

Northern Illinois Area 20 2020 Winter Assembly Minutes



December 12, 2020
Online Audio/Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Area Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2020. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela welcomed attendees.

Carmela made the day's announcements, including the recent resignation of the Area Alternate Treasurer, Steve L.

Registered Attendees

Area Officers and Alternates	9
Area Committee Chairs and Alternates	13
District Committee Members (DCMs) and Alternates	25
Members (General Service Representatives [GSRs])	46
District Committee Chairs and Alternates	23
<u>Past Delegates</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Attendees	120

New Attendees

Ana Z. – Grapevine, D23	Lisa G. – D11
Christine K. – future GSR, D23	Lucretia D. – CPC Co-Chair, D11
Christopher M. – Alt GSR	Melissa D. – GSR, D28
Debbra G.	Mike M. – Alt GSR, D11
Georgene R. – Alt GSR, D11	Nicole C. – Alt GSR, D40
Jane H. – GSR, D11	Patty F. – Alt GSR, D40
Jennifer H. – Alt Secretary, D51	Ross F. – GSR
Jill C. – GSR, D40	Bob – GSR, D40
Jim R. – D11	

Anniversaries

George C. – 12/11, 40 years	Sue C. – 11/6, 31 years
Amy L. – 11/15, 18 years	Nanette – 10/7, 20 years
Mary R. – 11/11, 9 years	Patty F. – 11/16, 1 year
Keith B – 11/3, 28 years	Christine K. – 10/13, 2 years
Kevin A. – 9/28, 20 years	Scott T. – 9/20, 7 years
Pat M. – 10/14, 38 years	Gordon R. – 11/17, 8 years
Cheryl V. – 11/27, 34 years	Alan U. 11/15, 8 years
Susan H. – 11/16, 9 years	Erik L. – 12/12, 33 years

Celebrating 306 years of sobriety!

Approval of 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes

Chris E., D21 DCM asked to have two corrections made to the minutes: 1) on page 6 under “2021 Big Book Conference Host Bids” heading, complete the summary of the discussion and action taken; 2) on page 13, make the

speaker anonymous in Chris E.'s announcement under the "Open Mic" heading. The Area secretary will make the changes.

Cheryl V. made the motion to approve the 2020 Summer Assembly minutes and Clare B. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended unanimously.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Greetings Area 20,

Welcome to the Winter Assembly and I hope that all of you are doing well and staying healthy.

Some news from GSO:

There is a holiday issue of Box 459 on the aa.org website.

Living Sober is now an audio book.

Two Literature Holiday Special Offers:

- December 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021, spend a minimum total \$100 or more and receive a 15% overall discount.
- For each copy of Our Great Responsibility (B-70) ordered, you will receive a Free copy of Alcoholics Anonymous Facsimile First Printing of the First Edition (B-0)

GSO is delighted to announce the limited-edition publication of a new book:

"A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous: An Archival Journey"

Available for pre-order at a special early bird discount of \$1 off the list price of \$12: December 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021.

On sale: February 14, 2021 – "A Valentine's Day Gift to the Fellowship"

Originally developed as the souvenir book for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, this colorful, gift-sized volume serves as both a lavishly illustrated tour through A.A.'s history and a lively celebration of our Fellowship.

Two ZOOM Forums: Register on the aa.org website

Eastern U.S. and Canada Regional Forums – December 5, 2020 – I did attend this event and I enjoyed it.

Western U.S. and Canada Regional Forums – December 19, 2020 – I have registered for this on the AA website.

These one-day sharing and informational sessions will feature workshops, special presentations and much more, with the participation of your trusted servants in the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Pacific, East Central, West Central, and Eastern and Western Canada Regions.

On September 9, 2020 the AAWS launched a newly redesigned online contributions portal that is available to all groups and members.

Also, on September 9, 2020 AAWS has a new webstore for business-to-business (intergroups and central offices) and all other customers.

