

## Northern Illinois Area 20 Summer Committee Minutes August 03, 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 and the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees and made the meeting announcements. 12 Concepts for World Service short form were read. First time attendees and anniversaries since Summer Assembly were recognized.

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

**Delegates Report - Erik L.**

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Summer-Comm-Mtg-Delegate-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Summer-Comm-Mtg-Delegate-Report-ES.pdf>

**Treasurer's Report – Dave F**

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Report\\_Summer-Comm\\_Treasurer-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Report_Summer-Comm_Treasurer-EN.pdf)

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Report\\_Summer-Comm\\_Treasurer-ES.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Report_Summer-Comm_Treasurer-ES.pdf)

**Alt Treasurer – Mike H** - The full report will be on the website including a summary of the group contributions by District for the year to date. Total contributions are \$38,380.57. We received contributions from ICYPAA and Alanon conference. Group numbers are on the report along with contributions through this year.

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### Officer Reports

Officer reports were not given. Submitted Reports can be found on our website.

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### Conference Reports

**2024 Big Book Conference – George M, Alt. DCM D70** We have a few openings for greeters. Those volunteers may not even be sober yet! I do not know what the registration count is. Flyers are on the table.

**2025 State Conference – Sandy Co-Chair** Our next meeting is in September. Many of us are going to this year's State Conference to see how it is done and get ideas. If you are interested in helping us let us know.

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### Motions

#### ***Motion to Amend the Archives Chairperson Responsibilities in the Service Manual***

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Motion\\_Amend-Archives-Chair-Resp-Service-Manual-2.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Motion_Amend-Archives-Chair-Resp-Service-Manual-2.pdf)

The Area 20 Archives Chairperson moves to amend the Responsibilities for the Archives Chairperson in the NIA Service Guidelines (Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Manual, version 3/2024 Page 59 of 76) with the following:

**REMOVE:** It is recommended that either the Archivist or the Archives Chairperson attend the annual National AA Archives Workshop on a yearly basis.

**REPLACE:** It is recommended that the Archivist as well as the Archives Chairperson or the Alternate Archives Chairperson attend the annual National AA Archives Workshop on a yearly basis. The full motion can be found in the above link.

**Motion to request that literature be produced in an accessible format**

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Packet\\_Full\\_NIA-Sum-Comm-EN-1.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Packet_Full_NIA-Sum-Comm-EN-1.pdf)

The NIA20 Accessibilities Committee moves to request that all new or revised documents, publications, and literature from AAWS be produced and/or published in an accessible format. We ask that the Area Delegate forward this request on behalf of Northern IL Area 20 to the General Service Board Trustees Literature Committee and AAWS Publishing Department. The full motion can be found in the above link.

**Motion to Send Letter to Protect Founders Writings**

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Motion\\_Proposed-Agenda-Item-for-submission-to-Area-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Motion_Proposed-Agenda-Item-for-submission-to-Area-EN.pdf)

In summary, our Proposed Agenda Item is an effort to put in place a mechanism that will allow changes to the English version of the Founders Literature (detailed below) but only after obtaining appropriate approval levels from the AA Groups of the US and Canada. The Motion for the Area agenda would be a vote on whether the Area should submit the below Proposed Agenda Item to the GSC Coordinator. The GSC Proposed Agenda Item is as follows:

We propose that the 2025 General Service Conference issue an Advisory Action with words to the effect that:

The 1995 Advisory Action of the GSC Literature Committee says: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is." And the 2002 Advisory Action of the same Literature Committee says: "The text in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published." In consideration of the intent of the past two referenced Advisory Actions to protect from change the literature listed in the two Advisory Actions (herein after called the Founders Literature), and much of the Fellowship's feelings that Founders Literature be retained as originally published, it is resolved that in the future, the English versions of the Founders Literature shall never be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the known AA groups of the US and Canada. These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any Conference action be taken to change or amend the English versions of the Founders Literature, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted, the consent of at least three-quarters of those known groups in the US and Canada who respond to such proposal.

The full motion can be found on the above link.

**Motion to the General Service Board Regarding Founders Literature**

**General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form**

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Packet\\_Full\\_NIA-Sum-Comm-EN-1.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20240803-Packet_Full_NIA-Sum-Comm-EN-1.pdf)

Move to create a policy where the worldwide membership of Alcoholics Anonymous reaches substantial unanimity on any changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and portions of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous including, but not limited to: the first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forwards, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendix "Spiritual Experience." Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) should have a policy protecting the original writings by the founders of AA.

