff L, Sandy** -The room rate will be \$139 per night at the Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg. We need 90 rooms per night. Banquet is \$50, buffet style. November 10<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting. There will be flyers soon. Mail-in registration will be available.

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### Old Business

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**Open elected positions review:** Answering Service – Alternate; Cooperating with the Professional Community – Alternate; Public Information – Alternate; Accessibilities – Alternate; Literature - Alternate and Area Secretary – Alternate. Corrections – Alternate. Elections will be held at the Winter Assembly.

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### New Business

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#### **Motion to Require NIA Trusted Servants to Use Designated Microsoft 365 Email Addresses for NIA Correspondence**

The Technology Committee moves that NIA trusted servants provided with an NIA Microsoft 365 email account (an aa-nia.org email address) be required to use that account for NIA correspondence beginning with Panel 76.

The full motion can be found in the following links for English and Spanish.

English - [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Cmt-Mtg\\_Chair-Report-Cover-Agenda-Motion-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Cmt-Mtg_Chair-Report-Cover-Agenda-Motion-EN.pdf)

Spanish - [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Cmt-Mtg\\_Chair-Report-Cover-Agenda-Motion-ES.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fall-Cmt-Mtg_Chair-Report-Cover-Agenda-Motion-ES.pdf)

**Review 2025 Proposed PPR** – Dave F, Treasurer presented the 2025 Primary Purpose Register on behalf of the finance committee. This will be approved at the upcoming Winter Assembly.

**Review 2025 Proposed Calendar** <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Calendar-Proposed-NIA.pdf> The 2025 calendar will be approved at the upcoming Winter Assembly.

**Bids for 2025 Big Book Conference-** Marcello, D20, Dave D42 will present a full bid at the Winter Assembly. It will be in Oak Brook.

**Bids for 2026 Spring Conference-** Dan stated that D22, D23 are committed. Katie stated that D61 may also have interest in participating. A full bid will be presented at the Winter Assembly.

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### Service Committee Reports

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**Accessibilities – Chris E** - Since the September Assembly I have hosted one monthly meeting of the NIA20 Accessibilities Committee and attended the District 61 meeting. I will be hitting the ground running for workshops starting mid-November. The Accessibilities Committee discussed the need to have phone numbers for a Spanish speaking answering service throughout the districts, and the Answering Service Committee Chair stated that we can use (847) 695-7608. Districts that do not have a Spanish speaking member to answer calls in Spanish can use this phone number on their website and printed directories.

**Answering Service – Dave T** – D20 was very welcoming and have asked for the informational board in Spanish. During the visit I discovered D20 phone number was not listed on our website as a result I asked our tech committee to add to our list as well as activated in the search bar under Spanish or Español entry. In the district they are currently using one cell phone that is being passed around every 2 weeks to a month from person to person. They don't get a lot of calls and they pay \$35 a month. I explained what answering service does in the area and have shared my previous experience with them in regards to start using Google Voice services instead of one cell phone. I have also emailed to the DCM a pdf of the QR code in English. I am now working on developing stickers with QR code in Spanish. I met with one of the tech committee members to implement the needed updates/changes to the website. Most of which have already been put in place like putting the correct phone number on the website, making Spanish meetings easier to find. We also looked at A21 contacts and A19 contacts for our website and will have links go directly to the Area 19 website to make it easier for an alcoholic to find help nearby. We had an issue doing the same with Area 21 since most of the information we have for their meetings is outdated and their website is also not very user friendly. I will try to reach out to Area 21 Answering service to get these issues addressed.

**Archives – Carol H** – Due to health issues I have been unable to do much. I hope to be able to start getting out to the districts soon.

**Bridging the Gap - Joe B** – I attended the recent BTG workshop in September. The next workshop will be in Los Angeles. I hope to attend.

