

Fall Committee Meeting

October 3, 2026

Area 20 Archives Chair Report

Since our last meeting I have been able to attend the monthly Archives Forum calls on the first Sunday of each month and our Area 20 monthly Archives meeting on the second Sunday of the month. As requested by our Concepts newsletter editor, I also provided a short article for a future newsletter.

Attending the National AA Archives Workshop (NAAAW) in Tacoma Wahington on September 10th through the 13th was one of the most exciting adventures in my AA service history. This year's workshop was hosted by The Western Washington Area 72 Archives Committee. The four-day event was held at the Washington State History Museum in Downtown Tacoma. The committee was very helpful connecting people ahead of time so I was able to secure a roommate or two of the night stays through it they also provided ride from the airport to the event on Thursday go ahead fortunately enough for me my roommate lived in the Tacoma area so she was able to provide me with arrive turn from the events and a ride back to the airport on Sunday you're in

We started off on Thursday afternoon with a visit to the Western Washington Area 72 Repository. This was a rare event as usually these visits are scheduled upon request by individuals and arranged through the Archivist. I was in awe of the organization of many years of historical documents, audio recordings, books, pamphlets, area meeting minutes and historical background of the early members of AA in that area. There were displays set-up by topics, such as long-timers, bringing meetings to jails and prisons, group history, service etc. The only items that were not available were the ones that were on the travel display which travels the area for special events and activities, but they were on display at the museum for us to see.

Friday morning started out bright and early with an AA meeting at 8:00 a.m. The many different workshops began at 9:00 with three options available for the hour and 45-minute timeframe. It was very hard to choose as they were all interesting, but I favored the technology based one attending Electronic Records Part 1 and 2, Accessioning, Technology in Archives and a hands-on session making a clamshell box. Don't worry, I will foresee an upcoming workshop in the future. I was asked to do a presentation on Archives Standing Committee where I shared the experience on Area 20 and spoke about the importance of having an Archives Committee that helps with the many different responsibilities of the Archivist and Archives Chair. That was one common thread seen in every presentation, we cannot do this alone. Our Friday night speaker was April H., the non-alcoholic staff member from Archives at the General Service Office (GSO).

NIA20

NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA 20

Alcoholics Anonymous

Saturday again started with a meeting and although I spent time helping others with making clamshell boxes that day, I still attended workshops on Data Mining, Archiving Webpages, and Sorting & Classifying. Many of the attendees were familiar faces although from all over the countries, e Established relationships on the monthly archive forum all. Our Saturday night speaker was supposed to be Billy N., however he was unable to attend, so at the last minute the past area 72 regional trustee Madiline stepped in for him. Unfortunately, she fell sick during her presentation and had to end. All in all, we had great fellowship that night.

Sunday morning was rather low key, and attendance was as well. We spent a couple hours talking about what we learned at the workshop, and others shared their experience in their local areas in comparison to what they saw and heard from those in other areas in districts. That was important because there are many ways to do things, there are some steady-fast rules, however when we think out of the box, and work together as a committee, so much can be achieved.

My hope is to have an opportunity to share this information with the district archivists and archive committees within area 20 go ahead hopefully we will have more attendance and our monthly meeting held on the second Sunday of the month at 4:00 PM where we are ringing through the archives workbook Korean but I also hope to share lower of the important parts up doing archival work a day workshop in the future OK I will continue to meet on the 1st Sunday of the month with my newfound friends from all over the country at the monthly National Archives forum call, where I also do service work as the secretary of the group Elliot I learned so much but also develop more and more resources the past on to those I serve is the area 20 archive chair. You don't have to be an archivist, in archives chair or on an archives committee to attend any of these events all are welcome.

Next year the National AA Archives workshop will be held in and hosted by Mid-Central California Area 9. The Archivist in Area 9 have their own website filled with resources of every type, MSCA Area 09 Archives. One of the many things they have been a part of is transcribing the Archives Workbook into Spanish. This is not currently available at GSO however, we were assured it would be available online soon. They will not be available in a hard copy since the sustainable need for them would not cover the cost of printing. I was able to purchase four copies for our three Spanish districts along with a Spanish Woman in AA History book they were able to self-publish.

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If you want to check out the Archivists Zoom Forum, you can join us on the first Sunday of the month at 5 p.m. PST on Zoom ID 507 478 8317, PC Archives.

We hope to see many more of you at our next monthly meeting on Sunday, October 11th, at 4:00 p.m. where we will continue learning, sharing, and preserving the story of Alcoholics Anonymous—one piece of history at a time. Here is the information for that call:

- Zoom details:
- Meeting ID: 847 7879 2869
- Passcode: 516980

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H.

NIA Archives Chair