

## Northern Illinois Area 20 Winter Assembly Minutes December 14, 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 quiet time and the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees. Meeting announcements were given.

**Approval of 2024 Spring Assembly Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Kevin A, seconded by Robert S. Approved unanimously.

**Assembly Attendance:** 25 GSRs, 18 DCM's, 8 Officers, 10 Committee Chairs, 3 Past Delegates, 2 District Correction Chairs and 1 District Treasurer.

### Delegates Report - Erik L

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Since our Fall Assembly, I've attended and participated in the 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, Nov. 6, ECR Monthly Meeting, Nov. 22, General Service Conference Sharing Session, Dec. 4, ECR Monthly Meeting

**74<sup>th</sup> GSC Final Report** The final report for the 74<sup>th</sup> GSC is available at aa.org. Printed reports in both English & Spanish are readily available. I still have some left!

**75<sup>th</sup> GSC Preliminary Agenda** The preliminary agenda is available (I sent it out a couple weeks ago). There are 84 total agenda items, 9 of which are essentially new items. The background material, final agenda, and list of items submitted that didn't make the agenda, will be available in February, shortly after the January Board meeting.

**International Convention July 3-5, 2025 Vancouver** There is additional housing available at the University of British Columbia. Single, and 2- and 4-bedroom units with shared bathrooms.

**Literature** The first printing (70,000) of the *Plain Language Big Book: Guide to Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* sold out quick. Unfortunately, some of the conference committee directed edits which were to be incorporated did not get included in this initial print run. That has been corrected for the 2nd printing (100,000 est.) which should be available by the end of the year. The 2024-2026 edition of the AA Service Manual is now available to order in print. Copies are \$4 each. It is also available online.

**Trustee Candidates** As you will recall, there will be an election for the East Central Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large- US at the next General Service Conference. We have 2 respective candidates, Rich H, and Robert S. For the East Central Regional Trustee position, there are 8 total candidates. Note that Michigan combines their 3 areas into one candidate. For Trustee at Large, our Region will be submitting 5 candidates. I'm unclear as to how many were submitted from the other Regions.

### **Finance Updates for Q3, 2024 –**

- *Contributions through Q3 (September 30 YTD) were \$8.1 million vs. a plan of \$7.6 million (7% increase to plan, 11% greater than YTD 2023)*
- *Gross literature sales through Q3 of \$10.8 million vs. a plan of \$12.1 million (10% decrease to plan, 3% decrease to YTD 2023)*
- *Literature profit of \$5.9 million vs. a plan of \$6.1 million (4% decrease to budget)*
- *Operating Expense through Q3 of \$13.4 million vs. a plan of \$13.8 million (3% decrease)*
- *Current Prudent Reserve Fund – 6.41 months (up from 6.33 after Q2)*

**Some upcoming planned events:** Dec 15, ISC Planning Committee, Dec. 18, Delegate Chair Orientation – Virtual Jan. 24-26, General Service Board Meeting – New York, Feb. 7-9, Conference Delegates Past & Present – Champaign 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**

Account			2024 Amount	2024 Amount
Checking				\$ 29,098.59
Green Can (restricted)			\$ 2267.13	
Pink Can (restricted)			\$ 3573.15	
Total restricted				\$ 5840.28
Net Checking				\$ 34,938.87
Prudent Reserve			(0.3 X \$78,003.00) + interest	\$ 23,404.74
Total				\$ 58,343.61
			Sum Contribution	\$ 55,213.02
Interest				4.64
Net Income (YTD)			Sum Income	\$ 55,217.66
Net Expenses (YTD)			Sum Expenses (per PPR)	\$ -88,235.31
Revenue (YTD)				\$ -33,017.65

**Alternate Treasurer – Mike H** – Nothing to report at the microphone. No written report submitted.

**Old Business**

**Election of open positions:** Joey B was elected unanimously to Bridging the Gap Chair. Bridging the Gap Alternate Chair is now open. Lorrie F was elected Northern Illinois Area Alternate Secretary. Answering Service Alternate Chair, Cooperating with the Professional Community Alternate Chair, Literature Alternate Chair, Public Information Alternate Chair and Corrections Alternate Chair remain open.

