Northern Illinois Area 20 Fall Committee Minutes October 7, 2023, In Person and Online/Video

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

Meeting Opening: Area Chair, Rob M., called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rob made the meeting announcements.

Attendance: 40 in person, 6 on zoom for a total of 46. 8 officers,13 DCMs and alternates representing 11 districts. 2 past delegates, 6 service committee chairs and alternates, 17 AA members.

First Time Attendees: Dave S D42 DCM, Dawn R. D10 Secretary

Anniversaries: Lisa S. 24 years

Approval of Committee Minutes:

Dan made the motion to approve the Winter, Spring and Summer Committee Meeting minutes and was seconded by Chris E. The minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

Delegate's Report – Chris D.

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-Fall-Cmte-Mtg-Delegate-Report.pdf

Treasurer's Report – Allen J

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Fall-Comm-Mtg-Treasures-Reports.pdf
https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-PPR-Proposed-2.pdf

Alternate Delegate – Erik L.

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt.-Delgate-Report-Fall-Committee-10-7-23.pdf

Area Chair – Rob M.

I have been helping to assemble a new Tech Committee. The first thing we are working on is our email as well as how to leverage the technology within the Area.

Alternate Chair – Dawn B.

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alternate-Chair-Report-Fall-Committee-2023.pdf

Registrar - Chris E.

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/07-2023-Fall-Committee-Registrar-Report.pdf

Alternate Registrar – Kim D.

Chris and I continue to work together on reports. I have been in Fellowship Connection making updates. My expenses to date are $233.70.

Secretary – Sue M.

https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Fall-Committee-Meeting-Secretary-Report-2023.pdf

Conference Reports

2023 Big Book Conference – Dawn B.

The 2023 NIA Big Book Conference is right around the corner. It will be held here at Lord of Life on November 4th. Registration is on the NIA site, please join us for the day, they've got a great program for us. LUNCH IS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL 10/25, please register soon.

2024 Spring Conference & Assembly – Hugo Co-Chair

We have flyers today. Registration is now open.

2024 Big Book Conference – Steve C. DCM D70

We had our first planning committee meeting at 1:00 pm at EVANS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 7605 N. SECOND ST., MACHESNEY PARK, IL 61115 on Saturday 9/23/23. It was attended by 7 people. The next meeting will be Saturday. 10/28/23 at 1:00 pm, same location. There will be elections for the following 4 committee chairs and co-chairs at the

Conference Reports continued:

November meeting to be held on Saturday 11/11/23, 1:00 pm, same location. BBC Chair and co-Chair, Secretary and alt. Secretary, Treasurer and alt. Treasurer, Program chair and alt. Program chair. As per the NIA20 B.B.C. Guidelines, we want these positions filled before the Winter Assembly. We have handouts of the BBC guidelines, and we are discussing the responsibilities the chair people will have on this committee.

Old Business

Open elected positions

a. Accessibilities – Chair and Alternate	f. Grapevine – Chair and Alternate
b. Answering Service – Alternate	g. Literature - Alternate
c. Archives – Chair and Alternate	h. Treatment - Chair and Alternate
d. Bridge the Gap – Alternate	i. Alternate Secretary
e. CPC – Alternate	

New Business

Motion to amend the list of the Area Assembly and Area Committee

Motion

The Report & Charter Committee move to amend the list of voting members of the Area Assembly on pages 17 of the Northern Illinois Service Manual and the list of members of the Area Committee on page 26 for clarification and consistent ordering.

This is not adding anyone new as a voting member of either the Assembly or Area Committee, only adding detail and clarity to the list of members.

*all page numbers reference the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022.

The Area Committee (Add more detail, clarify, and reorder by number)

1 • All current D.C.M.s and all current Alternate D.C.M.s
2 • The Area Delegate and ~~the~~ Alternate **Delegate**
3 • The Area Chairperson and ~~the~~ Alternate **Chairperson**
4 • The Area Treasurer and ~~the~~ Alternate **Treasurer**
5 • The Area Secretary and ~~the~~ Alternate **Secretary**
6 • The Area Registrar and ~~the~~ Alternate **Registrar**
7 • All **Elected** Area **Service** ~~Standing~~ Committee Chairpersons and their Alternates
13 • All Past **Area** Delegates
8 • The Area Archivist
9 • The Concepts Editor and Co-Editor
10 • The Area Web Administrator and Alternate Web Administrator
11 • The N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian
12 • All Area Administrative Committee Chairpersons

