

Northern Illinois Area 20 Winter Committee Minutes January 11, 2025, 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.

First Time Attendees – John D62, Steve D52, Joe D62, Jaime D12, Melissa D62, Pete D62, Kim D62, Don D62.

Anniversaries – Steve 16 yrs, Dan 31 yrs, Lisa 10 yrs, Pete 21 yrs, Robert 27 yrs, Erik 37 yrs, Carol 26 yrs, Cheryl 38 yrs.

Approval of 2024 Fall Committee Meeting Minutes: Moved by Tina R, seconded by Kevin A. Approved unanimously.

Delegates Report - Erik L

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20250111_Report_Delegate_Win_CM_Eng.pdf

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20250111_Report_Delegate_Win_CM_Spn.pdf

Treasurer's Report – Dave F

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/20241231-Final-Treasurer-Report.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt-Treas-Rpt.pdf>

Service Orientation Workshop – Lisa S, Alternate Delegate

Erik L, Aaron V, Lisa S and Robert S gave presentations. The PowerPoint presentations may be added to the website.

Officer Reports

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

Area Chair – Dawn B -

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Winter-Committee-Meeting-Chair-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Winter-Comm-Mtg-Chair-Report-ES.pdf>

Alternate Area Chair – Aaron V -

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt-Chair-Winter-Committee-Report-ENG.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt-Chair-Winter-Committee-Report-SP.pdf>

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

Alternate Registrar – Kim D - Q1 reports will be sent after the committee meeting and before the assembly to ensure that all changes have been made at the district level. If you need anything before I send out reports, please don't hesitate to contact me directly, and I will take care of them. I know that changes have been sent to the Registrar, and I am told those are being worked on. This should all be cleaned up by the next assembly. This email list was from the December roster. If you are here by mistake, please let me know. I don't have the most current roster, but I believe there is an updated one out there. So don't panic. I appreciate your patience. **All documents sent to you are confidential and should not be shared or posted in any publicly accessible Internet locations.**

Secretary – Sue M - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Winter-Committee-Mtg-Secretary-Report-EN-ES.pdf>

Alternate Secretary – Lorrie F – <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Jan.2025AltSecReport.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/SpanishJan.2025AltSecReport.pdf>

Training Session

A training session regarding the NIA website and the Pre-General Service Conference process and workshop was held in a separate room.

Conference Reports

Illinois State Conference Report – Sandy C - The planning is moving along. Volunteers for Alcahons can sign up on our website at aa-nia-il-dist40.org. We are looking for groups to host two-hour shifts in the hospitality room, or make contributions. The next planning meeting is January 12th at Anona West. Anyone wishing to volunteer on a committee is welcome to attend.

2025 Big Book Conference – January 21st is the first meeting.

2026 Spring Conference – Dan – The first planning meeting was December 1st. A check was given to the hotel. Some positions still need to be filled.

Old Business

Open Elected Positions – Alternate Chair for: Accessibilities, Answering Service, Bridging the Gap, Corrections, Cooperating with the Professional Community and Public Information. Elections will be at the Spring Assembly.

Service Committee Reports

Accessibilities - Chris E – Since the December Assembly, I held the regular monthly meeting of the Area Accessibilities Committee on January 3. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm on zoom. Information is on the Area website calendar. We have set up a Plain Language Big Book Study Group that will meet on Sundays at 7pm on zoom starting February 16 (after the Super Bowl). We will go through the book cover to cover for as many weeks/months as it will take, to read and discuss this new book. As of this morning, the Plain Language Big Book is available to order again at aa.org! I will be attending district meetings in 23, 43, and 73 in the coming months. For everyone else, I would love to come talk about accessibility in AA at your district meeting, so please let me know when you want me to make the trip! My total expenses for 2024 were \$1,549.35.

Answering Service – Dave T - A report was given at the microphone. No written report submitted.

Archives - Carol H – No written report submitted.

Bridging the Gap - Joey B – Since assuming this role, I have been combing through all the information Jim so graciously passed on to me. He has done a lot of hard work and research during his term. I ordered business cards that contain our Area 20 QR code. I will be ordering more QR code cards and stickers soon, if anyone is interested let me know how many you would like. I have sought out an Alternate and I'm lucky and grateful to have found someone with experience on this committee and is also passionate about General Service. I, along with Kevin A, met the new D10 Treatment, BTG, CPC, and Corrections Chairs at the Antioch Recovery Club on Sunday January 5th to discuss basics of our committees and answer questions. It was a great sharing session. District 70 has invited me to a Service/ Recovery workshop on February 8th where I will be participating on a BTG panel.

Concepts - Susan H – No report submitted

Cooperation with the Professional Community- Lisa G – Congratulations to several districts for electing willing servants to many OPEN positions including a CPC chair and Workshop chair in District 11; thank you for immediately supporting them, especially financially. By finishing up the mailing to Algonquin Township contacts in districts, we know the seeds of sobriety have been planted; future service opportunities will begin to grow even if the blossoms are several months, perhaps years, off. As our Area committee maintains open dialogue about short and long-term ideas and commitments

relating to 2025, January 25, 2025 the People In Need Forum event at McHenry County College will be our priority. This annual community health and wellness fair is always well attended by community members, specific target groups, and non-profit professionals. We will have candy, literature, and other important resources on hand making our display attractive and inviting to English and Spanish speakers, candidates for AA, Alanon, Alateen, and professionals interested in having AA meet with them. Area CPC has restocked resources such as AA info cards as well as a customized 6-ft tablecloth for the forthcoming health and education Fairs. This tablecloth was invoiced at \$169. These supplies (tablecloth, CPC Responsibility posters, select books, customized pamphlet displays) are available for any District participating in service-please reach out!

