

**NIA20**  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 20  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**NIA Summer Assembly June 22, 2024**

**Report of the Technology Committee Chair**

Greetings Area 20,

I am grateful to report that the Technology Committee has made great strides over the past year. From a loose association of service-oriented, tech-curious, erstwhile alcoholics, we have coalesced into full-fledged committee dedicated to serving the technology needs of the Area.

Over the past number of months, you may have seen some of our initial improvements, including the purchase of new equipment to run the hybrid committee meetings and assemblies using funds which have sat dormant since they were first authorized for such use in 2021. We have identified a list of additional equipment to purchase and are taking an iterative approach to purchasing and implementing them.

Although the Technology and Equipment Committees de facto merged with the appointment of the same persons to both, we are drafting changes to the Service Manual which would make such a merger official and would update the mission of the committee to better align with the Area's needs in the current technological environment. We expect to submit a motion for consideration in the near future.

We wish to offer our sincerest thanks to Joey B. who served as the sole Equipment Committee member for many years and who has remained available to pass along his knowledge and expertise to us.

We are grateful that we were recently able to urgently assist the *Convención de Alcohólicos Anónimos del Estado de Illinois* with their last minute translation equipment needs, and we are working on developing a documented process for requesting the use of Area equipment to ensure that we are able to seamlessly and reliably provide equipment when needed. I wish to give special mention to Rick N and Scott T. without whose assistance, this would not have been possible.

As we expand our vision for maturing the Area's technology posture, we plan to expand our translation capabilities to include translation over Zoom for hybrid events. We are also exploring how we can leverage and improve our translation setup to also provide assistance for the hard of hearing and hearing impaired at Area events.

The implementation of the new email system has not been as smooth as we wished or envisioned, and we are continuing to discuss and review ways in which we may make it more

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accessible. We want to thank you all for your cooperation and patience during this switch, and I want to reiterate that we are here to assist you with any difficulties you are experiencing.

We recently cooperated with Bridging the Gap and the Answering Service committees to create a new page on the website for users to look up their district and local answering service phone number by their town. Concurrent with this work, the committee began discussions regarding the current design and use of the website and have begun preliminary discussions exploring the possibility of a complete overhaul and redesign of the site to align with current best practices, security standards, and the needs of the Area.

We have likewise begun to explore the possibilities of OneDrive, with Archives volunteering to be our pilot case.

The committee has a long list of desires, but our primary one is to hear from you, the Area, regarding your technological needs and how we as a committee can best assist you. The committee meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month via Zoom. We would be grateful to add any items to our agenda which you would like us to discuss, or to have you join us to discuss a specific need.

Humbly submitted,

Bryan D.

*Technology Committee Chair  
Northern Illinois Area 20*