The Area Assembly Voting Members (Add more detail, clarify, and reorder by number)

1 • All current G.S.R.s or Alternate, when G.S.R. is absent
2 • All current D.C.M.s or Alternate, when D.C.M. is absent
4 • The Area Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson
3 • The Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate
7 • The Area Registrar and Alternate Registrar
14 • All Past Area Delegates
6 • The Area Secretary and Alternate Secretary
8 • All **Elected** Area **Service** ~~Standing~~ Committee Chairpersons or Alternate, when Chairperson is absent
5 • The Area Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer
9 • The Area Archivist
Motion to amend the list of the Area Assembly and Area Committee continued:

Motion to amend the list of the Area Assembly and Area Committee Continued:

10 • The Concepts Editor or **C**o-Editor, when Editor is absent
11 • The **Area** Web Administrator or Alternate ~~Web Administrator~~**,** when Web Administrator is absent
13 • All Area Administrative Committee Chairpersons
12 • The N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian

Background

It is hard for new G.S.R.'s and other new trusted servants to understand everything they need to know about service. We often say that you learn your service position by the time you rotate out to your next position. Keeping our documents consistent and clear will help all trusted servants to understand better, feel less overwhelmed, and have a better grasp of the service structure. Not being confused goes a long way towards wanting to take on a next position.

We have noticed the phrases *Standing Committee* and *Service Committee* used interchangeably in the N.I.A. Service Manual and in discussion at Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies. The terms are not interchangeable, and it should be clarified. On page 39 of the NIA Service Manual, it says, "N.I.A. has two types of standing committees. Service Committees and Administrative Committees." The sections go on to define the service committee chairs, appointed service committees positions, and administrative committees. We feel it is best to only use the term Standing Committee as a section header in the Service Manual on page 39 and replace/clarify its meaning elsewhere.
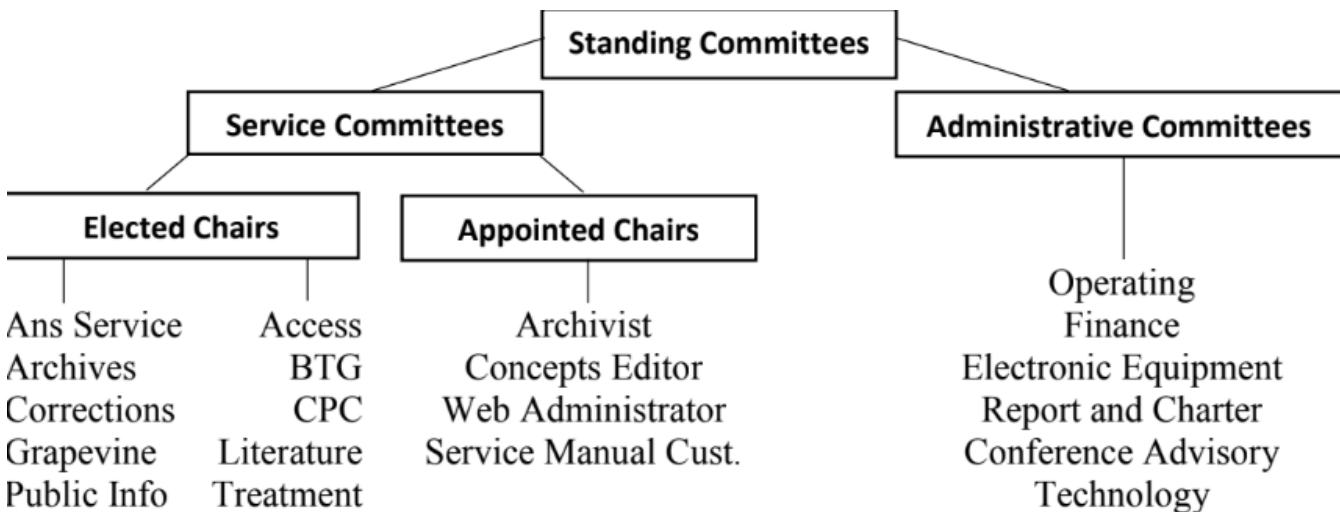
The membership of the Area Assembly currently includes "All Area Standing Committee Chairpersons…" but also includes the Archivist, Concepts Editor, Co-Editor, the Web Administrator, and Alternate Web Administrator on the list. All of these positions are Standing Committee Chairs (although they are appointed and not elected). The N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian falls into the same category but is not listed in the membership of the Area Assembly.