Corrections – George P – In 2024 I spent a total of \$1,228: \$937 to attend the National Corrections Conference in November, \$197 to attend the Spring Conference, and \$94 to purchase the materials to construct Pink Cans. Using Pink Can Funds, we purchased 716 pieces of literature costing a total of \$7,336. These books were delivered to 9 different facilities in NIA20. We close the year with approximately \$4,000 in the Pink Can Fund. I gave away approximately 60 cans to support our contribution efforts. I am still looking for an Alternate Corrections Committee Chair. I am hoping to hold a Corrections Workshop this spring or summer.

Grapevine - Terry M – No written report submitted.

Literature - Jan S – Our immediate focus is preparing for the upcoming Pre-Conference meeting. We aim to recruit participants interested in reviewing the assigned agenda items. One key item for review is the new GSO Service Manual, which is available for \$4.00 through CASO or NY. Additionally, we will continue reviewing the pamphlet, *Problems Other Than Alcohol* and are seeking to invite additional AA members to join us in this project. We will begin to plan for the State Conference and the Big Book Conference and hope to come up with some fresh ideas to attract more attendees.

Public Information – Tina R - I have reached out to the District PI chairs to see what they are doing, if they need help or want me to visit their district. I will be having a meeting with the PI chairs on zoom in February.

Treatment - Kevin A - I met with the new D10 chairs for Treatment, Corrections, and BTG, Jason C, Gina L and Gordon R. As well as John C incoming D10 DCM, D10 CPC chair, member Donald W and Laura W. Co-Chair of Treatment in D10. This was more of a handoff of phone text chains and volunteer lists. We talked about how we might help one another carry the message of AA in a better and more complete manner. We believe that these committees interact in a direct manner. It is hoped that this cooperation will continue and lead to positive results. We continue to hold our monthly Zoom call on the third Thursday of each month. The zoom info is posted on the Area calendar.

Webmaster – Scott T - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Winter-Committee-Meeting-Alt.-Web-Admin-Report.pdf>

Administrative Reports

Archivist - Cheryl V - The Assembly Actions file has been updated to include items from 1972 to the Fall Assembly in December. The PDF for this file is on the website. In supporting our Web Administrator by pulling copies of older files off the website and placing them in digital storage, I have removed from the website another 200-300 electronic files. These have all been placed in multiple storage locations, including Archives OneDrive. Most of these are for events this time. 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 – no written report submitted.

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

Finance Committee – Bonnie P – No report submitted

Operating Committee – Have not had to meet

Report & Charter Committee – Chris E – No report submitted

Service Manual Custodian - Cheryl V - The NIA Service Manual has been updated based on the Technology Committee motion approved at the 2024 Winter Assembly. These files, English and Spanish, have been updated on the NIA website.

DCM Reports

D10 - John C – Tri-County Conference March 29th in Gurnee. One day conference is free. There is a cost for banquet.

D11 - Dan P - We have officially filled all Service Committee Chairs. I am still looking for an alternate and will be reaching out to some candidates over the next month. We have a “How it Works” workshop planned next Saturday in McHenry. Details are available on our website events page. Come on out for coffee, bagels, water, and fellowship before we take an in depth look at a piece of literature that a lot of people have heard but may not have really looked into. Aaron V reached out about bringing the GSR School presentation to District 11 and we are working on finding a date. I will also be reaching out to Lisa S to visit our District 11 meeting to present service topics.

D62 – Josh J - Monthly district meetings have been productive with good attendance. Website is updated regularly. Answering service is loaded with volunteers. Treatment, Bridging the Gap, and Corrections are active in our communities. Still many open service positions we are trying to fill. Dave the Area Answering Service Chair visited last week to give a presentation and offered some good ideas. We are excited about continued visits by Area Chairs. A GSR school would be a big hit and Chris said Accessibilities might be able to make it next month. February 8th, the Plano, One Day at a Time group, is hosting a no cost sponsorship workshop - fellowship at 11am, Workshop 12-3pm at United Methodist Church in Plano.

D70 - Kim S – All committee chairs are full except for Corrections. At our last meeting we had 15 of 21 GSR’s in attendance. We would like to know if other districts are still mailing out the minutes? We are looking forward to hosting the 2025 Spring Assembly March 1st, at First Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd, Rockford. Dave, Area Answering Service Chair visited our last district meeting. We are looking forward to having Aaron back in Rockford for GSR school. February 8, at Rockford Alano club we are having a workshop with Joey B, Area Bridging the Gap chair.

D73 – Karen D – We continue to meet the third Friday at 7pm in Dixon. We now have an alternate DCM, Gina M. She has been asking questions, attending the NIA Committee meetings and Assemblies. Our Fall Roundup was held the Thursday before Thanksgiving. It’s a gathering supported by all our groups. There is a potluck, then 8 speakers (with sobriety from 1-50 years) who speak for 5-10 minutes on a specific topic. Our district approved the hosting of the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop in April 25th in Dixon.

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 March 1, 2025 in Rockford at the First Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd.