

Northern Illinois Area 20 Spring Assembly Minutes June 21, 2025, In Person and Online/Video

MINUTES DISCLAIMER: THE MINUTES ARE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL PUBLICATIONS AND SHOULD BE USED FOR AA PURPOSES ONLY

Assembly Attendance: We had a total of 135 (in person and online). 92 voting members in attendance: 43 GSRs, 21 DCMs, 7 Past Delegates, 9 Officers, 12 Committee Chairs.

Meeting Opening: The NIA 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 made. Twelve Concepts were read.

First Time Attendees: Mark D22, Camilla PI D10, Dave Alt GSR Humanities Meeting D70, Mike Fox Hole D43, Joey GSR Elburn D21, Laura GSR D41, Ashley D52, Kenzie GSR D40, Diane As Bill Sees It-D10, * Alt. GSR, Ed GSR D10 12x12

Anniversaries since March 1st – Chris 6 years, Debbie 24 years, Jeff 26 years, Julie 22 years, Karen 46 years, Chris 2 years, John 23 years, Sandy 11 years, Rob 10 years, Casey 20 years, Diego 1 year, Dominic 3 years, John 24 years, Sean 5 years, Camilla 3 years, Sherry 2 years, Larry 39 years, Chris 35 years, Kurt 33 years, Tina 34 years, Jeff 3 years, Katie 45 years, Brian 6 years, Rob 37 years.

Approval of 2025 Summer Assembly Meeting Minutes: Moved by Tina, seconded by Lisa. Approved unanimously.

Delegates Report - Erik L

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Delegate-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Delegate-Report-ES.pdf>

Treasury Reports – Dave F and Mike H

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Treasurer-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Alt-Treasurers-Report-EN.pdf>

Old Business

Election of open positions: Alternates for: Answering Service, Cooperating with the Professional Community, Literature, Public Information, Corrections, Accessibilities remain open.

Conference Reports

2025 State Conference – Jeff L - November 14th-16th at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg. Things are coming together as All committee chairs are doing their part. Our new East Central Regional trustee cannot attend. We did secure the West Central Regional Trustee. We're hoping now that it is getting closer, everyone will start making their reservations and register for the Conference. Remember, this is AA's 90th Year of helping the suffering alcoholic still out there. So, let us get together and celebrate.

2025 Big Book Conference – Dave and Marcello – No Report

2026 Spring Conference – Jeremy – Two easy positions are still open. Save the date flyers are out.

New Business

Motion to Amend Duties and Responsibilities in NIA Service Guidelines for Report & Charter and Service Manual Custodian Motion

The Report & Charter Committee, in conjunction with the Service Manual Custodian, moves to amend their Responsibilities in the Northern Illinois Service Manual. The Duties and Responsibilities section for Report & Charter is on page 81 and for Service Manual Custodian is on page 77. The full motion is in the link below:

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agenda-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agenda-ES.pdf>

The motion passed: 85 for, 2 opposed. No minority opinion.

Motion to Amend Duties and Responsibilities in NIA Service Guidelines for various Trusted Servants Motion

The Service Manual Custodian moves to amend the Responsibilities for the various Trusted Servants in the Northern Illinois Service Manual (Service Manual). The Duties and Responsibilities (D&R) section begin on page 46 and run through page 76. Changes will be the addition of bullet points, as specified below. The full motion is in the link below:

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agenda-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agenda-ES.pdf>

The Motion passed: 81 for, 0 opposed.

Motion to fund AREA participation at the 2025 East Central Regional Forum

The NIA20 Accessibilities Committee moves that a maximum of \$300 be reimbursed to each of the current NIA20 Area Officers, Service Committee Chairs, and their Alternates (shown below), to help offset costs to attend the East Central Regional Forum on August 22-24, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN, with the exception of the current Delegate & Alternate Delegate whose attendance at the East Central Regional Forum is already reimbursed under our Area guidelines).

The full motion is in the link below:

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The Motion failed: 38 for, 39 opposed. Minority opinion was heard.

Motion by NIA Answering Service Committee

We would like to remove a portion of the Answering service chair responsibility in the service manual. We recently passed a motion that helps us accommodate our Spanish speaking AA's, the current map and pamphlet does not have anything in Spanish, but our web page/QR code does have the capability to help a Spanish speaking alcoholic.

Current: Maintain and distribute the pamphlet 'How to Find A.A. in Illinois to include the N.I.A. map and Illinois answering service phone numbers. Distribution should take place at Area meetings, Conferences, and through the Area website and newsletter, Concepts.

Suggested revision: Answering service chair shall maintain a list of answering service phone numbers in NIA 20 and will provide QR code stickers. Distribution should take place at Area meetings, Conferences, and through the Area website and newsletter, Concepts.

A friendly amendment was made and accepted. Here is the change in the Suggested revision section: Answering Service Chair shall maintain and distribute a list of answering service phone numbers in NIA 20. Past methods have included a pamphlet and QR codes. Distribution should take place at Area Meetings, Conferences, and through the Area website and newsletter, Concepts.

The vote with the friendly amendment was 58 for, 21 opposed. Minority opinion was heard. 6 people wanted to change their vote. A motion to table the motion was made twice with no second. After discussion there was a motion made to send it back to committee. 55 for, 6 opposed. There was no minority opinion. The motion with the friendly amendment was sent back to committee.

Motion from the NIA Answering Service Committee

In our understanding of our primary purpose, there will be those among us who may not have the experience to help someone suffering from another addiction or having suicidal thoughts. In an effort and in the spirit of the long form of our tradition 11 which states we feel it better to let our friends recommend us, we would like to propose that we add links and/or phone numbers to the Suicide Hotline, NA, HA, GA, CA and AL-ANON on our NIA Area 20 Answering service webpage under “Non-AA Tools and Resources.” The full motion is in the link below:

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agrenda-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Chair-Report-and-Final-Agrenda-ES.pdf>

The motion failed: 61 opposed, 5 for. There was no minority opinion.

Service Committee Reports

Accessibilities - Chris E – I have held monthly meetings of the Area Accessibilities Committee, attended several monthly meetings of the All Access Committee (US/Canada) and the Chicago Area Accessibilities Committee, co-hosted the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop session for Treatment & Accessibilities, and hosted a weekly Plain Language Big Book Study Group on Sunday evenings. I am actively working on creating a database of ASL Interpreters for AA meetings throughout the Area. The only previous version I could find was in the D21 archives from the early 2000s. I hope to have something ready by the Summer Committee Meeting in August. I have contacted over 250 licensed ASL interpreters in Northern Illinois and received responses from 24 so far, including one who is a member of AA. The Accessibilities Committee today discussed resources for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late-deafened alcoholics. Online meetings with closed captioning are a great tool, but they are not always the right tool or serve all deaf members. Here are some of those resources that we looked at: Please refer to Chris’s full report on the Area Website for these resources. My expenses for 2025 have been \$301.00.

Answering Service – Dave T – Report given at microphone. No written report submitted.

Archives - Carol H – I attended two of the National Archives committee meetings. We have a monthly Archives meeting for the Area the second Sunday of the month at 4pm with 4-6 people in attendance. Our next meeting is July 13th. Cheryl V, our Archivist will be talking about file management and naming conventions. Today we discussed what we could bring to our next meeting. I will be helping in the GSO Archives room at International.

Bridging the Gap - Joey B – We are still trying to obtain volunteers to be temporary contacts throughout Area 20. I participated in a BTG/Answering Service workshop in Palatine June 7th with Dave T.

Concepts - Susan H – Not present, no report submitted.

Cooperation w/ the Professional Community- As we reintroduce Alcoholics Anonymous’ active engagement with the public, opportunities steadily stream in and trusted servants are there! Cooperating with professionals means jumping in with a “yes” more often than “no” when a last minute or slightly uncomfortable opportunity shows up! Thanks to the many volunteers, several first-timers, for opening your hearts to sharing HOPE. May 18, 2025 - Woman to Woman Luncheon (Rockford). May 23, 2025 - Illinois State Conference of Spanish-speaking AA (Schaumburg). June 3, 2025 - NIEAPA Conference (Drury Lane). Although the position of Alternate CPC Chair remains vacant, we have a network of volunteers across our Area ready to “man the table” on behalf of AA. Upcoming Service Opportunities: July 30-August 3, 2025, McHenry County Fair (Woodstock), August 8, 2025, Back to School Professionals event (Crystal Lake).

Corrections – George P – No report submitted

Grapevine - Terry M, Karen W – It was somewhat quiet in Area 20 this past quarter. We have communication (sent on June 16th) from Kimberly Jean L, the GV/LV Representative Coordinator in New York. She sent us a digital toolkit to use

in our districts. She also is assembling information including QR codes for those attending the International Conference. We will send it to the districts later this weekend with the Area summary report. If you did not receive the email sent from Kimberly Jean, please add your name to the list we have at our display. In district 11, we represented GV/LV with literature and communication materials at the Friends of Bill Steak Fry in Harvard June 14th. We will have a display and literature at the Flying Geese 25th Annual Summer Retreat August 15-17 in McHenry. We are continuing to visit groups to carry the message. On June 12th, we visited the group, Simply Begin, at The Other Side, a sober bar, in Crystal Lake. There is progress on a Grapevine/LaVina Newsletter. Please see Karli T if you would like further information. She is also active in starting a Grapevine Meeting in her district. Please help us Carry the Message of GV and LaVina. We are available to visit your District meeting or any groups in Area 20 or to help provide information at a Grapevine/LaVina Workshop. There is an updated Emotional Sobriety 1 & 2 book available for sale-there is an example at the display table. We will be at the State Conference with the traveling GV posters display and GV/LV literature.

Literature - Jan S - Since our last report in May, there hasn't been many changes in the committee. We are looking forward to Eric's presentation today. Activities: Visit groups in the District to share item decisions from the General Service Conference. District 42 will be hosting the literature room for Big Book Conference in Oct. District 40 Literature Chair will be managing Literature Room for the State Conference in November. I will be assisting with Literature for the AA/Alanon Conference in Schaumburg in Oct. I am also on the planning committee for the Spring Conference in March 2026. Total Expenses for the year - \$437.40

Public Information – Tina R - I emailed the Districts to see what they are doing. District 91 responded stating that they have sent letters to places offering to speak. They are also putting business cards in public places and at meetings. I have also emailed about the assembly and if they cannot make it they can go on zoom and zoom on our breakout session where I will be going over the motions.

Treatment - Kevin A, Jeff L – We continue to hold our monthly zoom meeting every third Thursday of each month. I attended the Nleapa conference. We talked with many like-minded individuals about the value of AA to their organizations and recovery. Behavioral health is a place underserved by AA currently. If your local Hospital system has a behavioral health facility near you, perhaps reaching out to bring in AAs to speak to their patients could be beneficial. Many are already friendly to us AAers and would welcome our help. Didn't Bill W suffer from a mental illness? I will be leaving for an extended trip to the International, if anyone needs literature please call text email me and I'll get that to you as soon as I can.

Web Administrator – Scott T - Report given at microphone. No written report submitted.

Administrative Reports

Archivist Cheryl V – I want to start by making a shout out to District 10 Archives Sean & Dean. They heard my request for missing Concepts and provided me with 9 missing copies. This leaves us still missing 16 issues where we have no original copy at all. I am also looking for 62 duplicates for our files. These duplicates allow me to “destroy” the historical copy by separating the sheets. These are then placed in individual sleeves so that issues can be read without taking the “main” original out of the sleeve. Thus, further keeping them safe. I started the process of going through my 15 years of personal e-mails. I am gathering the various attached files for our digital archives. This will save me from having to scan originals. A definite time saver. I have gotten through about 100 of my various folders and have reduced my file capacity by 18%. I continue to work on the electronic archives. One of the things I sometimes find challenging is the Spanish reports. Those that are electronic and named in English are not a challenge. Those that are printed, or the electronic name is in Spanish, are a bit of a conundrum. I'd like to suggest to our trusted servants that they place an English “footnote” on their reports. Something as simple as their name, their service position, the event that the report was for, and the date. This will give me, and future Archivist, and better chance of organizing reports. I am working with the NIA Treasurer on the archives move. All the pieces are in place other than credit card information. I am waiting for NIA to have the financial reserve to pay for the move and 6 months of rent. Expenses to date: 2/2025 – reframe Bill & Bob -

\$398, 2/2025 – new cases for Bill & Bob - \$49.98, 4/2025 – external hard drive for electronic files - \$239.99, Total - \$687.97.

Conference Advisory Committee – Aaron V – No report submitted

Electronic Equipment Committee – Rob M – No report submitted

Finance Committee – Katie – No report submitted

Operating Committee – Debbie – No report submitted

Report & Charter Committee – Chris E – We met April 12 to discuss potential motions from the Service Manual Custodian and provided feedback and recommendations for refinement. We decided to co-author one of the motions about changing duties and responsibilities for the Report and Charter Committee and the Service Manual Custodian, which was voted on today.

Service Manual Custodian - Cheryl V – Changes from the approved motions of the 2024 Winter Assembly have been made to the handbooks. These versions have been uploaded to the website.

Technology Committee – Bryan D – No report submitted

Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate – Lisa S - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Alt-Delegate-Report-EN-ES.pdf>

Area Chair – Dawn B –

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Alternate Area Chair – Aaron V – No Report submitted

Registrar – Kim –

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-REGISTRAR-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-REGISTRAR-Report-ES.pdf>

Alternate Registrar – Dawn S - I have requested from each DCM a Roster from each District. Of the 26 Districts, I have received 15 responses out of 26 Districts. Please let me know if you have questions about this request and I will gladly help you. My expenses year-to-date are \$110 for gas mileage.

Secretary – Sue M - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assy-Secretary-report-EN-ES.pdf>

Alternate Secretary – Lorrie F –

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assembly-Alt-Sec.-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Summer-Assembly-Alt-Sec.-Report-ES.pdf>

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

Respectfully Submitted by Sue M, NIA Secretary

Next meeting is August 2, 2025 at Lord of Life Church 40W605 IL-38, Elburn.