**Concepts – Susan H**, I am now looking at whether we should be sending the newsletter to the whole membership instead of only to the DCM's. The next quarterly newsletter release is December 1st. The deadline for articles is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Another thing I want to look at is putting committee reports in the newsletter.

**CPC – Lisa** – CPC has been blooming with opportunities to extend the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous: there are many examples of great Cooperation at work. In Galesburg, as well as Huntley, AAs are having literature bundling parties focusing their energies on reaching the Knox and McHenry County courthouse staff and agencies. Recently members joined thousands of others at the Shatterproof Walk to end the stigma of addiction at Diversey Harbour in

Chicago. Many thanks to Jeff and his group for extending the hand of AA in Shatterproof's "Recovery Village". Area CPC is grateful to Stephania, Laurie, and Judy for researching, inputting, labeling, and preparing introductory literature bundles for professionals. Thus far 45 mail pieces have been sent and 150 more bundled, ready for postage in District 11: we are targeting churches, government, and social service centers as well as Medicaid dental and prenatal care agencies regardless of the districts' CPC "status". Much of the emphasis of CPC these past few months has been a) equipping and recruiting members to go out and represent AA in our community, and b) on increasing the presence of AA in events. In cooperation with District's 10, 11, and 12 we implemented a very successful workshop in Huntley focusing specifically on those points. Approximately 45 members attended.

**Corrections – George P** - See me for literature to take to institutions. We have had 13 orders for about \$7,000. Take pink cans home with you. We are having monthly meetings with district committee. I need an alternate chair. Please see me if you are interested. I plan on attending the National Corrections Conference coming soon.

**Grapevine – Terry M** – Connections have been made with Leland from Soberfest to assist in what type of GV literature to have at event, we will also lend them the display boards. Planning for a future workshop with Jan S and Susan H. D61 GV chair, Sara has reached out and working to coordinate a presentation at their district meeting. Karen W alt GV Chair presented at the DeKalb workshop and the report was very well received. Participating in the 2025 IL state conference committee as GV chair. I will be at D20 in November doing a presentation with displays. We are working on a QR Code.

**Karen** – I participated in a workshop in D71. Go on the Grapevine aa.org website for information on the magazine.

**Literature – Jan S, John L** - The committee read the pamphlet "Problems other than Alcohol" and will have an in-person discussion next quarter on whether to revise or retire it. I am waiting for the GSO Literature person to provide the number of copies sold for the past two years. We have received the 2025 Literature Catalog and will begin distributing it to the groups. It is online only which we will emphasize to all groups. A copy of this can be viewed at the meeting today. A couple of new pieces were developed and are now included in the Literature listing on AA.org but are not yet available to order. These publications are "Black in AA" and the "Literature Workbook." We will keep watching. I attended a service workshop on Sept 21st put on by Lisa S and Dawn B. CPC, Treatment, and Literature all presented their respective opportunities for Service work. I am currently discussing with Susan H., Concepts, and Terry M, Grapevine, to do another workshop in first quarter of 2025.

**Public Information – Tina R** – I participated in the Workshop in September given by D10, D11 and D12. I will be participating in a workshop in the Spring.

**Treatment – Kevin A, Jeff L** We continue to hold the monthly meeting. We will be purchasing a literature can funds rack for D40 using the green can funds. At our monthly zoom meeting, we discussed communication, literature, panels and meetings. We are having low attendance and hope to build on that moving forward. We will be sending info to our web admin to get a more active page on our website.

**Alt. Web Administrator – Scott T** – We continue to update the website. We have given additional tools for Cheryl to help. Send any changes or corrections to my email. I have participated in the Tech workshop online over the weekend.