From a letter from the General Manager, Greg T. on October 7, 2020: there was a \$1.5 million drawdown from the Reserve Fund by A.A. World Services Inc. to cover cash flow requirements in the 4th quarter of 2020.

From a letter to General Service Conference dated October 7, 2020:

Note: This will put the Reserve Fund balance at approximately \$13.1 million, which reflects a level of approximately 7.8 months of office operating expenses. (The Reserve Fund calculation is based on recent actual operating expenses.)

Evaluating the finances and cash flow, even with the continued increase in Seventh Tradition contributions, we still expect a decrease in income from last year of more than \$2 million, which creates this immediate cash flow pressure.

Previously, in May, A.A.W.S. drew down \$3 million to address the sudden emergency situation related to the severe drop in revenue we saw in March and April. Also, over the summer we refunded nearly \$4 million for 2020 International Convention registrations.

Note: We received \$972,000 as an advance against our International Convention insurance claim to recover lost income, and we expect the balance of the claim to be paid out very soon.

Since May—through September—the groups have responded with breathtaking generosity in their Seventh Tradition contributions, which have ensured continuation of services to the Fellowship. For six months (March through August), our publishing revenue was well below budgeted levels, but September saw a positive uptick in literature sales. Not a trend yet, but very encouraging. We have cut expenses in as many key areas as possible, without affecting quality of literature production or delivery of services.

Since receiving this 10/7/2020 letter I have received an update from the General Service Board Weekend – October 30 to November 2, 2020 reporting the following: “The second authorization of drawdown from the Reserve Fund was for \$1.5 million, but AAWS has so far only seen a need to withdraw \$1 million with the option to draw the other half million if needed.”

This might be something to put in the “ask it basket” at the Western U.S./Canadian Forum on December 19, 2020.

Finance

- Individual/group contributions revenue as of 9/30 is \$7,169,609. With 75% of the year elapsed, we have raised 73% of the expected amount. Since contributions tend to peak in October and December, we appear to be on track to meet or exceed the reforecast.
- Gross literature sales revenue as of 9/30 is \$7,156,475. With 75% of the year elapsed, we have generated 73% of the expected amount. Since literature sales tend to peak in December, we appear to be on track to meet or exceed the reforecast.
- The revenue split between gross profit on publications and contributions is about 38% publications/62% contributions this year whereas in 2018 it was 58% publications/42% contributions.
- Total expenses as of 9/30 are \$11,882,137. With 75% of the year elapsed, we have spent 71% of the expected amount so there is a slightly favorable variance in expenses pending reclassification of prepaid items.
- As of 9/30, we are running a surplus of \$795,000. However, this is not a reliable number because the continuing reclassification of prepaid items and undeposited funds affects the bottom line. Reclassifying prepaid items lowers the surplus and reclassifying undeposited funds increases it. The reforecast anticipates a deficit of \$337,000 for 2020.
- The Reforecast 2.2 Budget to Actual contains a Notes column explaining the most significant variances on a line-by-line basis.

Some excerpts from A.A.W.S. Highlights - October 30, 2020:

A recommendation will be forthcoming from the general manager that the General Service Board embark on a General Service Office relocation study to be initiated in 2021. Based on past practice of engaging in such a study every 10 years or so, and relative to the expiration of GSO's current lease agreement, the study will help to determine the best location for the General Service Office from both a financial and a spiritual perspective. Greg T. mentioned this at the US/CAN Forum on December 5th.

Corrections – The summer and fall 2020 issues of Sharing From Behind the Walls are available on aa.org. As many committees are not going into facilities during the pandemic, committee members have developed lists of inmates and have been writing to those inmates in their local area.

International – The assignment is involved in preparations for the 26th World Service Meeting, to be held virtually November 28-30, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted in Loving Service,
Marilyn F., Delegate P70 / NIA 20

Discussion:

Peggy G. asked how she could order the literature items Marilyn discussed. Marilyn directed her to go to www.aa.org and click on “What’s New” or “Literature”.