The full motion can be found in the above link.

## Old Business

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**Open elected positions review:** Answering Service – Alternate; Archives – Alternate; CPC – Alternate; Literature – Alternate; PI – Alternate; Accessibilities – Alternate; Area Secretary – Alternate. Elections held at the Fall Assembly.

## Service Committee Reports

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**Accessibilities – Chris E** - In my report emailed after the summer assembly I shared information about many projects that can be done to make our program more accessible. I recommended that districts check if the meetings on their websites list being wheelchair accessible and have wheelchair accessible bathrooms. I am pleased to report that some districts have done this. I encourage everyone here to check their websites, not just DCM's and webmasters, even as a GSR you can check your website meeting listings and ask your DCM's and webmasters to work on this project. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the NIA Accessibilities committee met on zoom for the first time outside of the assemblies. Our next monthly committee meeting is next Tuesday, August 6 at 7pm. Flyers are on my display board with QR codes and the zoom information If you want to join us. I have my display board here today along with Pamphlets and flyers in English and Spanish. While on the topic of display boards, I would like to encourage all committee chairs to make their boards bi-lingual. Remember, we passed a motion in December 2023 to make all presentations, reports and documents at the Area level translated in other languages. The display boards can be considered reports or other documents, whichever you choose. Consider, we cannot invite Spanish speaking and others into service if they cannot read the material that is inviting them. Similarly, Area trusted servants, remember, we are strongly encouraged to translate our reports and email communications into other languages. This should include your email subject and file names. Not just the body of your emails and the content of your reports. Accessibilities is about removing barriers and for a non-English speaking member, not translating the subject of your email and the file name adds another hurdle for the recipient. As an English speaker, I always manage to click on the Spanish document first because the full title is not shown. If the title was in Spanish, it would be very easy for everyone to access the right document the first time.

**Answering Service – Dave T** - I have made an informational....answering service (audio was bad here). I'm working on making one in Spanish for their districts. I visited D23 (audio problem again)... D10, D20 most recently. I am trying to contact other districts. I will be happy to come and visit your district. D23 is using Google Voice with around 10 calls a month. D11 receives an average of 12 calls a month but there was a big concern ( audio issues again)...they wanted to know more about Google Voice. I have answered questions and asked D10 Answering Service Chair to attend the next committee and Assembly meeting to help come up with a better procedure for that district. D22 gets 10-15 calls a month. They switched to SAS and have changed their phone number. The cost is \$34 a month, \$1.29 a minute. They are happy with the service. There was a question about requirements for volunteering for the answering service. My answer to them was that each district is autonomous. Perhaps there could be some suggested guidelines added. I plan to work on that in the future. D43 has a new answering service, SAS. They use a script and Dan contacts the volunteers. They receive an average of 20-25 calls a month. They are very happy with the service. During my visit with D20, I discovered their phone number was not listed on our website. I was able to get the number added to our website. They are currently using one cell phone that is being passed around every two weeks. They do not get many calls. The cost is \$35 a month. I explained what Answering Service does in the Area and shared information regarding Google Voice service. I have also emailed the DCM the pdf and QR Code in Spanish and English, and ordered stickers. I was provided a list with phone numbers of Spanish speaking alcoholics holding meetings. I am planning to speak with the Tech Committee to implement those numbers on the website. I want to encourage other committee chairs to visit D20. They are struggling to understand how the structure works and what we do. They do have the Spanish service manual but have many questions.

**Archives – Carol H** - Since the summer assembly I have had limited time for direct contact with the district archive chairs. I am in the process of setting up communication and a survey for the district archive chairs and to communicate

with the DCMs about active participation at the National Archives Workshop. I have resigned as the D11 web administrator. My full attention is now on Archives.

**Bridging the Gap - Jim T** - BTG is continuing to hope that our fellow service committee members in the Treatment & Corrections world are having success in handing out the QR code business cards & book labels at all the in-facility meetings they attend. The QR code is the key to helping newcomers find their way into AA, it leads to all the AA answering services and their fine volunteers anywhere in the NIA. The AA answering service has had a very long tradition of being the "**hand of AA**" that we always want to be there when someone needs or wants us. Perhaps we could all start asking newcomers how they found us. It would be nice to find out how effective the QR code has been in helping them find a new life here in AA. If possible, getting input from all the District Answering Services as to how many calls they get as the result of the QR code would also be helpful.

