

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery

NIA 2024 Summer Committee Meeting

August 3, 2024

Cover Letter

Hello NIA,

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 3rd.

Our final Agenda for the Summer 2024 NIA Committee meeting is attached in English and in Spanish.

Thank you Lorrie and all of District 10 for hosting us this Summer!!

We will have four motions to discuss today.

You will be able to pay ahead of time for lunch with Zelle, or pay with Zelle when you get to the meeting. Lunch is \$5.00. The Zelle email address is treasurer@aa-nia.org. Please show your \$5 zelle purchase to the lunch money team so that they can count you in for a lunch. I am not asking the Treasurer to keep track of that, there's enough to do with that job, so please just show at check in that you bought one. You can also do the same at the time of purchase. Lunch orders will close at the start of the Assembly, as they have an early cut off on numbers.

We will need a host District for the Winter Assembly on December 14, as the host district had a date conflict. DCMs, please consider hosting, and see Aaron to arrange what is needed.

The Area Inventory is on the NIA Website at aa-nia.org. The inventory is for DCMs, GSRs, and District Committee Chairs. Please consider filling this out, so we can serve you better.

Also, a reminder, that at the Fall Assembly, we will have the elections for the NIA candidates for Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large.

In Service,

Dawn Brandeis

NIA 20 Panel 74

Chair

2024 Summer Committee Meeting Final Agenda

August 3, 2024

Lord of Life Elburn and via Zoom

This anonymity protected agenda is posted on the NIA website. However, we do encourage the use of full names when speaking at the “virtual” microphone. This meeting will be recorded, as usual, for reference and use by our recording secretary.

Here is the link to register for the meeting; <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrd-ygrTgjGNTz8FLCGYHNOCH4gWlshggP>

You will receive an email from Zoom after you have registered with the link to the meeting

Time	Item
8:00am	Meeting room opens for fellowship
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order • Quiet time • Serenity Prayer • Announcements for today (Lorrie) • First time attendees • Anniversaries since Summer Assembly (June 22nd) • Approval of minutes from Spring Committee Meeting.
9:15	Delegate report (Erik L.)
9:45	Treasury reports (Dave F, Mike H)
10:00	Officer reports (Will be submitted online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate Delegate – Lisa S. • Chair – Dawn B. • Alternate Chair – Aaron V. • Registrar – Rob M. • Alternate Registrar – Kim D. • Secretary – Sue M. • Alternate Secretary- Open
10:30	Conference reports (10 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Big Book Conference • 2025 State Conference
10:50	Motions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Motion to the General Service Board regarding founders literature</u> <u>2. Motion to Amend the Archives Chairperson Responsibilities in the Service Manual</u>

	<p>3. Motion to request that literature be produced in an accessible format</p> <p>4. Motion to send letter to protect founders writings</p>
Time	Item
12:00	<p>Old Business</p> <p>1. Open elected positions review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Answering Service – Alternate b. Archives – Alternate c. CPC – Alternate d. Literature – Alternate e. PI-Alternate f. Accessibilities-Alternate g. Area Secretary-Alternate
12:15	Lunch
12:45	<p>Service Committee Reports (3 minute limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibilities Chris E. • Answering Service Dave T. • Archives Carol H. • Bridging the Gap Jim T, Joey B. • Concepts Susan H., Beth Z. • Cooperation w/ the Professional Community Lisa G • Corrections George P • Grapevine Terry M, Isidro • Literature Jan S. • Public Information Tina R. • Treatment Kevin A, Jeff L. • Web Administrator Earl H, Scott T.
1:30	<p>Administrative Committee Reports (3 Minute Limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archivist Cheryl V. • Conference Advisory Committee Chair • Electronic Equipment Rob M. • Finance Bonnie P • Operating Committee chair • Report & Charter Committee chair • Service Manual Custodian Cheryl V • Technology Committee Bryan D. • Inventory Committee Lorrie F.
2:00	DCM Reports – 26 Districts (three-minute limit)

3:00	Open microphone (one-minute limit) This is your chance to go raise your hand and share about things like: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something going on in your local community you want to invite us to.• Something about your group, district, or committee work.• Recognize or thank someone for their service.• Any other AA or NIA related announcements.
	Let's adjourn! 😊 Responsibility Statement <i>I am responsible...</i> <i>When anyone, anywhere,</i> <i>reaches out for help, I want</i> <i>the hand of A.A. always to be there.</i> <i>And for that: I am responsible.</i>
<i>The principal function of Northern Illinois service area 20 is to be a forum for effective communication between the Groups and the General Service Conference through its Delegate. NIA assists its Districts, Groups, and members to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers by conducting workshops, sharing sessions and seminars in all fields of general service along with other service activities.</i>	

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery

Chair Report

NIA 20 Summer Committee Meeting

August 3, 2024

Lord of Life, Elburn

Thank you to Lorrie and District 10 for their work in hosting this year's Summer Assembly!

It's been a busy Summer. I have appointed Scott T as the Alternate Web Administrator, so that we have an extra set of hands to help keep things up to date on the site.

I've attended Big Book Conference planning by phone, and D70 is well on their way to a fabulous conference, please register ASAP.

I'm actively speaking to a few DCMs regarding hosting the 2025 Big Book Conference and the 2026 Spring Conference.

I will continue to attend as many district meetings as possible.

On August 10th Lisa and I will do a workshop in District 90, and am in the planning stages for a workshop in Rockford in September. Don't hesitate to contact us to have one in your district, or combine with a neighboring district to host one!

We will not have Zelle to pay for lunches at all Area meetings, the Zelle address is treasurer@aa-nia.org. You can pay ahead of time, or pay at registration, please show the people who are taking lunch money your payment, so they can keep track of the number of lunches.

My expenses so far have been 1787.00

Again, don't hesitate to contact me, and to invite me to your District meetings or just with questions/for help!

In Service,

Dawn B.

NIA 20 Panel 74 Chair

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

Annual deadline for submissions for a General Service Conference is **September 15*.**

What types of proposals, suggestions or ideas rise to the level of needing a General Service Conference “action” or “decision”?

Proposals that are important to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, policy decisions or request for changes to Conference-approved literature and items that might require the collective conscience of the Fellowship. The trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions about the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items. Warranty Six reminds us “that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government...”

The

A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service (page VI).

The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service states on page 42 that:

The Conference considers matters of policy for A.A. as a whole, and there are tried-and-true procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way possible. For suggestions that do not concern overall policy, there are procedures to ensure they are routed to the most appropriate part of the service structure.

The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by:

- Individual A.A. members
- Groups
- Delegates
- Trustees
- Area assemblies
- Area committee members
- Directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine

GSRs may have ideas for an agenda item, including some brought to them by group members. Experience suggests that they may want to discuss them first with their groups, then at district or area meetings. A district or an area can then forward it to the staff member at G.S.O. who is currently serving as Conference coordinator.

The following is from a process overview document “FAQs on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items.”

Q. What happens when a proposed Conference agenda item arrives at the Conference Coordinator’s desk?

A. The Conference Coordinator acknowledges receipt of the proposed agenda item and lets the sender know which of the following options is most appropriate and, if necessary, an explanation of why and how the proposed agenda item is being directed. Some of the possible routes are:

1. Forwarding to a Trustees’ Committee via a G.S.O. Staff Member or Department Head.
2. Forwarding to G.S.O.’s Publications Director or Group Services Staff person.
3. Forwarding to A.A. World Services, Inc.
4. Forwarding to Chair of the General Service Board.
5. Forwarding to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board/AA Grapevine Publisher.

Q. What happens when it is unclear what committee should address a proposed item or where an item should be routed?

A. When it is unclear where a proposed item belongs, it is most frequently forwarded to the trustees’

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no "one size fits all" procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

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."