The best thing for clarity is to finish listing all the positions in the Area Assembly in detail, including the Service Manual Custodian and Administrative Committee Chairpersons. Then, both lists for the Area Assembly and Area
Motion to amend the list of the Area Assembly and Area Committee continued:

Committee should match in their level of detail. Reordering the positions in both locations will allow them to match the order that officers and standing committee positions are listed throughout the N.I.A. Service Manual.

References

NIA 20 Service Manual
http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202209.pdf
Questions & Discussion: There was clarification made regarding the potential of adding 5 voting members (administrative committee chairs) if this motion passes. The Report & Charter committee will consider deleting or modifying the addition of voting members. **Chris E. stated that he will take this motion back to the committee.**

Motion to amend the Voting Procedures for Area Elections

Motion

The Report & Charter committee moves to amend the voting procedures for Area elections in the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Manual (pages 23-25 of web version 09/2022, pages 32-34 of the printed version 09/2022), for clarification and easier reading, as follows: • Additions are underlined and bolded, deletions are struck through.

• The Third Legacy Procedure should be copied from the current A.A. Service Manual to be certain it is accurate, and the current diagram should be kept.

• The paragraph on page 25 should be removed entirely.

all page numbers reference the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022.

Area Elections

Area officers, **service** ~~standing~~ committee chairpersons, and all their alternates are elected to two-year terms of service that begin in even numbered years. Elections are held during the Fall Assembly of odd numbered years, immediately preceding the end of the current service rotation.

The **Area** Chairperson shall read the portion of The A.A. Service Manual that is applicable to balloting before balloting begins. The rest of the election proceedings are to be facilitated by the most recent past Delegate. **The past Delegate should review the qualifications for each position before the nomination procedure and election for that position.**

Election of officers, namely the Delegate, Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, and their Alternates~~, except as noted below,~~ shall be in accordance with the Third Legacy procedure as described in The A.A. Service Manual. The order of elections shall be: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson, Secretary, Alternate Secretary, Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, Registrar, and then Alternate Registrar. ~~Those eligible to stand for Delegate are: Area Officers (except Delegate), Chairpersons of standing service committees, and D.C.M.s. The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for~~ the position.
~~• Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand are asked to identify themselves. • Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are accepted.~~
~~• Candidates present two minutes service histories.~~

Following officer elections, ~~standing~~ service committee **c**hairpersons and their **a**lternates shall **be** ~~are~~ elected, either by the Third Legacy procedure or by any other means chosen by the Assembly during the election proceedings**, such as by show of hands**. **Voting for service committee chairpersons and their alternates is by simple majority (a voting requirement of more than half of all ballots cast).** ~~Nominations from the floor shall be accepted.~~

Nomination Procedure
• **Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand for a position are asked to identify themselves.**
• **Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are also accepted.**
Motion to amend the Voting Procedures for Area Elections continued:

• **The names of all candidates are posted on a board.**

• **Candidates present two-minute service histories.**
• **After everyone has given their service histories, voting will commence.** • **Candidates are asked to leave the room when voting is not by written ballot.**

The Third Legacy Election Procedure
~~Nomination Procedure~~
~~• All members of the Area Committee are eligible to become Delegate.~~
~~• The chairperson asks those eligible to stand up giving everyone in attendance an opportunity to see eligible candidates.~~
~~• Then the chairperson asks that anyone standing who is unable or unwilling to serve as Delegate be seated.~~
~~• The remaining names are posted on a blackboard.~~
~~• The chairperson then asks for nominations from the floor.~~
Voting Procedure
1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members of the Area Assembly cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.

Motion to amend the Voting Procedures for Area Elections continued:

• The first candidate to receive TWO-THIRDS of the total vote is elected. **2.** Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than *one-fifth* of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn — except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)

3. After the third ballot, candidates with less than *one-third* of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)

4. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain.) • At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot.

• If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot — "going to the hat" — immediately.

• If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.

5. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.

6. Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one "out of the hat" is the delegate (or other officer).

<u>Background</u>

1. Clarify in paragraph one and four that "standing committee chairpersons" is "service committee chairpersons." In our Service Manual, standing committees include both service committees and administrative committees, the latter of which are appointed not elected.

2. Clarify at the start of the second paragraph that "Chairperson" is "Area Chairperson."

3. Add a sentence to the end of the second paragraph reading: "The past Delegate should review the qualifications for each position before the nomination procedure and election for that position."

4. The words "except as noted below" should be removed from paragraph three, where it states that "election of officers […], *except as noted below*, shall be in accordance with the Third Legacy procedure…" On page 25, after the third legacy voting diagram, there is a paragraph that finally lists the exception: "for election of officers and alternates, […] voting is by Third Legacy *but by a show of hands*." The Third Legacy Procedure from the current A.A. Service Manual calls for **written ballots**. The election of all officers should be by Third Legacy procedure <u>without exception</u>, that is, by written ballot.

5. Move the following sentence from the end of paragraph three to the Delegate qualifications on page 30 of the web version/page 41 of the printed version: "The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for the position."

6. Paragraph four covers the elections of service committee chairs, being "either by the Third Legacy procedure or by any other means chosen by the Assembly…" There is another procedure for committee chairs listed in the paragraph on page 25. It states that "the procedure for committee chairs and alternates is the same except voting is simple majority," but the phrase "is the same" refers to "Third Legacy but by a show of hands" prior in the paragraph. The second statement does not allow for "other means." These two statements contradict each other, and the explanation of simple majority is lost on page 25.

    We should provide an example of what "any other means" are and suggest adding "such as by show of hands" in paragraph four.
    We should add the following to paragraph four and eliminate the entire paragraph on p25: "Voting for service committee chairpersons and their alternates is by simple majority (a voting requirement of more than half of all ballots cast)."
    Other minor changes are shown in the body of the motion.

Motion to amend the Voting Procedures for Area Elections continued:

7. There are two statements regarding those eligible to stand for Delegate. One says "Area Officers (except Delegate), Chairpersons of standing service committees, and D.C.M.s." and the other says, "All members of the Area Committee are eligible to become Delegate." The second statement would include service committee chair alternates, appointed committee chairs, and alternate DCMs. There are also two different nominating procedures lists. One list says, "Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are accepted," and the other list says that "all eligible able, and willing candidates are to be considered."

The nomination procedure for all other positions is not clearly stated. Some of it has to be inferred from the procedures for Delegate, and some of it is spelled out in that paragraph on page 25 that gets lost.

We should combine all statements regarding nominations and eligibility for all positions into the following, making one clear set of guidelines for all positions:

> *Nomination Procedure*
> • Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand for a position are asked to identify themselves.
> • Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are also accepted.
> • The names of all candidates are posted on a board.
> • Candidates present two-minute service histories.
> • After everyone has given their service histories, voting will commence.
> • Candidates are asked to leave the room when voting is not by written ballot.

8. The *Third Legacy Election Procedure* is copied from page 119 of the current A.A. Service Manual to ensure that it is accurate. The flow chart should remain intact.

9. The paragraph on page 25 should be removed entirely, as it has been incorporated elsewhere.

References
NIA 20 Service Manual
http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202209.pdf, pages 23-25 (pages 32-34 of the printed version 09/2022)

The A.A. Service Manual
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf, page 119 (page 110 in print)

Follow Up Action Required
Update the NIA 20 Service Manual with the approved changes on the pages referenced.

Move the following sentence to the Delegate qualifications on page 30 of the web version/page 41 of the print version: "The elected Delegate shall have only one term of service and shall never again be a candidate for the position."

Respectfully submitted
Chris E (Chairperson), Sarah B, Hugo S, and Kelly L
Report & Charter Committee
registrar@aa-nia.org

Questions & Discussion:
Clarification was made about the simple majority definition being whoever receives the most votes. A question was asked: What is the point of the motion? Answer: To correct and clarify conflicting statements on nominations and election procedures. The Report & Charter Committee will consider re-wording for when there is only one candidate and simple majority for committee chairs to be whoever gets the most votes. **The Area Chair suggested it go back to committee for the changes and considerations. Chris E. agreed. He suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee.**

Motion to provide for translation of all Area documents and to provide a language interpreter at all Area functions

Motion

The Area Registrar, along with the D.C.M.s for the Spanish linguistic Districts, moves to amend the Northern Illinois Service Manual in the following ways, to provide for translation of all documents in N.I.A. and to provide a language interpreter at all Area functions:

all page numbers reference the "NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022."

1. The following paragraphs shall be added to Northern Illinois Service Manual at the end of the Introduction paragraph of SERVICE GUIDELINES, before *The Area Assembly* on p. 17:

> All agendas, motions, minutes, presentations, reports, and other documents produced at the Area level in N.I.A. are to be translated into any language requested by the fellowship. All documents shall be made available concurrently and in the same format as English documents; whether printed and provided at an Area function, emailed to the Area or its various committees, posted on the website, or made available in other ways. Translation of documents may be done by a third party vendor.

> Area trusted servants are strongly encouraged to use web-based translation or another translation method to translate their reports and email communications into other languages before sending them out.

> Language interpreters and sufficient equipment for live translation shall be provided by the Area at all Area functions, such as Assemblies, Committee Meetings, conferences, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

2. The following bullet point in the *Responsibilities* of Area Alternate Chairperson on page 32, "Assist in obtaining Spanish interpreter for Assemblies and Pre-General Conference Service Workshop," shall be replaced with this new bullet point:

> Assist in obtaining language interpreters and additional equipment when needed, for all Area functions, such as Assemblies, Committee Meetings, conferences, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

3. The bullet point "Report on recent activities at Area Committee Meetings. Submit a written report at Assemblies and," which is erroneously placed at the bottom of page 44 in the list of appointed positions, shall be removed.

Motion to provide for translation of all Area documents and to provide a language interpreter at all Area functions continued:

Background

The current practices of N.I.A. fall short of adequately addressing the language barrier to full participation in the Area. We do not provide a Spanish interpreter at Area Committee Meetings. These are the meetings where motions that will go before the Assembly are explained, questions can be asked, and information can be gathered to take back to the Districts to share with the G.S.R.s, so that they can in turn take it to their groups to get an informed group decision. The motions and background materials have only recently been made available in both English and Spanish, and we would like this practice to continue and be expanded. More and more reports from officers and committee chairs are being translated, but not all. The Northern Illinois Service Manual has not been printed in Spanish since 2020. Steps have been taken in the right direction, and we want the practice of translating to continue on a permanent basis.

References

http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202209.pdf

Respectfully submitted

Chris E & Raul S
N.I.A. 20 Registrar District 20 D.C.M.
registrar@aa-nia.org raulsan0817@gmail.com

Questions & Discussion: Discussion regarding Item #2 resulted in a change in the wording of the new bullet point to read: Assist in obtaining language interpreters and additional equipment when needed for assemblies, committee meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference. For all Area events to be removed. An emphasis was made that translation is for English speaking members.

Motion to cancel Spring Assembly Conference every three years

Motion

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves to cancel the NIA Spring Assembly Conference in those years in which NIA hosts the Illinois State Conference.

With approval of this motion, the below corrections are to be made to the NIA 20 Service Manual. Suggested changes are in italics and underlined. Pages numbers refer to the current web version.

Page 8

Assemblies are held quarterly. The Spring Assembly in late March or early April is held in conjunction with the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference, which is a weekend event. Currently, all Assembly activities take place on Saturday of the Conference weekend. *In years in which NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference, the Spring Assembly will be a stand-alone event.*

Page 10

The N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference is a service conference with the Spring Assembly business meeting taking place on Saturday morning. *This conference is held two out of every three years, not occurring in the years that NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference.* There is a registration fee for conference attendance but no charge to attend the assembly. There are additional costs for housing and meals.

Page 19 & 20.

Scheduled Assembly Agenda Items
• Spring Assembly Conference - Late March or early April
• Pre-General Service Conference Workshop – Mid April

Motion to cancel Spring Assembly Conference every three years continued:

• Summer Assembly – June
o Bids for the N.I.A. Big Book Conference (that will be held the following year) will be heard and voted on.
• Fall Assembly – September
o Bids for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference, (that will be held approximately 1½ years later) will be heard and voted on. *Except in the years which NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference. (Also see Winter Assembly notation below.)*
    o Odd year is Area election Assembly.
• December (Winter Assembly)
    o Approval of proposed Area Calendar and Area Budget.
o Every third year, bids for the *Illinois* State Conference (that will be held approximately one and one-half years later) will be heard and voted on.
o *Final bids for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference, (that will be held approximately 1 ¼ years later) will be heard and voted on. Should no bid be forthcoming, the Spring Conference portion will be canceled for that year and the Spring Assembly will be held as a stand-alone event.*

Background

Although the Illinois State AA Conference (ISC) is held every year, the host Area rotates among the three delegate areas of Illinois, so NIA only host it every three years. Because of this and the fact that NIA has a Spring Assembly Conference (SAC) every year the getting a host for ISC tends to get overlook. Also, the SAC

New Business Motions Continued:

occurs earlier in the calendar year than the ISC, the bids for host committee for the SAC occur earlier. So, we often struggle to find a host committee for the ISC.

One of the purposes of canceling the SAC and replacing it with an assembly in the years that NIA is the host of the ISC would be to ensure that a host district, districts, or individuals would be available.

Motion to cancel Spring Assembly Conference every three years continued:

An additional correction needs to be made to the Scheduled Assembly Action Items. At the Fall Assembly in 2021, the CAC brought the below motion:

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that if no group, or district completes the bidding process in accordance with the "Formal Preparation & Presentation of Conference Bid" guidelines in the current and approved Planning Procedures document, by the Winter Assembly, fifteen months prior to its scheduled event date, then the Spring Assembly Conference will be officially canceled by the Area Officers for the intended year.

This motion passed by substantial unanimity.

However, no documentation was added to the NIA 20 Service Manual at that time. This can cause potential confusion for the Area Chairperson, along with the Area at large. This proposed change will simply document the procedure for future clarification. This change needs to happen regardless of the outcome of this motion, and is only that portion which has been added to the Winter Assembly agenda item, along with reference to the bullet point in the Fall Assembly agenda item.

Questions & Discussion: A friendly amendment was made to change the wording under page 8 to say: In years in which NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference, the Spring Assembly ***MAY*** be a stand-alone event ***BASED ON VOTING AT AN ASSEMBLY.*** Another friendly amendment was made to the motion for page 19 & 20 under the December (Winter Assembly) second bullet point to read: Every third year, bids for the Illinois State Conference (that will be held approximately one and one-half years later) will be heard and voted on ***BEFORE ACCEPTING ANY SPRING CONFERENCE BIDS FOR THE SAME YEAR.***

Motion to Amend NIA Service Guidelines for Spanish translation

Motion

Panel 64 past Delegate moves to amend the Responsibilities for the Delegate, Area Alternate Chairperson, and the Secretary in the NIA Service Guidelines with the changes listed below. Suggested changes are in italics and underlined.

Delegate (additional bullet)
- *Coordinate the translation into Spanish of their written report(s) and presentation(s), from Committee Meetings and Assemblies, to be posted on the website, by third party vendor if necessary.*

Area Alternate Chairperson
- Assist in obtaining Spanish interpreter for Assemblies, *Committee Meetings*, and Pre-General Conference Service Workshop.

Secretary
- A digital, anonymity-protected version of minutes should be sent to the Area Webmaster to be posted on the website. *Coordinate the translation into Spanish of the minutes to be posted on the website, by third party vendor if necessary.*

Background

It is the intent of this motion to provide better communication with our Spanish speaking members.

Questions & Discussion: The first and Third bullet will be re-worded for clarity. Putting *by third party vendor if necessary,* behind *coordinate the translation.* (instead of at the end of the sentence).

These last two items were added to the agenda the day of the meeting:

-2024 NIA Calendar was presented and reviewed. Approval of the Calendar will take place at the Winter Assembly.

-FLOOR MOTION:

The 2024 Spring Conference Committee Chairs move to have the Area pay for translation equipment for the 2024 Spring Conference and Assembly. The expected cost is $3,400.

After a second to the motion, the background was given.

Background- We currently only have 20 headphones. It is not enough equipment for the Spring Conference or for all the GSRs to participate in the Assembly. We will need to translate from Spanish to English. It is for this event only. We need to have enough equipment for all our members.

Questions & Comments: The Chair asked that the motion be put in writing and submitted for the Winter Assembly to meet the timeframe.

