

2026 Fall Committee Agenda

October 3, 2026
Lord of Life Church Elburn and via Zoom
District 22 Host

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/join/7sswi76nT46yePhJISbhhw#/registration>

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

Time	Item
8:00	Meeting room opens for fellowship
9:00	Call to order • Quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer • Announcements for today (Michelle B) • Reading of the 12 Concepts • First time attendees • Anniversaries since Fall Assembly Meeting (September 12) • Approval of minutes from Summer Committee Meeting (Aug 1)
9:15	Delegate report (Lisa S)
9:45	Treasurer report (Chris E, James)
10:00	Officer Reports (5 minute limit) • Alternate Delegate - Dawn B. • Chair - Aaron V. • Alternate Chair - Lorrie F. • Registrar - Kim D. • Alternate Registrar - Dawn S. • Secretary - Jan S. • Alternate Secretary - Kevin A.
10:30	New Business 1. The How and Why A.A. Group in Island Lake moves that Northern Illinois Area 20 submit a PAI to the 2028 General Service Conference requesting changes to the Preface of the <i>Plain Language Big Book</i>. 2. The Technology Committee moves to have Northern Illinois Area 20 (NIA20) fund roughly \$3000.00 for a 2nd projector and screen for use at Area events. 3. The Report & Charter Committee move that changes regarding the technology committee be made in the NIA Service Manual 4. Proposed PPR 5. Proposed Area Calendar for 2027
11:30	Conference reports (10 minute limit) • 2026 Big Book Conference • 2027 Spring Conference
11:50	Old Business • 2028 State Conference • 2028 Spring Conference (<i>Upon approval of 2028 State Conference bid</i>)

	• Open positions a. Accessibilities - Alternate b. Public Information c. Public Information – Alternate
12:00	Lunch
12:30	DCM Reports – 26 Districts (3 minute limit)
1:00	Service Committee Reports - (3 minute limit) • Accessibilities - OPEN • Answering Service - Dave T. & Dan M. • Archives - Carol H. & Kris S. • Bridging the Gap - Joe B. & Sandy C. • Concepts - Sue M. & Beth • Cooperation w/ the Professional Community - Lisa G & Judy G • Corrections - Jack B & Rob • Grapevine - Rob M. & Paula P. • Literature - Dave F. & Heather S. • Public Information – OPEN • Treatment - Adria P. & Laura S • Web Administrator - Scott T Administrative Reports (3 Minute Limit) • Archivist - Cheryl V. • Conference Advisory Committee Chair - Lorrie F • Technology & Electronic Equipment – Rick N • Finance – Michael B • Operating Committee Chair – John S • Report & Charter Committee Chair – Chris D • Service Manual Custodian - Sue M.
2:00	Open microphone (1 minute limit) This is your chance to raise your hand and share about things like: • 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.
2:15	Let's adjourn! 😊 Responsibility Statement <i>I am responsible... when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.</i>

The principal function of Northern Illinois 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.

Proposed Agenda Item

That paragraphs four and eight of the Preface to the *Plain Language Big Book*, beginning “This version is different...” and “But we have made sure...,” respectively, be removed in their entirety from all future printings.

Statement of Purpose

The Preface in the Plain Language Big Book contains several statements describing its relationship to the original text of *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

“This version is different. It offers the same message and ideas as the first Big Book, but is written to be more easily understood.”

“But we have made sure that this version carries the same message and offers all of the same information as the original. It contains the same program of recovery from alcoholism that works for us and that will work for you if you follow it.”

The purpose of this Proposed Agenda Item is not to evaluate the readability, usefulness, accessibility, or value of the *Plain Language Big Book*. Nor is it intended to oppose its use by members who find it helpful.

Rather, the purpose is to review whether the text of the *Plain Language Big Book* consistently communicates:

- the same message,
- the same ideas,
- the same information,
- and the same program of recovery

as the original text of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as stated in its Preface.

Background

A detailed background document accompanies this request and contains more than 300 pages of side-by-side comparisons between the Plain Language Big Book and the original text of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The complete background document may be accessed using the QR code or URL provided below.

The comparisons are organized by chapter and appendix and include:

- Big Book references,
- Plain Language Big Book references,
- key statements,
- observations,
- discussion of why the differences may be significant,
- and questions for Fellowship consideration.

The review focuses on areas where:

- information appears to have been omitted,
- causality appears to have been altered,
- emphasis appears to have shifted,
- or interpretive language appears to have been added.

The examples below are representative only and are not intended to replace review of the complete background material.

Full Background Document:

<https://d2panxf1tc9izk.cloudfront.net/PlainLanguageComparisonR01.pdf>



Examples of Concerns Identified in the Accompanying Background Material

1. Changes in Accuracy of the Original Message

The Big Book carefully teaches that the alcoholic suffers from a mental condition that exists **before drinking occurs**. It speaks of:

“the queer mental condition surrounding that first drink”

and

“the insanity which precedes the first drink.”

The sequence is important:

1. The mental condition exists.
2. The first drink is taken.
3. The phenomenon of craving follows.

The Plain Language Big Book states:

“the strange mental condition created by that first drink.”