**New Business**

**Motion**

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

Click on the link for complete motion in English: [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet\\_Chair-Report\\_Agenda\\_Motion\\_Calendar-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet_Chair-Report_Agenda_Motion_Calendar-EN.pdf)

Click on the link for complete motion in Spanish: [https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet\\_Cover\\_Chair-Report\\_Agenda\\_Motion\\_Calendar-ES.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet_Cover_Chair-Report_Agenda_Motion_Calendar-ES.pdf)

**The motion passed 71/2. Minority opinion was heard.**

**2025 Calendar Approval** – The Calendar was unanimously approved and all hosting dates were filled (see below for complete list). Here are the links in English and Spanish.

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet\\_Chair-Report\\_Agenda\\_Motion\\_Calendar-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet_Chair-Report_Agenda_Motion_Calendar-EN.pdf)

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**2025 PPR Approval** – After two corrections, the register was approved. B03 should be \$10,000, not \$8,000 and B22 can be removed as there is no National Archives Workshop in 2025. Here is the link in English (Spanish version was not provided). No vote count was provided. <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-PPR-Proposed-113024r1.pdf>

**Floor Motion**

The Archivist moves to have Northern Illinois Area 20 (NIA20) fund approximately \$1000 to move the archives storage from Elgin to Lake County.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
PPMxx	Archives storage move	Hire an insured mover to load the items in the Elgin storage unit and unload and set-up the items in storage unit in Lake County.	Moving company	Reimbursement authority: Archivist.	\$ 1000.00

The archives are currently stored in a climate-controlled storage unit in Elgin, IL, which was a convenient location for the last two Archivists. This location is roughly 40 miles away from the current Archivist, necessitating in a drive which takes over an hour each way. A new location would allow better access for sorting and digitizing our current archives.

The current Elgin unit is 10’x10’ and costs \$306 per month. It is almost completely packed full, with shelves and boxes around the perimeter, and bins stacked in the middle, leaving only a path to access anything. Some of the stored items need to be moved to access the items behind them.

A potential location has been found in Fox Lake that would be larger and less expensive. A website for this location lists a 10’x20’ unit for \$159 per month. If available, the savings would be \$147 per month, and the move would pay for itself in roughly 6 months. Because of the additional size, a table could be set-up to look at items, and access to stored boxes would be easier. This would allow for better organization of the items in storage as they have become somewhat disorganized over the years as items are used for displays.

**There was no motion to decline. It was heard and passed 70/1. No minority opinion was offered.**

**Conference Reports**

**2024 Big Book Conference – Kim S** - The conference was a resounding success! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who traveled to Rockford to join us. We’ve received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from attendees about the event. We had 345 registrations, consisting of 295 pre-registrations and 60 walk-ins and 158 pre-ordered lunches.

Ending Balance: \$4,339.41. Minus Area Seed Money: -\$2,500.00. NET PROFIT: \$1,839.41

I have the Big Book conference checkbook with me today. We're excited to collaborate with the incoming committee and look forward to presenting our final report at the Spring Assembly.

**2025 State Conference – Jeff L & Sandy T** The web page has been created and is accessible at the D40 website which is, [aa-nia-il-dist40.org](http://aa-nia-il-dist40.org). A flyer is available. It was distributed at Soberfest and was given to Amot tapes for their events. The registration flyers will be ready and available for the Conference of Delegates Past and Present in February as per the guidelines. The list of Alcahons, confirmed speakers, and the program are on the web page. Alanon and ISCYPAA representatives attended our last planning meeting. The Area Spanish translator, Rachael, has confirmed. Our Accessibilities Chair has been in contact with ASL signers for non-profit organizations. All the committee chairs are busy and coming up with plans to make this a memorable event. Our next planning meeting is January 12th 2025 at Anona West, 129 Fremont Street in West Chicago.

## Service Committee Reports

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**Accessibilities - Chris E** – A report was given at the microphone. No written report was submitted.

**Answering Service – Dave T** – Nothing to Report

**Archives - Carol H, Karen C** – Karen and I have met a couple times and discussed plans to find out who in Area 20 is doing archives work and how we can support them and enlist others to begin this necessary part of maintaining AA history. We are in the process of creating a survey for all the known archivists and archive chairs and the Area 20 District Committee Members (DCM's) to identify current resources and where the needs can be filled. Once the information is gathered, we will have a monthly meeting. We would like to plan an area workshop. We know there are many individuals who are doing this work and have a good knowledge base and those of us who are just learning. I have been working on setting up a way of communicating. In all my past positions held at the area and district level I have created a Gmail account specific to the job that I have held. So, I contacted Scott, the Area 20 Alternate Web Administrator and Sue, the Area 20 Secretary and provided an Outlook email address for another new account. Scott connected me with Dawn D. To help me with the process and she provided the steps to create another Outlook account. Additionally, Kim the Area Alternate Registrar provided a list of the current Area Archives contacts. I have requested the contact information for the Area's DCMs. Once my area email account set-up is completed, we can send out the survey as planned. After the holidays, we will schedule meetings in the districts and our Area connection meetings. This also works in line with my cancer journey as the plan is for me to complete my chemo by the end of January. Karen and I were not able to attend the National Archives Workshop this year as she was just elected two weeks before and I had just completed my first chemo treatment. We will attend next year's National Archives Workshop whether we are funded by the area or not. Neither of us have the experience or knowledge about best practices for archives and this event provides this opportunity. I have created a document with the list of resources available and will share with them Area archives contacts. Karen is out of town for this assembly so we will meet again right after the holidays and begin our work.

**Bridging the Gap - Joey B** – A report was given at the microphone. No report submitted.

**Concepts - Susan H** – No report at the microphone. No report submitted.

**Cooperation w/ the Professional Community- Lisa G** – Since the completion of the September workshop, CPC has received extremely positive feedback from the Fellowship that attended as well as those that regret, they missed the opportunity. Thanks again to District 11 for hosting this event. It is the intent of the committee to duplicate the workshop in a more southern district in Spring 2025 to offer more members the tools and encouragement they need to extend the hand of AA in our communities. In early November our committee was invited to share with health education classes at Addison Trails HS in Addison. I came away from that experience with a clearer vision for CPC in 2025. Reaching out to young people is critical; according to statistics offered by Alanon 1 in 4 children ages 0-18 live in a household or has a family member currently arrested by the disease of alcoholism and/or addiction. Groups and districts will initially be asked to compile lists of contacts for their community schools. The committee will also be filling the 2025 calendar with community events such as the People in Need Forum at McHenry County College on January 25. The probability of hosting a luncheon for professional friends in the Area was discussed and encouraged so we will continue to forge ahead planning an invitation-only summer luncheon.

**Corrections – George P** – A report was given at the microphone. No report submitted.

**Grapevine - Terry M, Karen W** – Met with Lelond, Literature Chair for Soberfest. They used display boards at the event and returned with a positive response. Planning for a future workshop with Jan S and Susan H – need to meet again. Attended D61 meeting and presented a power point and display boards with literature in English and Spanish available, group appreciated our visit, and some took GV and would sign up. Attended D20 meeting with display boards and Spanish literature, met group and am working on furthering our relationship with Lavina and literature along with co-

working on the 2025 Illinois State Conference Committee. Participating in the 2025 IL state conference committee as GV Chair. Next meeting is in January 2025. Offered to provide displays and work with literature chair for 2025 DuPage County Open and represent GV at the event.

**Literature - Jan S** – Since our last meeting, the Literature Committee has devoted its efforts to the Plain Book, actively promoting it and answering questions from members. However, they have realized many still perceive the book as a "simplified" version and have been working to educate on the true purpose and intent of its publication. The first 70,000 copies of the book's printing quickly sold out. Unfortunately, some of the writings were not included in the book and must go to a second printing. A new availability date for the second print has not yet been released. We have received the agenda items for the 2025 General Service Conference and will begin to review them.

**Public Information – Tina R** - I will be talking with a district after the holiday to have a couple people speak in the springtime.

**Treatment - Kevin A, Jeff L** - We continue to hold our monthly zoom call on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. I encourage our District Treatment chairs to attend. We are looking for a centrally located spot to hold a treatment workshop in the new year. If any district has suggestions that would be helpful.

**Jeff** – Gave a report at the microphone. No written report submitted.

**Alternate Webmaster – Scott T** - Much of the cleanup of old reports, agendas, etc.. associated with our Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies have been completed. You will find the current documents for 2024 in full as provided to me using the right-side bar selection "NIA Agendas, motions and reports". Minutes, financial information, and Delegate reports can be found thru 2022 on the "Previous Panels NIA Reports & Minutes" selection also found on the right-side bar. Minutes can be found on this same page for the years 2020 and 2021. Any documents older than this, please email our Archivist at [archivist@aa-nia.org](mailto:archivist@aa-nia.org). I continue to maintain the site with the help of others, adding documents as they are provided and updating calendar events. I have been assisting a District with preparation to be included on the Meeting Guide App and to provide user page access to one of our Area Committee Chairs. Please note the Winter Concepts is available on the website. Should you require any additions, deletions, or something just plain wrong, please send an email to the Alt. Web Administrator.