DCM Reports

Dawn – Alt DCM D10 All officer positions are filled for the next rotation. Our DCM, Lorrie, will be attending the Forum next month and will be the speaker for a CPC event.
Steve C – DCM D70 We had our District meeting on October 5th. Elections were held. All positions were filled including most alternate positions.
Raul – DCM D20 We have been telling everyone about the Big Book Conference and Spring Conference. We are filling the positions and letting the groups know about open positions.
Dave – DCM D23 We are saving a lot of money from switching to Google Voice. This has allowed us to now have a prudent reserve for the first time. We have excess money to send. November we will have elections. We plan on having workshops in 2024.
Aaron - DCM D43 We expect to fill all positions when we have elections in 2 weeks.
Hugo – DCM D64 We are having a GSR workshop at Fox Falley Fellowship in Aurora followed by our Pork Chop Dinner and speaker on October 21st.
Dave – DCM D22 Elections are tomorrow. There is a push to change our meeting day to allow more people to be of service.
Terry DCM D40- We are hosting Test your Big Book Trivia today. Elections are next month. Our budget is good.
Dave DCM D42 – This is my second week as DCM. We have many open positions. We are doing well financially. We have a workshop coming up.
Tracy DCM D28 – Elections are in November. We are hosting the December Area Assembly.

Service and Administrative Committees

Answering Service – Dan M I have been working on a project - QR CODE on NIA AREA 20 WEB-SITE. Opens "How to Find AA in Northern Illinois". It's a List of City - Each City in NIA Area 20 - Drop Down List with numbers. It replaces Where in Illinois is AA. Corresponding - will receive - Updated Answering Service Telephone Numbers - for Each District by identifying a city. QR CODE - ON STICKERS - can be utilized by any committee to distribute on literature, flyers, Big Books, workshops, presentations. There is also incorrect information on the internet - it will be easy to utilize the QR Code to ensure correct information will be accessed to find AA by a city with the correct number. The objective of the QR Code is to offer easy to find AA information in NIA 20 and for the committees to have the opportunity to utilize "How to Find AA in Northern Illinois Area 20". I'd like to thank all those people for their service to keep this project moving forward. All committees will be made aware of this QR Code and updated document. Certainly, a sharing session will be appropriate to discuss the QR Code project and make any changes if necessary to continuously improve our primary purpose.

Service and Administrative Committee Reports Continued:

Archivist – Cheryl V. I have updated the Assembly Actions spreadsheet as of the Fall Assembly. This has been posted on the NIA website for all to access. I am working on trying to create sorting functions so that searching for information is easier. I have also worked toward standardizing verbiage in those motions which are reoccurring. We have a member from one of the districts who has offered to help scan various documents for Archives in a format which is searchable. To date he has done a portion of the Minutes from the 80's and 90's. I will be working with him to finish the Minutes and move on to Concepts next. As long as he is willing to continue, I will work through various documents we have in our archive's storage unit. I have spoken to our new Technology Committee chair about the hope of placing our digital archives in a controlled access cloud storage of our One Drive space. My hope is that in 2024 we can work together to start this.

Bridging the Gap – Jim T. Today during the Committee meeting I met with the following trusted servants to review progress of the **BTG 2.0 Plan: Dan** M. Ans. Svc; **George P.** CF; **Kevin A.** incoming TF chair; **Bryan,** Tech comm chair; **Jeff S,** BTG D-10 chair; **Rob** M. Area Chair & tech comm. Special thanks to Ans Svc. Dan for getting the new phone number list created to include the city names. All are excited at the prospects of success for this new plan and several new ideas were heard for the future evolution and expansion of this new recovery tool. (see attached BTG 2.0 in Broad Brushstrokes doc) At this time, I am waiting for the TECH Committee to give me the exact NIA website address needed to give to the printer for the creation of the **Master QR Code** that will lead people to the new Master Answering *Services* Phone list broken down by city. We still have some questions to answer about how we plan to get the new QR Code Stickers placed into the books we donate to TFs and CFs. Communications with the facilities, and the AA volunteers that take in meetings will be needed to find the solution. **BTG 2.0** will create a new MASTER QR code to unify the contact info for all **NIA Answering Services** into a central document. It is _**NOT**_ intended to be a *"meeting directory app",* that already exists.