### **Administrative Committee Reports**

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**Archivist – Cheryl V** – An effort has been under way to replicate the 1st Edition of An Alcoholics Anonymous History in Northern Illinois Area 20 that was published in 1996. Chris E., Accessibility Chair, has agreed to review my first pass to see if he can find other errors. These are things such as the conversion placed a 1 (one) instead of a lower-case L. Once completed a PDF version will be placed on the NIA web. The effort of OneDrive storage for digital archives has progressed. There are 5 vintage copies of Concepts that we have no copies of. These are: Summer 2004, Fall 2002, Summer, Fall and Winter of 1988, and Winter of 1987. If you know anyone who might have an original of these, please reach out and see if they would be willing to donate them to the Area. If they are not of the mind to do that, perhaps

they will consider loaning them to us so we can scan them. Minutes of Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings are next on the list of things to scan. Currently 78% of these have been completed already. Hopefully in the coming months more will be done. In supporting our Alternate Web Administrator by pulling copies of older files off **the website and** placing them in digital storage, I have removed from the website over 300 electronic files. These have all been placed in multiple storage locations, including the Archives OneDrive storage. Of note, I have downloaded multiple flyer files from previous events. Many of these files are from Districts or specific meetings. It doesn't really fall in NIA archives responsibilities to store files for Districts and meetings. I would like to make these files available to the responsible archives people.

**Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V** - At our last Assembly, Chris E., our Accessibilities Committee Chair, presented a motion to request that AAWS/GSO move toward printing in a more accessible manner. As such, I have started an effort to convert our NIA documents to Arial Font, and with a minimum of 11-point size. To date I converted the Planning Procedures for our various Area events. In addition, I have broken these documents into separate files. This to support Districts who might want to host an NIA event, but not want to wade through 36 pages when they are only looking for the 6 pages that are needed to say, host an Assembly. These files, English and Spanish, have been updated on the NIA website. I will plan on updating the NIA Service Manual next.

**Conference Advisory Committee** – Dan M asked that anyone interested in serving on a conference planning committee contact him. He did not give any contact information at the microphone.

**Electronic Equipment – Rob** - Rick has been doing a great job. We are in the process of purchasing new headsets for translation.

**Finance – Bonnie P** - No report other than the 2025 Proposed Primary Purpose Registrar.

**Operating Committee** – No report as they have not had to meet.

**Report and Charter – Chris E** – Nothing to Report

**Technology Committee – Bryan D** – We continue to meet twice a month. We are looking at updates to the website. Bryan offered to have a template made by the Tech Committee for reports if there is a request by a Committee Chair. It would be available, as an option, on the website for anyone needing help to do their report for Committee Meetings and Assemblies. Also, [Tech@aa-nia.org](mailto:Tech@aa-nia.org) is a new email to use. It will go to everyone on the Tech Committee. This is a preview of what we can do for other committees. We would love to do workshops.

#### **Inventory Committee Report– Lorrie F**

There were 129 total replies. There were no responses to the Spanish survey. 23 out of 26 districts responded – none from district 65, 72, 79. Six districts only had one reply. There were 13 DCM replies, 10 Alt DCMs, 24 Service Committee Chairs, 4 Alt SCC, 67 GSRs, 11 Alt GSRs. We will provide a full report at the Winter Assembly, but here are a few key takeaways so far from reviewing the responses:

- There is a big call for information/education – could we host workshops throughout the Area to focus on specific topics, different from Service Orientation Workshops.
  - Topics could include: service sponsorship, the purpose of the PGSCW, how the GSR fits into each level of the service structure, what do all the acronyms mean, what's inside the GSR pamphlets, primary purpose financing, creating motions
- People want direct emails from the Area – communicate with GSRs directly – are the minutes and newsletters going to everyone per the guidelines – could we use MailChimp to let anyone sign up – can we send one email a month with everything in it (no more individual emails from every area servant)
- People don't know about writing motions – how can we get the info out – Concepts? How can we make people available to help others? Create a committee to review motions? Get the past delegates to do it?

- People don't go to assemblies because they are too far away, too long, or they work. Could we go into Districts 72, 91, or 52 even if the district isn't hosting the Assembly?
  - Top 4 problems with assemblies – repetitive comments, location is inconvenient, the same people keep going to the mic, motions are edited and re-written at the mic
  - Breakout sessions could have topics and agendas sent out in advance to tell people why they should come – 2/3 of people want to hear back about the breakout sessions
- Over half of the service committee chairs have not been contacted by their Area counterpart, have not been offered a workshop, do not have regular meetings outside of the assembly
- People don't know how to use the NIA website – the website tour is a pdf file not a tour – can we do better to keep it up to date – information is hard to find even on the homepage.

Lorrie F, Chris E, Allen J, Larry S

### **DCM Reports**

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**D10 – Lorrie F, DCM** – Our elections are this month. We had our GSR Workshop. I was on the Tri-County Planning Committee. December 8<sup>th</sup> is our holiday party with the Area Chair and Alternate Area Chair. They will do a short presentation. Our website has a list of open meetings in our districts for nurses. We have also done this for those that think they may be an alcoholic. Our Corrections Chair is attending the National Corrections Conference. Lorrie asked for help with a better script including common answers for Answering Services volunteers to use for incoming calls. We have done this for District questions. We are considering adding a link on the website for The Concepts.

Dave T our Area Answering Service Chair responded to Lorrie's request. Dave said there are Guidelines in place already that will address this. He will share that information.

**D11 Dan P** – Thank you for all the help with the recent CPC workshop. Also, thanks to the Finance Committee for their PPR information. As a result, I will be bringing a motion to our District to allow more expenses to be reimbursable. Soberfest is coming soon. I host a legacy of service meeting twice monthly. There is a flyer on the district calendar.

**D21 – Debbie** – The district has filled more alternate positions. Dawn, Area Chair is visiting in November.

**D22 – Paula** – We hosted today's meeting. The Area Chair visited last month to talk about the GSR position. The Christmas party is December 7<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist Church in Hampshire from 4-10. With the backing of our groups in the district, we are bidding on the 2026 Spring Conference. We have a few more GSR's.

**D23 – Laura** – We had a workshop last month on Steps 8 & 9. Overall, everything is going well.

**D28 – Traci** – We had a speaker meeting with about 25 in attendance. We want to make this an annual event. Elections are in November.

**D40 – Sandy** – We had a service workshop with the Area last month. We are creating a service manual for our district. Our Christmas party is December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Presbyterian Church in Wheaton.

**D41 – Lael** – Last month Erik gave his report on the General Service Conference. There will be a workshop on October 26<sup>th</sup> in Villa Park on steps 8&9. We were at the Senior Fair in Lombard.

**D61 – Katie** – Chris E visited our District to talk about Accessibilities. Our Alternate DCM had to step down. There is another candidate. Elections will be this month. The Answering Service Chair and Alternate is still open. We do have a temporary Answering Service Chair in place until the position is filled. We may be participating in the next Spring Conference.

**D62 – Josh** – Josh left before giving his oral report. He submitted this report for inclusion in the minutes:

-Website regularly updated. Latest upgrade is a printable meeting guide PDF on Home page. Also recent is the placement of our Answering Service Chair email for volunteers to more easily get information.

-Answering Service volunteer list is being updated and populated by the new (two months) Chair.

-Corrections progress has been made in both Kendall (Men's) and Kane (Women's) County. Trying for another PREA Training before the end of the year.

-Monthly District Meeting is getting 12-14 attendees on average. This is a mix of primarily GSR's and a few members curious about service.

**D70 Kim** – George and I are new to these positions. In September, we had our first picnic since Covid. We had a service workshop with the Area. The next workshop is scheduled for November 23. Erik will give his report from the GSC. We hope more Area members join us. It will be at the Alano Club from 9-3. We are finishing up the planning for the Big Book Conference. Corrections is the only open District position.

After open mic there was a motion by Dave F, second by Sandy to adjourn. The Meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA Secretary

**Next meeting is on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Lord of Life Church.**