**Grapevine – Terry M** - We are working on our display board. We are represented on the 2025 Illinois State Conference committee. My goals are to create my board and reach each district to let them know of the Grapevine services.

**Literature – Jan S** - We now have very concrete information on the Plain and Simple, so we share that information with the groups. We have a cost, estimated print date, and name: "A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous." The previous information from the NY Literature Committee regarding the Founders Writings, many Districts have been actively "getting a feel" for whether we approve of changes. Some groups are more engaged than others. We are still reviewing the Literature Matrix. We are looking for possible revision or retire opportunities to submit a PAI by the September deadline. September is Recovery Month so all are encouraged to contact their local libraries for opportunities to display Information. One of our committee members is going to meet with the ISC in Springfield to help prepare for next year.

**Public Information – Tina R** - I have been in contact with U46 to speak in their Elgin School health classes. I am trying to get into the nursing school at ECC college. I have been talking with the GSO PI desk for more ideas. I will be doing a workshop in September with CPC in Huntley.

**Treatment – Kevin** - Our monthly zoom treatment meeting continues the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm. D11 has initiated a sign-up system through their website. They have flyers with the QR Code to facilitate that effort. We have \$1,800 in the Green Can fund. If your district or groups needs literature for treatment going into facilities, let's spend the money! Lisa G has written a letter to help with the process of getting into Behavioral Health in Waukegan. I will be getting in touch with D71 to see if they need any help. I also need to learn how to translate into Spanish for my display board and my reports.

**Alt. Web Administrator – Scott T** - There has been much learning taking place, mainly on the maintenance of our existing website. I will be posting current NIA events as well as posting of reports and other materials related to our Assemblies and Committee Meetings. Also, in coordination with our Archivist, there has been a clean-up of old and dated files, after having recently transferred them to our cloud storage. There have been miscellaneous corrections made and a few adds to the calendar as well as support of our Answering Service. PLEASE: Any reports or documents needed to be added to the website, please be sure to include my personal email address until further notice; tripp1083@gmail.com. If possible, send all documents by PDF as we typically prefer files to be un-editable. All documents must be anonymity protected with no last names or pictures. Additionally, any Area related flyers cannot reference gambling in any form.

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### Administrative Committee Reports

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**Archivist – Cheryl V** - The Assembly Actions file has been updated with the business from the Summer Assembly. That file has been placed on the NIA website. The link says Spring of 2024, but it's the summer version when you open it. The effort of OneDrive storage for digital archives has progressed. Regarding Concepts, 100% of the copies we have in archives have been scanned. 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. Also, I have been supporting our Alternate Web Administrator by pulling copies of older files off the website and placing them in digital storage. This will, hopefully, ensure that no files are lost as the Technology Committee works to enhance the website. The current efforts including pulling all files prior to 2020, including Minutes, Agendas, and Reports. These will then be removed from the website. I understand that I will be able to share specific folders with people in the future. I have tested this and found I can give access; however, I still haven't learned how to remove access. We cannot make open access to our digital archives since most of them are not anonymity protected. Not only did we use full names in the printed documents, but we put addresses and phone numbers in them. I am hoping that perhaps people who have Adobe Professional will volunteer to work on creating anonymous versions of digital files by redacting last names, addresses, and phone numbers. Regarding the Illinois State Conference, I was not requested to bring archives to the event. I was asked about my attendance at the Archives Conference in September. I will be unable to attend as I have other commitments on that weekend.

**Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V** - Thank you, Chris E, for your motion regarding accessibilities and the printed material. I will review our NIA Service Manual and report at the Fall Assembly on how following these guidelines might impact us here in NIA.

**Conference Advisory Committee – Aaron** - We are in the process of planning the 2024 BBC and the ISC for 2025. District 21 has asked me to share with them on preparing a bid and hosting a conference. I think we have a bid in the works.

**Electronic Equipment – Rick** - We discussed purchasing new tackle boxes and lockable storage devices for the laptops.

**Report and Charter – Chris E** - The Archivist has asked us to consider needed changes to the Service Manual based on her review of past meeting minutes. We will meet and make any necessary recommendations.

**Technology Committee – Rick N** - We are discussing a workshop for Districts that need help with Zoom, Hybrid or website help and any other technology items.