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) should have a policy protecting the original writings by the founders of AA.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

TBD at Northern Illinois Area 20 Fall Assembly
or Panel 64 Past Delegate, Cheryl V

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

See attached

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

This policy should take into consideration that, according to aa.org, "Today, an A.A. presence can be found in approximately 180 nations worldwide, with membership estimated at over two million. There are more than 123,000 A.A. groups around the world and A.A.'s literature has been translated into over 100 languages." This implies that these two books are translated into multiple languages, for multiple nations. These countries, outside the U.S. and Canada, license our books, which allows them to print and distribute within their countries, which includes the translated versions. It is not the intent of this motion to prevent updating translations, nor the stories included in the books, but to provide guidance to AAWS, the Trustees, and the Delegates to honor the words as written by the founders of AA.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

TBD at Northern Illinois Area 20 Fall Assembly
or Panel 64 Past Delegate, Cheryl V

(7) Final comments:

Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL: Attn: Conference Desk
 General Service Office
 P.O. Box 459
 Grand Central Station New
 York, NY 10163

Background for Motion to the General Service Board regarding Founders Literature

BACKGROUND:

Conference Advisory Actions/Literature

1986: "As the preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary."

1993: "Because of strong sentiment against changes in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the request to rewrite the first three chapters of the Big Book not be implemented."

1995: "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." (This Advisory Action was reaffirmed in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001)

2002: "The text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

Summary of Agenda items and actions 2020 through 2023

There were two 2020 Agenda items, one to "form a study committee to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book with the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership composition." This request came from one District, although it is unclear if it was from a single person or if there was any voting at the District level. In addition, there was an agenda item to revise the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to make changes to two pages in the book. The background regarding page 117 comes from a member of one group who made the request in July by letter, then a 2nd letter in December. This second letter states that the motion did not receive a 2/3 majority from the Area. The background for the second change, on page 66, is a letter from one Area and a Group within the Area. The Area did have the support of substantial unanimity.

These agenda items were sent back to the Trustees Literature Committee. The same background material was used for the 2021 Conference. Regarding the first item, the Conference Report states: "The committee considered a request to audit the first 164 pages of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, for necessary revisions and took no action. The committee agreed that the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous* should remain unchanged." The Agenda items for the two pages of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* were approved.

This topic of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was again brought up in 2022 by an Agenda item which had several requests to rescind the changes, along with a request to preserve the Big Book and 12 & 12. The Conference Report on this item states: “The committee discussed the changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* resulting from advisory actions of the 71st General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.”

In 2023 the Finance Committee had an Agenda item “Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI’s) regarding the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.” This item had 92 pages of background and resulted in Conference Report under Committee Considerations: “The committee considered a request to discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The committee suggested that the Trustees’ Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Finance. (Mindful of budgetary restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.)

Questions to be considered might include:

- Should suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process.
- Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for text being updated or should founder’s writings remain unchanged?
- Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?
- Should the changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* by 2021 General Service Conference remain?
- Should a new policy regarding Bill W.’s writing be created as a guide to future changes?”

Motion to Amend the Responsibilities of the Archives Chair in the Service Manual – Carol H.

Area 20 Archives President Files Motions Motion to Amend Archives Chairman's Responsibilities in the NIA Service Guidelines (Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Manual, version 3/2024, page 59 of 76) with the following:

ELIMINATE: It is recommended that the Archivist or the President of the Archives attend the AA National Archives Workshop annually.

REPLACE: It is recommended that the Archivist, as well as the Archives President or Alternate Archives President, attend the AA National Archives Workshop annually.

Bottom

The intent of this motion is to provide an opportunity for the President of the NIA Archives and/or the Alternate President of the Archives, depending on the current situation, to attend the AA National Archives Annual Workshop, to enhance their knowledge of archival techniques, current shared practices, technological opportunities, and options from the experience of others to meet challenges that will help them meet their commitment to service and assist the Archivist and Archivist of the NIA district.

From NAAAW.org's website, "How This All Came About":

"Prior to the birth of the AA National Archives Workshop, most Alcoholics Anonymous archivists had little or no information about how to fulfill their service commitment. Often, the boxes were passed from the previous archivist to the newly appointed or elected archivist. Sometimes, these boxes were in the trunks of cars or hidden in homes. The advice was to take classes or work with a curator in a museum.

The National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives (NAAAW) Workshop began in 1996 with a workshop held in Akron, Ohio, at the Mayflower Hotel. The Workshop arose from the desire of a group of Archivists to have a Workshop for Archivists that operated within the structures of General Services, Intergroups and Institutions. These archivists are found throughout North America, as well as the rest of the world. We were inspired by the first General Service Archivist, Nell Wing (non-alcoholic), and all subsequent General Service Office Archivists.

The founders of our workshop saw the need and took the initiative. We now have our annual workshop dedicated to teaching archival techniques such as: restoration, preservation and deacidification. There are hands-on workshops, historical presentations, long-standing panels, and keynote speakers who share their experiences not only about our history, but about history in general. We have training and sharing that offers a variety of knowledge on all areas of the archives service. With the development of new technologies, there are new methods of record keeping, cataloguing, and retention. We are evolving."

The General Service Office Archives Workbook has been developed. He's also evolving. Not only do we have some basics, but a useful tool. There is help for the archivist, who is new and has great intentions, but no direction."

This expense should not exceed \$2,500 for the estimated cost, unless approved by the NIA Finance Committee.

Respectfully presented,

Carol H., Chair of the 2024 NIA Archives

Motion to request that literature be produced in an accessible format

Motion

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.

Background

Accessible documents and communications are defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 508 (United States) and under the Accessible Canada Regulations (Canada).

Currently AA literature is produced in a variety of formats, many of which are not readable by AA members. Production of documents (such as pamphlets, checklists, literature, and even emails) in an accessible format assists AA members who have low vision, use screen readers, have reading disabilities and intellectual processing disabilities.

It is estimated that as much as 20% of the population is unable to read a document printed in a Serif font such as Times New Roman. Many AA documents and most literature (including the Big Book and 12&12) are printed in a Serif font, making it difficult for many alcoholics to read them smoothly or at all. When these items are revised or reprinted, the format should be updated for accessibility. With the upcoming printing of the "Plain Language Big Book – A Tool for Reading the book Alcoholics Anonymous" it is essential to plan for production in an accessible format.

Adopting a uniform appearance, color and printing standard for all AA documents as they are reprinted, revised or developed for AA members provides a simple method to make the message of AA available to more alcoholics. This proposal does not anticipate destruction of existing documents and literature; it recommends replacement as appropriate

Producing an accessible document (flyer, email, newsletters, handouts, slides, etc.):

1. **Software.** Use software that includes an "Accessibility Checker" to produce the document. All Microsoft products (e.g. Microsoft Word, Outlook, Publisher, PowerPoint) and most Adobe products can easily check the document for readability using their built-in checker.
2. **Format of the final document.** Your *finished* document should remain in its original editable format (like Microsoft Word or Publisher) or be saved as a PDF. Do not use JPG or TIF format.
3. **Tips for Accessibility:**
 - a. Use a white or light-colored background for emails, slides, documents and flyers.
 - b. Always select a "Sans Serif" (without tails) Font like **Aptos**, **Calibri** or **Arial**. Avoid "Serif" fonts like **Times New Roman** and novelty fonts (novelty fonts).
 - c. Take care with using bright colored fonts or dark backgrounds with a white font.
 - d. Avoid use of shading on letters and images.
 - e. When producing printed materials, use 11-point font or larger.
4. **Check for Accessibility.** Before finalizing your document (or saving it as a PDF), check it for Accessibility. The checker will "point out" fonts, colors and shading that affect the reliability of the document AND suggest better options.
 - a. Microsoft <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/improve-accessibility-with-the-accessibility-checker-a16f6de0-2f39-4a2b-8bd8-5ad801426c7f>
 - b. Adobe <https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/create-verify-pdf-accessibility.html>

Respectfully submitted

Chris E (Chairperson), NIA20 Accessibilities Committee, accessibilities@aa-nia.org