### **Administrative Reports**

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**Archivist Cheryl V** - Thank you for approving the floor motion to move the NIA archives. I will most probably be moving them in January. I have two bids so far for movers. I will work with the lowest bidder to schedule a date. I will then reach out to storage locations in Lake County to find the best option for NIA. The Assembly Actions file is updated to include items from 1972 to the Fall Assembly in September. The PDF for this file is on the website. An effort is 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, will review my first pass for errors. Such as the conversion placed a 1 (one) instead of a lower-case L. A PDF version will then be placed on the NIA web on the Archives History page. The effort of OneDrive storage for digital archives has slowed. I have scanned all the files I currently have at home. I've made multiple plans to try to get to the storage unit in the last few months. As we know, man plans, God laughs. It is basically a 5-hour commitment for me to make the trip to the Elgin storage unit. This includes a 3 hour round trip drive, and time in the unit. The unit has become somewhat unorganized over the years, so time digging through boxes is required. Of note, 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, now placed in multiple storage locations, including the

Archives OneDrive storage location. 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.

**Conference Advisory Committee Chair – Aaron V** – Nothing to report

**Tech Committee - Rick N** – A report was given at the microphone. No written report submitted.

**Finance Committee – Bonnie P** – Primary Purpose Register previously reviewed and accepted.

**Operating Committee** – Have not had to meet

**Report & Charter Committee – Chris E** – Have not met

**Service Manual Custodian - Cheryl V** - At our last Assembly, Chris E, our Accessibilities Committee Chair, presented a motion requesting AAWS/GSO move toward printing in a more accessible manner. I have converted our NIA documents to Arial Font, and with a minimum of 11-point size. Also converted are the Planning Procedures for our various Area events. These documents are now in separate files. This will support Districts who may want to host an NIA event, but not want to wade through 36 pages when only looking for the 6 pages needed. These files, English and Spanish, have been updated on the NIA website.

**Inventory Committee – Lorrie F and Chris E** – Reviewed the results of the inventory. Here is the link for full inventory.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Inventory-Report.pdf>

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### Bids

**2025 Big Book Conference** – D42 and D20 offered a bid to co-chair for October 18<sup>th</sup>. They have narrowed it down to two churches. The bid was accepted unanimously.

**2026 Spring Conference** – D22 and D23 offered a bid for March 13-15th at the Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg. \$129 room rate. The bid was accepted unanimously.

**2025 Assemblies and Committee Meetings** – All meetings were filled as follows:

Winter Committee Meeting Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - D62      Pre-General Service Conference Workshop April 5<sup>th</sup> – D73

Spring Assembly March 1<sup>st</sup> – D70      Spring Committee Meeting May 10th – D61

Summer Assembly June 21 – D21      Summer Committee Meeting August 2<sup>nd</sup> - D10

Fall Assembly September 13<sup>th</sup> – D23      Fall Committee Meeting October 4th – D11

Winter Assembly December 14<sup>th</sup> – D43

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### Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate – Lisa S <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Alt-Del-Report-EN-ES.pdf>

Area Chair – Dawn B

[https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet\\_Chair-Report\\_Agenda\\_Motion\\_Calendar-EN.pdf](https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Packet_Chair-Report_Agenda_Motion_Calendar-EN.pdf)

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Alternate Area Chair – Aaron V –

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Alt.-Chair-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Alt.-Chair-ES.pdf>

Registrar – Rob M – An oral report was given at the microphone. No written report submitted.

Alternate Registrar – Kim D - Since the last meeting, I've worked on updates from DCMs, run quarterly reports, and sent them to the area committee chairs and DCMs.

Secretary – Sue M - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Winter-Assembly-Secretary-Report-EN-ES.pdf>

Alternate Secretary – Lorrie F – newly elected.

After open microphone there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Robert S, seconded by everyone! The meeting ended with the responsibility statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M, NIA Secretary

Next meeting is January 11, 2025 at Lord of Life Church, Elburn.