This MASTER QR code will be access link to a dedicated page(s) on the **NIA** website for all **NIA Answering Service phone numbers.** This new listing will be searchable by City name, as well as by District number. Being housed on our own NIA website it will be cheaper and will be easily updated and customized in the future by new Trusted Servants. The MASTER QR code will be distributed as a self- adhesive sticker to be affixed to the inside front cover of BBKs, 12+ 12's, and Daily Reflections books that are given out by the various Area and local District CF and TF committees. These stickers will be paid for by the Area Answering Service Primary Purpose Register. Local District TF & CF volunteers will put that Master QR code sticker into every AA book they donate to a TF or CF. DCMs will provide them to their local AA Groups so that they can put stickers in their own home group's literature stash. We can put the same Master QR code on bookmarks, business cards and other future handouts as well. Under **BTG 2.0** the Answering Service Volunteers would again be at the forefront of helping the newcomers find their way into the doors of AA. If you were a former **BTG Temporary Contact** person, sign up for your local Answering Services and keep carrying the message. **Continuing Education opportunities for all AA's** (could be held at assemblies). This effort will be new opportunities to go on *"old fashioned 12th Step Calls"* and new opportunities for our AA Groups to hold *"First Step Meetings"* for the newcomers when they are brought in. Those new opportunities will give rise to the need for Workshops where **"How to go on a 12th Step Call"**, **"Working with** Wet **Drunks"** and, **"How to Conduct a First Step** Meeting" training will be available for existing AA members. This new **BTG 2.0 Plan** exemplifies the common purpose and **UNITY** of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Conference Advisory – Dawn B. We are moving along with the motion and all the Conferences and are working on getting people to step up for the future Conferences.

CPC – Jan S. No updates since the last report in September. As I'd mentioned I as the chair will be sending out opportunities that come our way to ALL Districts, no matter where the location of the appointment is. Also mentioned was that I will be sending monthly ideas to the districts to develop some activity in their area. Volunteers will be needed to perform these tasks to them in reaching out to their local Professionals. I welcome an opportunity to visit the District Meetings and hope all reach out. I am also happy to assist any volunteers at any time. Since the last report, I've attended the Area Assembly and was reelected as the 2024-2026 CPC Chair. I will be attending the East Central Regional Forum in

Service and Administrative Committee Reports Continued:

November. YTD Expenses $536.03. Expense projection thru Dec. 31st will be $400.00 for ECC and possibly 200.00 for pamphlets. Many have been on backorder.

Corrections – George P. Jr. Just to follow up on what has been said about the QR Code and leveraging technology, we want it to continue expanding it not only for answering service but for the meeting list. We are still working on the database for all the facilities in the State, which is over 60,000 beds. That's a lot of alcoholics.

Electronic Equipment – Joey B. will not be at the Big Book Conference, so we need someone to help with the equipment set-up and take down.

Finance Committee – Allen J. We met via zoom to discuss the 2024 PPR. Translation was mentioned in the meeting, so we increased the amount to 16%. Anyone can join us in these meetings.

Public Information – Lisa S. I am reaching out to all the districts who have PI Chairs and asking if they would be willing to stand for PI Chair at the Area level.

Report & Charter – Chris E. We met, we finished our work, we brought it to the committee. We got feedback so we will work on the motions again!

Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V. I have updated the English and Spanish versions of the NIA 20 Service Manual as of approved motions at the Fall Assembly. The web version of both of these are available. The files for the printed versions are ready to send for printing. I have suggested to our current Area Chair and incoming Chair that we update two items in the printed version. One update is that we change the e-mail for the incoming Panel 74 Delegate rather than print with the "lame duck" Delegate. In addition, I would like to remove the "How to Find AA in Illinois" at this time. This portion of our printed manuals is outdated Answering Service pamphlet. Multiple phone numbers are out of date. It also includes SIA Answering Service phone numbers, which I do not know if they are current or not. I would like to suggest that we develop a map of the various Districts, without phone numbers. This would allow people to better understand the physical locations of our various Districts. Should the incoming Answering Service Chair create a new map with updated phone numbers, it can be placed back in the manual.

Cheryl asked for permission to update the map. There were no objections.

Technology Committee – Bryan D. We have a lot going on right now. We are meeting regularly and setting priorities for the end of the year. One is to get the email working again before the upcoming rotation. We will be looking at upgrading equipment to accommodate the Hybrid part of the meetings and how we can improve technology overall. We meet on the second Thursday at 7:30pm. Anyone can participate.

After open mic, a motion to adjourn was made by Chris and second by Hugo. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA 20 Alternate Secretary

Next Meeting is December 9th at Lord of Life Church.