

Northern Illinois Area 20 Summer Assembly Minutes June 22, 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 followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees and Dan, DCM D11 made the meeting announcements for the hosting district.

First Time Attendees: Anthony, GSR 12X12 Study, Jackie, Doug Alt GSR Three Legacy Group and Alt. Webmaster D11, Jeff, Kelsey Alt GSR Flying Geese D11, Greg CPC D42, Frank GSR D61, Teri Alt. D61.

Anniversaries Since Last Assembly: Karen D 45 years, Julie ?, Steve 40 years, Chris 5 years, John 22 years, Sandy 10 years, Jeff 25 years, Jackie 5 months, Chris 1 year, Anthony 11 months, Sarah 3 years, Jeremy 4 years, Rob 36 years, Joanne 24 years, Katie 44 years, Rich 36 years, Tina 33 years, Frank 2 years, Laura 11 years, Lael 11 years.

Approval of 2024 Spring Assembly Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved unanimously. Cheryl moved and Tina Second.

Treasurer’s Report – Dave F.

Income	
7th Tradition Contributions	
Contributions - District	2,436.75
Contributions - Group	20,346.73
Contributions - Other	78.04
Contributions - Personal	946.93
Interest	2.32
Total 7th Tradition Contributions	23,810.77
Total Income	\$23,810.77
GROSS PROFIT	
	\$23,810.77
Expenses	
B16-24 2024 East Central Regional Conference	702.66
Primary Purpose Basic	
B01-24 2024 General Service Conference	1,102.37
B02-24 2024 General Service Conference Contribution	11,000.00
B03-24 2024 Area Assemblies	3,206.30
B04-24 2024 Area Committee Meetings	3,148.56
B05-24 2024 Service Orientation Workshops	1,813.86
B07-24 2024 Concepts Newsletter	679.89
B08-24 2024 Area Committee participation in District Committee functions	783.00
B09-24 2024 ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	2,168.95
B10-24 2024 Area Operations	8,550.69
B12-24 2024 Spring Conference, Area Participation	5,573.04
B17-24 2024 Service Committee Workshops	420.42
Total Primary Purpose Basic	38,447.08

Primary Purpose Motions	
M083 Hybrid Equipment Purchase 2022	1,862.75
M086 Area Participation in 2023 ECRF	1,200.00
M087 District Participation in 2023 ECRF	1,479.66
M089 Motion for area service committees to create / update display boards used at area functions	249.11
M091 Motion to rent headsets for 2024 Spring Conference	2,960.00
M092 Motion to Send Contribution the GSB 2024	10,000.00
Total Primary Purpose Motions	17,751.52
Uncategorized Expense	612.00
Total Expenses	\$57,513.26
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -33,702.49
NET INCOME	\$ -33,702.49

Approved unanimously. Kevin motioned, seconded by Julie.

Delegates Report - Erik L. It's been a couple of months since the 74th General Service Conference, and I look forward to giving my full report back to the Assembly today. Some of you have heard parts of the report already at your district meeting or at our Spring Area Committee Meeting in May. Therefore, today's report may be a little redundant. To those who haven't, I hope to provide as much information as time allows and to also focus on those items that are of most interest to you. The heart of my delegate report is contained in PowerPoint presentation that I intend to review at the Assembly. A full copy of the PowerPoint is contained in the zip file which accompanied this report or can be emailed to anyone upon request. This written report is a summary of the PowerPoint as well as some other updates since my last report. As I mentioned in my last Area Committee report, the experience of the conference was at times exciting, frustrating, tiring and hopeful. It was great to be able to connect with some familiar faces from our East Central Region as well as some of the staff and board that I had met on previous occasions. However, to reduce the cost of the conference this year, a few things were deleted from the agenda, notably the delegate meet and greet on Saturday evening. I heard from many of the Panel 73 delegates that this change resulted in an abrupt start to the conference. We jumped right into the business at hand without much opportunity to fellowship before the conference started. To make those necessary personal connections, you had to work the room and change seats through the week to get to meet people, which I did. It was during our many meals that I had the opportunity to chat with some of the other delegates. Additionally, I did enjoy working with my assigned committee (Agenda) as we spent several hours working together on our Agenda items. Incidentally, I was elected Chair of the Agenda Committee for the 75th conference. Today I will be covering the Advisory Actions and key reports given at the conference. A full list of the Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations is in the links below. Advisory Actions are the recommendations that came out of a Conference Committee, were then voted on, and passed at the Conference. Whereas, Committee Considerations are suggestions to the Trustees Committees and/or the General Service Board. These items were discussed at the conference, but no vote was taken. They are items that the committee is referring back to the Trustees for additional work, to review, or consider for future action. You can find the full reports of the Conference Advisory Actions and the Conference Committee Considerations in the zip file containing additional materials.