**Inventory Committee – Lorrie F and Chris E** – Surveys are in the packets for District service members and GSRs. We prefer the QR Code to complete the survey on line. It can also be found on the Area Website. Please complete the survey before the Fall Assembly. We have received 59 surveys. We are half way to what the last survey in 2011 had. 14 of 26 Districts have responded. No Spanish Districts have replied. D61 provided 14 surveys. D10 has 10, D11 and D73 has 6. There have been one, two or three each from the other districts. We have had 7 DCMs, 4 Alt DCMs, 12 Service Committee Chairs, 28 GSRs and 7 Alt GSRs. We recommend taking 10 minutes at your District meeting to scan the QR Code from the paper survey.

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### DCM Reports

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**D10 Lorrie F** - We have a picnic August 17<sup>th</sup>. Karen F will be our speaker. We are attending the Illinois State Conference.

**D11 Dan P** – Keith B and Kevin K, who were both members of our service committees for a long time have passed away within the last couple months. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**D21 - Debbie** – The District partnered with one of our groups to host a picnic last Saturday. Aaron will be talking about hosting an Area event on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**D22 – Chris M** – Our DCM could not be here today. She is attending a funeral for a member. This last month has been difficult for us, we have lost 6 members. We picked newcomer meetings at the treatment facility in Elgin and at LSSI. We are looking for support at these new meetings. There are GSR positions open as well as committee chairs. Our picnic is three weeks from today. We have begun planning for the Area committee meeting we are hosting.

**D28 – Tracy D** – We are having a speaker meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3:30 with light refreshments.

**D40 – Sandy C**– We are getting closer to filling all our positions. We now have an Archivist and Corrections chair. Our picnic was last weekend. A service workshop is on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have flyers at the Fall Assembly.

**D41 – Lael L** – We are updating and fixing the glitches in our website. We have had many meetings re-locate so check the meeting guide app for the updated information. We have several openings for GSRs and committee chairs and alternates. Our picnic is on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 11-3 in Oak Brook at York Woods.

**D43 – Laura B** – We are getting our positions filled. We had a district wide effort called, Bring Your Sponsee to District Day. We had GSRs and committee chairs handing out flyers that created a competition of who could bring the most sponsees to the meeting. As a result, we had about 20 additional members in attendance. This led to some of the positions being filled. We also did a spotlight on an unfilled position, CPC, instead of trying to fill all of them at once. We had the GSRs talk about that position with their groups. This led to filling the CPC position.

**D61 – Katie R** - Our district has been engaged since our service orientation in May. That's represented first by the vote count of 14 for the Area Survey. Lisa and I have visited 33 of 72 groups in our district. We feel zoom and in person are well represented and robust. Our picnic is today in Elburn until 4pm. Also, we have been asked to host the 2026 Area Spring Conference and Assembly. I will be emailing the district for feedback and will get an answer to Dawn. The answering service is a trouble spot for us. We may need to elect someone new. The alternate is considering the position.

**D70 – George Alt. Chair**- I was elected the day before yesterday. Our district is doing well. All committees are enthusiastic and active. We have lost a few people to illness so they had to resign. We did a shuffle and now have a few people in positions without the benefit of experience. There is a lot of enthusiasm around that too. Things are going well. Flyers are on the table for a workshop coming up as well as for the BBC.

**D71 – David K** – We consistently have 10 GSRs at our meetings. We are re-establishing meetings at the County Jail for women and a new meeting Tuesday's at 6pm at the homeless shelter. Our first picnic in years is at the Sycamore Park, 12-4 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Our is Jim W, from D43.

**D73 -Karen D, DCM – read by Sue M** – Our meeting is the 3rd Friday night each month, 7pm at the Dixon Church of the Brethren. We average 20 members in person and 3 to 4 on zoom. We made 2 Book orders this year from GSO combining for our groups in District 73. This saved shipping and handling and we had quantity discounts. We received 10% discount off on all various Big Books from 85th Anniversary Special thru July 31. Erik L will be sharing his Delegate report at our September 20th meeting. Meetings have resumed at Dixon Correctional Facility and Thompson Federal Prison. Meetings are still on at Carroll County Jail and men & women meetings in Whiteside County Jail. Our CPC/PI Committee is active in contacting public libraries and school libraries to verify if they still have Big Books and 12 & 12 Books.

After open mic there was a motion to adjourn by Chris E and was seconded. The Meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA Secretary

**Next meeting is on September 07<sup>th</sup> in Downers Grove at St Andrews Church, 1125 Franklin Av., hosted by D42.**