This wording appears to reverse the sequence. Instead of the mental condition leading to the drink, the drink appears to create the mental condition.

The distinction is significant because the Big Book's explanation of alcoholism depends upon a clear separation between:

- the mental obsession before drinking, and
 - the physical reaction after drinking begins.
-

2. Changes Resulting from Omission of Original Material

The Big Book states:

“For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead.”

The Plain Language Big Book renders this as:

“Sharing experience, strength, and hope with other alcoholics was the only way to survive the pain and challenges of recovery.”

The original passage explains why relapse occurs. It teaches that continued recovery depends upon:

- enlarging one's spiritual life,
- work,
- self-sacrifice,
- and helping others.

The revised version preserves the idea of helping others but omits the broader explanation of spiritual growth and self-sacrifice as essential elements of continued recovery.

3. Changes in Emphasis

The Big Book explains that Bill W. realized:

“in order to save himself he must carry his message to another alcoholic.”

The Plain Language Big Book states:

“He needed to tell his story to another alcoholic.”

The original describes carrying a specific message concerning:

- alcoholism,
- recovery,
- and the spiritual solution.

While both involve communication between alcoholics, the change may affect how readers understand the role of carrying the message, which later becomes a foundational principle of recovery in *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

4. Examples of Interpretive Language Being Added

The Big Book states:

“he was convinced of the need for moral inventory”

The Plain Language Big Book states:

“making lists of their own strengths and weaknesses”

The original text simply refers to:

“moral inventory.”

The phrase:

“strengths and weaknesses”

does not appear in the corresponding Big Book passage.

A moral inventory later becomes one of the central practices described in Step Four. The Big Book's inventory later focuses heavily on:

- resentments,
- fears,
- harms done to others,
- character defects,
- and personal responsibility.

The phrase:

“strengths and weaknesses”

may lead readers toward a different understanding of what the Big Book means by a moral inventory. This phrase is used two additional times in the Plain Language Big Book in connection with inventory, further reinforcing that interpretation.

As a result, the reader is presented not only with a simplified version of the text, but also with an interpretation that is not explicitly contained in the original passage.

Question for Conference Consideration

Do the identified examples, together with the complete background material, support the statements contained in the Preface that the Plain Language Big Book:

- offers the same message and ideas as the original Big Book,
- carries the same message,
- offers all of the same information,
- and contains the same program of recovery from alcoholism?

If not, those statements should be removed from the Preface so that the Preface accurately describes the relationship between the Plain Language Big Book and the original text of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Motion by the Technology Committee

Motion

The Technology Committee moves to have Northern Illinois Area 20 (NIA20) fund roughly \$3000.00 for a 2nd projector and screen for use at Area events.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
PPMxx	<i>NIA events</i>	Purchase of a 2 nd projector and screen to be used at NIA meetings and events.	Projector to hook up to laptop & screen on stand.	Reimbursement authority: Technology Committee.	\$3000.00

Background

This proposal requests approval for Area 20 to purchase a new portable projection system to support Area meetings, presentations, workshops, and other Area 20 activities.

The goal is to provide a reliable, professional, and easily transportable system that can be used in a variety of meeting locations while remaining within a reasonable equipment budget.

The proposed system would utilize a 120-inch portable projection screen, while retaining the existing 80-inch screen for smaller committee meetings. This provides Area 20 with flexibility without requiring the purchase of an additional intermediate-size screen.

Proposed Equipment

The recommended system consists of:

- Optoma ZH430UST Ultra-Short Throw Laser Projector

- Elite Screens Yard Master Plus 120-inch portable screen
- Appropriate projector stand, carrying case, HDMI cables, power distribution, and necessary adapters

The 120-inch screen provides a 16:9 image measuring approximately 104.6 by 58.8 inches. It has a collapsible frame, adjustable-height legs, and a carrying bag, making it suitable for transportation between Area 20 events.

Based on the evaluation of the three options, approval is requested to purchase the Optoma ZH430UST projector and Elite Screens 120-inch Yard Master Plus screen, along with the necessary accessories for a complete portable system.

The ZH430UST provides Area 20 with a practical combination of:

- Portable equipment
- Ultra-short throw capability
- Laser technology
- Full HD resolution
- 4,000 lumens of brightness
- Reduced shadows and projector glare
- Ability to operate in rooms with limited depth
- A total equipment cost that remains close to the original \$2,500 equipment target

The proposed system would also complement the existing 80-inch screen, giving Area 20 an appropriate projection solution for both larger Area events and smaller committee meetings.

The Report & Charter Committee move that changes regarding the technology committee be made in the NIA Service Manual

- In the NIA Service Manual, change the responsibilities of the Technology Committee from, "...administration, maintenance, content, and security of the Area's website(s)..." to "...administration, maintenance and security of the Area's website(s)..."
- Background
 - The text on page 84 of the NIA Service Manual incorrectly assigns responsibility for _web content_ to the Technology Committee but responsibility for content already belongs to the Web Administrator. For additional information, see p77 of the NIA Service Manual and the entirety of Website Policy and Guidelines.