Finance

- Final audit of the 2023 numbers was completed and approved.
- 2023 Results:
 - 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022
 - Gross literature sales for 2023 were \$14.64 Million (92% of budget).

- Cost of goods sold for 2023 was \$7.73 Million, making the Literature Gross Margin \$6.76 Million (85% of budget). This is the primary contributor to the financial loss and the need to dip into the reserve fund.
- The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget with Contributions Revenue of \$10,500,000, Gross Margin on Literature Sales of \$8.49 Million, Operating Expenses of \$19.0 Million, Support for La Viña of \$569,512 and a net income before depreciation of \$617K.

Updates for Q1, 2024

- *Contributions for Q1 were \$3 million vs. a plan of \$2.42 million (25% increase)*
- *Gross literature sales in Q1 of \$3.63 million vs. a plan of \$3.78 million (4% decrease)*
- *Literature profit of \$1.96 million vs. a plan of \$1.91 million (2% increase)*
- *Operating Expense in Q1 of \$3.83 million vs. a plan of \$4.32 million (11% decrease)*
- *Current Prudent Reserve Fund – 6.29 months*

Board Inventory Report

Our Interim General Service Board Chair, Mike L. gave a report on the Inventory the Board took following a 73rd GSC Advisory Action. For a full copy of the General Service Board's Inventory Report can be found in the zip file or emailed to anyone upon request. As a reminder, this action of the board taking their inventory was a result of the communication around and handling of our previous board chair's resignation. I would say that not only did our board show great humility in taking and sharing their inventory, but it was also very reaffirming that our program works. In addition to acknowledging what went wrong, the board has developed a list of actions and follow-ups to improve communication and avoid this situation in the future.

Location Plus Report

Relocation Studies of the General Service Office have been conducted approximately every ten years to determine if it is the most viable venue for its operations and provide recommendations on fact-based relocation analysis, as well as subjective considerations that could impact GSO's ability to effectively render services to the A.A. Fellowship. The final conclusions and recommendation resulting from this most recent Study was:

1. The reduction in recurring costs that might be realized in another location (i.e., Indianapolis) is overshadowed by the substantial one-time costs associated with a move.
2. They looked at 116 other locations, narrowed it down to 11, then 5, and then the final three, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia.
3. The implications of moving GSO to another city, regardless of cost savings, are significant, considering the history of the office in New York. Based on these conclusions (and consistent with all previous studies), the recommendation was for the General Service Office to **remain in its present New York City location**. Based on their in-depth methodology, the consulting team recommended "a stay decision and renegotiation/ renewal of the 475 Riverside Drive lease." Furthermore, the consulting team concluded that "On balance, the business case to move does not appear supportable at this time." The final decision was to **stay at 475 Riverside Drive**, get rid of the 8th floor, renovate the 11th floor to accommodate the employees on the 8th floor. This renovation has been projected at \$1.4M.

A full copy of the Relocation Plus Report is included in the zip file.

Plain Language Big Book – A Tool for Reading the book Alcoholics Anonymous

This item was discussed for well over 6 hours and seems to be of particular interest to our fellowship. In my full report I will detail the process the Conference took to discuss this item. I will simply say that the Literature Committee sent this item to the Conference for approval, and it was indeed approved. I voted Yes, in approval after hearing the discussion and primarily after reading the book myself. Suffice it to say, I believe this translation tool will help people get sober, and I would encourage you to read it as well.

Additional events I attended since our Spring Assembly: May 1 – ECR Virtual Meeting, May 8 – Delegate Chair Virtual Meeting, May 11 – District 62 delegate report at ODAT Workshop in Plano, May 15 – District 12 delegate report in Lake Forest, June 5 – ECR Virtual Meeting, June 6 – District 11 delegate report in Crystal Lake, June 7-9 - East Central Regional Conference / Michigan State Convention, Grand Rapids, MI, June 18 – District 21 delegate report in Palatine

Some upcoming planned events: June 28 District 40 delegate report in Wheaton, July 23 Delegate Chair Orientation, July 28 District 10 delegate report in Grayslake, Aug 23-25 Illinois State Conference, Springfield, IL Sept 20, District 73 delegate report in Dixon. My expenses year-to-date are \$1,641.13, largely related to workshop travel, attendance at the CDPP in Muncie, IN, delegate presentations, and participation at the ECR in Grand Rapids, MI. 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.

The zip file containing the power point presentation was not included due to anonymity protection.

Conference Reports

2023 Big Book Conference - Katie R D61 DCM Seed money was \$8,309. Income was \$8,511. We had 256 registrants. Donation can was \$53.11. Literature \$126. Expenses were expected to be \$4,100, we spent \$2,903.59. So, income less expenses were \$5,607.52 minus the seed money we had a net profit of \$2,905.52.

2024 Spring Conference – Hugo Event Summary: The NIA Spring Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg from March 1, 2024, to March 3, 2024. This year marked a significant milestone as it was the first dual-language conference, successfully bringing together English and Spanish-speaking members in a unified and inclusive environment. **Room Bookings:** A total of 200 rooms were booked, but only 104 were picked up, leading to substantial attrition costs. The attrition fee totaled \$8,048.87. This loss was due to our inability to fill the rooms promised in the contract. A key lesson learned is the need for better room block management. Future planning should focus on maximizing room bookings and ensuring that all chairs qualified for reimbursement of expenses are encouraged to utilize that privilege. This approach will help exercise the privileges given by the members and minimize attrition costs. **Food and Beverage:** The food and beverage arrangements included coffee breaks, banquet costs, and in-room dining, which were managed within the expected budget with minor adjustments. **Creating an Inclusive Space:** This year's conference was groundbreaking in its inclusivity, successfully bridging language barriers and creating a space where everyone could speak the language of the heart. Despite speaking different languages, attendees felt a strong sense of belonging and unity. The outpouring of gratitude from all communities highlighted how everyone felt part of one AA, truly embodying the spirit of inclusivity and fellowship. **Committee Feedback Narrative:** The planning and execution of the 2024 Spring Conference saw diligent efforts from various committee members, each contributing to the event's overall success. The decorations and hospitality team meticulously organized the event's decorations and hospitality. The diverse entertainment choices were a highlight, particularly the addition of the Mexican band, which gave the conference a huge boost and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The hospitality team managed their budget effectively, ensuring smooth operations through continuous engagement and detailed communication with the participating groups. Despite encountering electrical issues with coffee urns, their proactive approach ensured these were resolved promptly, contributing to the event's seamless execution. The bilingual aspect of the conference was a

significant undertaking, with substantial costs incurred to ensure everyone had a rich experience. The added cost of \$3,400 for translation equipment was necessary to make sure everyone could hear and participate fully. These efforts were instrumental in bridging the Hispanic and English-speaking communities, fostering unity, and breaking barriers. Future budgets must include this cost to ensure that all Area 20 members can share in the AA experience. Additionally, there was a highlighted need for a separate room for Alateen and suggestions for making the event more accessible for minors to encourage greater family participation. The greeter team observed that the planning process was too prolonged, which made it difficult to maintain focus. However, they appreciated the diversity and dedication of the committee, recommending a phased planning approach to better manage critical tasks and maintain engagement throughout the planning period. The co-chairs supported various areas, including the website, literature, translation, program, and printing. They emphasized the importance of pushing the conference to Area members to ensure better attendance and room bookings. They also highlighted the need for proper budgeting for unexpected costs, such as website subscriptions and translation services, and stressed the importance of delegation and thorough planning to handle unforeseen challenges. The program team managed the program with their budget effectively. Regular meetings helped plan panels and topics, fostering a sense of community and service. They stressed the importance of having backup plans and promoting the conference widely to ensure a successful event. **Special Highlights: Firsts in Language and Inclusion:** For the first time, English-only speakers had the opportunity to experience live translation of a Spanish language speaker. This blending of cultures provided a unique richness that enhanced the conference experience for all attendees. **Cultural Unity:** The conference facilitated a unique blending of cultures, creating a rich and diverse environment. This cultural exchange fostered a deeper sense of unity and inclusivity, making everyone feel they truly belonged. **Overall Recommendations for Future Planning: Budget for Website Expenses:** Ensure unexpected expenses related to the website are accounted for in future budgets. **Room Block Management:** Focus on maximizing room bookings to avoid high attrition costs and encourage local attendees to stay overnight. **Promotion and Incentives:** Offer incentives for local attendees to book rooms, potentially reducing attrition costs and increasing overall engagement. **Raise Budget for Interpretation Equipment:** Increase the budget to cover the costs of interpretation equipment. This will ensure future committees can continue to provide an inclusive experience for all Area 20 members, demonstrating Area 20's commitment to inclusivity and the valuable resource this equipment brings to the conferences. **Conclusion:** Reflecting on the 2024 Spring Conference, it is evident that while the event was successful, there are areas for improvement. By implementing these recommendations, future conferences can be more cost-effective and better attended, ensuring continued success and growth. The Financial report including attendance will be available soon. We did not reserve all the rooms, so we fell short on that. Per Chris E, the seed money was \$3,000 plus the \$350 left in the account so we lost \$2,650.

2024 Big Book Conference – Janet C for Kim, D70 DCM and Conference Chair Everything is set for the upcoming conference. I am very proud of all the work the committees and sub-committees are putting into making this a very memorable conference. We have secured Eddie D, as our main speaker. We are set up for registration today. If you haven't registered, please see the fine folks at the table. All the districts should have received flyers, but if you have not, we have some available for you today. Please be sure to get the info to your groups. D21, D28, D51 D52 D62 D65 D79 D80 D90 D91, come see me for your packet of flyers. Let's make this the best conference yet.

2025 State Conference – Jeff L & Sandy T Everything is moving along smoothly. We gained a printing chair and lost the PI Chair. The program chair is putting together a good program with good speakers.

Old Business

Election of open positions: Alt. Accessibilities Chair, Alt. Answering Service, Alt. Archives, Alt. CPC, Alt. Literature, Alt. PI, Alt. Corrections, NIA Alternate Secretary remain open. Grapevine Chair: Terry M who was Grapevine Alternate Chair was elected to this position. Karen, D11 was elected as Alternate Grapevine Chair. Laura M was appointed as the Language Translation Coordinator.

New Business

Motion to write a letter to the General Service Board, requesting to amend the Conference Charter to include Founders Literature

Panel 64 Past Delegate moves to request that the Panel 74 NIA Delegate forward a letter to the General Service Board, prior to the 2024 deadline, with a request to amend the Current Conference Charter, Section 3, paragraph 2, to include the English versions of “Founders Literature” specifically *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. That the first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is, with no further changes in text other than updating footnotes.

That in addition to this amendment, the Conference consider any changes to the book the Twelves Steps and Twelve Traditions be returned to its written wording as updated with the new Forward based on the Conference Advisory Action of 2005.

The author accepted a friendly amendment to remove the last paragraph from the motion. The motion did not pass, 28-50. Minority opinion was heard.

Motion to amend Corrections Workbook M-45

Panel 74 Northern Illinois Area 20 Corrections Chair moves that we amend the “Corrections Workbook” to read “The only purpose of the pink can is to provide G.S.O. Conference-approve *or Grapevine published* literature.” This policy comes from page 18 of the “Corrections Workbook” (M-45), section titled “Area 10 (Colorado) Seventh Tradition Support”, second paragraph, third sentence.

After questions and discussion, this motion was withdrawn by the author.

Bids for 2025 Big Book Conference – No bids were presented.

Bids for 2026 Spring Conference – No bids were presented. We are running out of time to accept bids for this event.

Reminder - Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large Elections this fall.

Service Committee Reports

Accessibilities – Chris E. In the breakout today there are a couple projects districts are working on. We have started meetings in residential and retirement homes in a couple districts. The way they got in which is important, was that they knew someone there. Find the alcoholic first. Also, it is difficult to get people signed up. They only need to commit to showing up once a month. In general, that’s how you get people to do accessibilities work. If someone is available to drive someone to a meeting. There on the committee! When you ask for volunteers, they rarely raise their hand. Send a sign-up sheet around instead. In D40, they work with people in the military. They have shared pamphlets with the VFW and Legion halls in their district. A meeting resulted out of this. Also, we are working on child friendly meetings. I attended the Spring Conference and moderated a panel on accessibilities, co-hosted the Pre-GSC Workshop zoom meeting for Treatment, Accessibilities and Bridging the Gap, attended the District 40 meeting in March, was a presenter on an accessibility panel in District 70 in April, attended the East Central Regional Conference in June. I will be attending the IL State Conference in August. I have started a monthly zoom meeting for the NIA Accessibilities Committee on the first Tuesday of every month; our first meeting is July 2 at 7pm. Flyers are on the table at the Assembly. Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 834 1687 9125 Passcode: access

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83416879125?pwd=gnzek2rAjQZnUhZaUhlvVvyYdH3O3Q.1>

I would love to run a workshop in your district, or even just come to your district meeting - just let me know! There are a lot of topics under the accessibilities umbrella, so I can present on specific topics or give a broad overview. I have reached out to a few other area committee chairs to see if we can plan a multi-committee workshop – an even greater

opportunity for your district to learn about several topics at the same time! I will share some information about mini-projects that can be done to make our program more accessible in my reports. There are two projects I want to recommend to all the districts in this report to cover the first and second quarter of the year:

Updating your websites to keep them current. The same applies to our Northern IL Area website, too. For example, if you have your district meeting minutes on your website or event flyers, *and they are out of date*, it can lead people to think that all the information is out of date and not reliable. It is worth considering if your website has too much information that it can't be kept current. We want to be sure that people looking for meetings can trust the source of the information. **If you are one of the five districts that does not have a website, and would like help to create a simple website, please let me know – I have reached out to the Technology Committee to find a way to help.** Regarding meetings, does your district include on your website if the meetings are wheelchair accessible or have wheelchair accessible bathrooms? You should list both! People using the meeting guide app can sort with filters to find meetings that fit their needs, but only if your district website includes those filters. Every district utilizes some filters, but only 12 of the 21 sites list wheelchair accessible meetings! What makes a meeting wheelchair accessible? It can be thought of as three main components: There is clearly marked handicap parking in the parking lot with an adequate access aisle. A person in a wheelchair can get into the building and into the meeting room by them self.

a. No steps or thresholds that restrict a person in a wheelchair

b. Or has a ramp/elevator over any of these barriers

There is a wheelchair accessible bathroom that a person in a wheelchair can get to by them self with 60" wide room or stall, with horizontal grab bars, toilet with adequate clearance to maneuver around, and adequate clearance to use the sink while seated.

A meeting place can be **wheelchair accessible** (points 1 and 2) but not have a **wheelchair accessible bathroom** (point 3). It is important to distinguish both criteria in your meeting lists on your websites.

For the full Accessibilities Checklist for Meetings and Groups, click [here](#) to download from aa.org

Archives – Carol Three different districts were present today. We have 10 archivists in the Area. I encourage your districts to look at that. An email will be sent to start a monthly zoom meeting in August and a workshop possibly in January.

Bridging the Gap – Jim T - I attended a Workshop Saturday 6/15/24 sponsored by Districts 10, 11, and 12 in Lake Forest IL. I presented the history of the "old temporary contact program" from GSO back in 1988, up to the way the BTG program of today is practiced here in the NIA since March 2023 when BTG 2.0 began. BTG 2.0 continues to promote the usage of the **QR Code** that leads to all our District Answering Services as the source for connecting newcomers coming out of a facility to AA on the outside. The "old" BTG system created a duplicate set of AA volunteers listed on a separate database that was not maintained over the years and ended up broken and un-fixable so it was closed down in August 2023. After the pandemic various facilities have cut back on the number of volunteers they allow into these places so we are shifting gears again and asking the existing Treatment and Corrections volunteers that are already sitting in those facilities to share the BTG message about "**what AA is, and what AA is not,**" within those facilities. Work smarter, not harder. No needless duplication of efforts. We are now practicing the spiritual principle of cooperation between our Service committees. Special thanks to Joey B. Alt BTG Chair; Kevin A. Treatment Chair; George P. Corrections Chair; Bryan D. Tech Chair; Dave T-A. Answering Service Chair.

Joe B - Since our last Committee meeting, I've had the opportunity to visit District 23 to give a short presentation on BTG. I've worked with and supported the District 22 BTG chair by providing BTG resources and contact information. I plan on visiting more Districts in the near future. If interested please feel free to contact me. Also, I will be attending the BTG weekend workshop in Missoula, MT September 6th through the 8th. I have registered for the event, booked my hotel as well as my flight.

CPC – Lisa G It has been a fabulous experience these past two months visiting with AA members all around northern Illinois. Since the beginning of March, I have visited Districts 10, 11, 12, 22, 28, 61, 64, 70, 71, 72, 80, and 91. In speaking with DCM's, committee members, and other trusted servants who are volunteering their time and talents to reach the still suffering alcoholics in our communities I have found examples of great Cooperation at work. In DeKalb, AA's are working on getting meetings on the NIU campus; in Rockford, AA's are speaking to Fire & Rescue teams; in Barrington, AA's are starting communication with the Lake Zurich and Barrington school districts; in Galesburg AA's are gathering support & distributing AA info cards; in Harvard, AA's are interested in meeting with representatives from local and county government agencies; and, in Huntley AA's are doing the research compiling contact lists for the next volunteer ready to extend a hand. In addition to in person visits, as CPC chair I have purchased business cards, AA info cards, supplies needed to create display boards, a large variety of pamphlets, and stickers. It is the intention of the Committee to furnish each district in our Area with informational business cards to be distributed locally. Each card will have accurate and up-to-date contact information specific to that District. Going forward priority one will continue to be to fill vacant CPC chair positions in a few districts. We welcome Natalie to D28 as the new CPC/PI chair. Additionally, two gentlemen-Eric S. and Roger H.-have assumed the roles of CPC chair and Alt Chair for District 12! We also have members considering a commitment to fill the CPC role in D11 and D22. Fingers crossed! Finally, NIA 20 CPC took the initiative and launched "WE CPC"-an outreach program designed to greatly increase our presence in the community by distributing AA business cards each and every day as AA's go about their daily lives. The cards are bundled and ready for distribution here today for all who want to join our grass-roots WE CPC movement. It has been a fabulous experience the last 3 months. Since March, I have visited D10, D11, D22, D28, D61, D64, D70, D71, D72, D80 and D91. In speaking with DCM's, committee members and other trusted servants volunteering their time and talents to reach the still suffering alcoholics in our communities, I have found great examples at work. In DeKalb, AA is working on getting meetings at the NIU campus. In Rockford, they are speaking to fire and rescue teams. In Barrington AA'ers are starting communications with Lake Zurich and Barrington school districts. In Galesburg they are gathering support and distributing AA info cards. In Harvard, they are interested in meeting with representatives from local and county government agencies. In Huntley, they are doing the research to compile contact lists for the next volunteers ready to extend the hand. In addition to in-person visits I have purchased business cards, info cards and supplies needed to create display boards, a large variety of pamphlets and stickers. It is the intention of the committee to furnish each district (hopefully at their own expense) with informational business cards to be distributed locally. Then, each card will have accurate and up to date contact information specific to your district.

Corrections – George P We continue to try and penetrate various prisons and chairs in Northern Illinois with some success and some rebukes. There are many facilities that we no longer have access since Covid. So, we have to go to facilities where we do have a more receptive audience. There are a lot less meeting now than before Covid. As far as my display, I do not have one yet. Workshops: the last stand alone at the Area was with Sheriff Mendrick. It has been a while since we have had an Area wide workshop. I have been traveling to various districts. I was just in D91 where I had a chance to speak. We did a panel at the spring conference. I just received a request for another conference workshop. Pink Cans are part of my job. Inside the can is a ledger with the how the money is spent and where Big Books are being sent.

Grapevine – Terry A display board has been donated so now my efforts will be to work with Karen and produce a professional display board for the district meetings in the Area. We can come to anywhere we are needed to carry the message. From our breakout today we had D20, D22, D11, D61 in attendance. They are busy doing raffles and adding to the budget for Grapevine subscriptions and cart sales and displays. Overall discussion was about a Grapevine Newsletter on the NIA website, and a workshop.

Literature – Jan S March was busy. I hosted the pre-con for the literature committee, which had seven items to review, and I received good feedback. I also attended the additional pre-con's for Trustees, Corrections, CPC/PI, Corrections, and Treatment Facilities. I also attended the Spring Assembly in March. Our committee had the privilege of collaborating with AA members and groups, responding to the email sent in November on the topic of Sharing the Founders. We

acknowledged the mistake and sought clarity in our response, demonstrating our commitment to transparency and accountability. Charles, from District 43, prepared a literature display to offer groups a variety of resources at a reasonable cost. The response was positive. He has also taken on the important task of managing the Literature Room at the 2025 State Conference, showing his dedication and our collective commitment to future events. All Chairs have been asked to review the literature matrix and determine which pamphlets should be updated or retired. This is an ongoing process. We will also review this document as a group and change the format to decide which items we need and don't need.

Treatment – Kevin A I went to The NIEPAA convention after being invited by Lisa, our CPC chair. We met a lot of treatment center people and collected cards and information. Most of those sites have AA groups already bringing meetings into those facilities. My hope is to put that information into a list of treatment facilities in our Area. There is a need for Spanish speaking participation at one facility. Please see me for contact info. We held our first zoom treatment this past Thursday. We will continue to meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. Please stop by. Zoom #s 994 296 7947 passcode redbook. Also, we attended the D12 BTG, Treatment, and Corrections workshop on June 15th . Please note the treatment display. With info and pamphlets take what you need. I am seeking the sum of \$61.94 for reimbursement for pamphlets for the treatment display. The tri-fold was donated by Cheryl V.

Administrative Reports

AD Hoc Inventory Committee Report – Lorrie F Fellowship Survey for Trusted Servants. Participants: Chair: Lorrie F-District 10 DCM, Secretary: Christ E-Accessibilities Chair, Larry S-Past Delegate, Jim T-BTG Chair, Allen J-Area 20 Past Treasurer. The committee met monthly via Zoom since February. Through many discussions, edits and reedits, the surveys are now available. There are hard copies for DCMs, GSRs and Committee Chairs available, in English and Spanish. The survey is available online and is the preferred method of completion as all results will be collated and compiled via electronic method, therefore, any hard copies will need to be input into the computer before final tallies are made. These need to be completed and returned by the September 2024 Assembly for results reported at the December 2024 Assembly. Any motions, actions or procedural changes will begin to be stated by the January 2025 Meeting. The reason for the survey is so that the Area Committee can evaluate how to assist any trusted servants in their chosen positions. This ranges from the new GSR to the seasoned service Committee Chair. The surveys are anonymous, so please be honest. We can't fix what is broken if we don't know what it is. Also, if it isn't broken, we don't need to fix it. Group conscious at its best. This is communication, pure and simple. Please encourage your fellow servants to complete this survey. We welcome the feedback. This is geared towards the GSRs, DCMs, and Committee chairs and district officers and all their alternates. This survey is not intended for the Area servants or general groups members.

Archivist – Cheryl V. I have been busy since our last Assembly. With the help of the Technology Committee, we have started OneDrive storage for our digital archives. We have defined a standard naming convention for files that includes the date of the event, what event it distributed at, and what type of document it is. As an example, the agenda for today will be named 20240622_Agenda_Spr_Assem in digital archives. To date I have renamed and stored 69% of our Concepts and 78% of our Committee Meeting and Assembly Minutes. To be able to find the various files, I have created what amounts to a duplication system. First, folders are being created for specific files. Concepts, Minutes, Agendas, etc. will be stored completely in these folders. In addition, folders will be created for our events. As an example, there will be a folder created for today's meeting and all documents will be stored in it. This includes the Agenda, Minutes, and any reports that are posted on the web or e-mailed out. This will allow the archivist to find files in two places based on what is being looked for. I understand that I will be able to share specific folders with people in the future. As soon as I learn how. In starting this process, I began pulling files from our web site for storage. The Committee will be working through files to reduce the number of files on our website and, long term, organizing the site. In pulling files, I found that we have multiple documents that not only go against Tradition 11, but also against our Website Policy and Guidelines. We have files on our website that have full names and even full-face pictures. The Technology Committee, who has oversight of the NIA website, has been made aware of this. They will be working to address these files. To do this, I will be subscribing to Adobe Professional to aid in the redaction of last names in files. Long term, I will also use this product

to make older Minutes/Reports available. Because minutes were printed in the past, they not only have full names, but also have addresses. In their present state, these cannot be made available to the general assembly digitally. The Technology Committee maintains a rotating agenda, and where we might make anonymity protected archives available to more of our fellowship.

Conference Advisory Committee - Aaron We are currently looking for a chair. Conferences are being planned. Things are going well. We still need a bid for the 2026 Spring Conference.

Electronic Equipment – Rick We bought a new laptop, microphones, camera and mixing board.

Finance Committee – Bonnie P The Area Finance Committee has met twice since the Spring Assembly Meeting and discussed the PPB and PPR. We also discussed motions from the Corrections Chair, PayPal, Zelle, and QR codes for contributions. We also had much discussion about the Spring Conference and the finances that came about from that event. **In the spirit of Tradition 7, “...we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose.” the Area 20 Finance Committee did not recommend to send money to the General Service Board at this time as we have already sent money after the last assembly.**

Figures as of 6/20/2024 \$30,213.39 Checking, \$23,402.42 Prudent Reserve (30% Proposed PPR), **\$53,616.81 Current Funds Remaining.** We are fortunate in Area 20 to have groups that contribute generously. **DCMs, please ask the area to put on some service workshops and request area officers/committee members to visit your districts. Area officers and committee chairs let’s provide the services and collect the reimbursements that the assembly has requested and agreed to support.**

GSRs, if there are any services you would like to see the area do, please let your DCM and the Assembly know. GENTLE REMINDER, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RECEIPTS IN A TIMELY FASHION!

Service Manual Custodian - Cheryl V. The changes approved at the Spring Assembly have been added to the Service Manual at this time. Both the English and Spanish versions have been updated on the web. In addition, the Assembly Actions have, as of today, been updated to the web. Currently the manual is maintained in 4 versions, two English and two Spanish. One of each is sized for printing, the other is sized for the web. Not only does this require more effort to maintain, but it also leaves more opportunity to make errors. In the most recent printing, the Spanish print version almost had the English Third Legacy diagram. I am grateful that our printing company caught that for us. The Web Administrator has put a version on the web that mirrors the printed version. When printed, it will be two pages per page, and look basically the same as the book. This is in place of the version that prints one page per sheet of paper. If we were to move to utilizing the same version on the web as is printed, it would be easier in two ways. One, easier for whoever is the Service Manual Custodian. Perhaps more important, when referencing pages in the Manual for motions, they pagination on the web and printing would be the same.

Technology Committee – Rick In addition to the improvements, we have combined the tech, equipment, and webmaster all into one committee. We are working on a motion for this change so it is official and update the guidelines. We want to hear from districts, DCM’s. We have had requests for help with website and hybrid meetings. We meet the second Thursday’s at 7:30.

Officer Reports can be found on the Area website, aa-nia.org. Motion to adjourn at 3:15pm. After open mic, the Meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA Secretary

Next meeting is August 3, 2024 at Lord of Life Church, Elburn.