Cheryl V. asked if the opening for a new GSO Manager was discussed at the forum. Marilyn said that it was, and they have been interviewing. One woman candidate talked to the group, and Marilyn thought she was wonderful.

Treasurer’s Report – Dawn B.

Dawn gave the Treasurer’s report. For the period January 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020, Northern Illinois Area, Ltd. had a checking account balance of \$19,871.74 and a savings account (prudent reserve) balance of \$23,514.00. The net operating income for January 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020, is \$10,617.80, which is the amount our income exceeded our expenses for the period. Contributions for January 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020 are \$41,959.76.

PayPal for Area donations is up and running on the NIA 20 website. Dawn asked the person making the donation to add either the group number, or group name, location, meeting date and time when making a donation through PayPal, so the payment can be credited to the group.

The Treasurer’s narrative report is posted on the NIA 20 website and is attached to these minutes.

Discussion:

Dave F. asked Dawn to correct the wording in the “Profit and Loss” section of the report from “expenses exceed income”, to “income exceeds expenses” since we have more income than expenses for the 11-month period. Dawn will make the correction.

Keith B. asked if the Treasurer’s Report is posted on the website. It is, and Chair Carmela put the link in the Zoom Chat.

Alternate Treasurer’s Report – Allen J., Interim Alt Treasurer

Allen is still playing catch-up on the first nine months of 2020. He asked that donations be sent to the current Area Treasurer’s post office box address in **Streamwood**. Many donations are still being sent to the 2019 Crystal Lake post office box address. He also asked that people making donations make an effort to get the group number from the past group treasurer and include it with the donation. This number makes it much easier to credit the donation to the correct group. He is still working on thank-you letters.

The NIA Contributions Statement for the period January 1, 2020 through November 24, 2020 is attached to these minutes and posted on the NIA website.

Discussion:

Chris E. asked Allen if he wanted the group service number or the newly assigned Net Suite number. Allen said to use the group service number.

Amy asked for the Streamwood address. Allen will get it to her.

Approval of 2020 Fall Assembly Treasurer's Report

Cheryl V. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended, and Kevin A. seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved by a simple majority vote.

Finance Committee Report – Karen F., Chairperson

Karen summarized the discussion of the proposed 2021 Primary Purpose Register (PPR) at the Finance Committee meeting held in November.

- Expense for Activity Number B01 for General Service Conference preparation was raised to \$150 for Delegate Marilyn's expenses.
- The lower costs for 2021 for Activity Number B07 for The Concepts newsletter were confirmed. The lower costs will result from sending it digitally, with a limited number of paper copies sent as requested.
- The potential for ongoing expenses under the Primary Purpose Motion 074 for A.A. literature for patients in treatment was discussed in preparation for this Assembly.
- The PPR table of groups of elected or appointed persons authorized to expend money from the PPR was corrected to add the Treatment Committee Chair and Alternate Chair to the list.

Ad Hoc Committee on Returning to Meetings Report – Erik L., Area Alternate Chair

Erik reported that the ad hoc committee composed of members of the Conference Advisory Committee (CAC), Technology Committee and Electronic Equipment Committee met in November and early December to create a list of recommendations for being prepared to go forward in the virtual age and going back to in-person meetings. They had six recommendations for the Area:

- If an Area meeting on a certain date is held virtually because Illinois is in a period of restrictions for meeting in person, any Area meeting held within the following three months will be held virtually,
- In the future, when Area meetings are in-person meetings, even if there are no restrictions, each meeting will have a virtual component available for those who cannot attend in person.
- All Area Committee Meetings will be held virtually in the future, whether restrictions are in place or not.
- When picking a facility for in-person meetings going forward, the capability to host a virtual meeting component will be a requirement.
- The Area service committees will be encouraged to take advantage of the virtual capabilities to hold committee meetings online instead of meeting at the assembly. This may result in changing the breakout session part of the Assemblies.
- The Accessibilities Committee will handle or be involved with the activity of providing Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) translations at Area meetings in the future.

Recommendations regarding safety at meetings and other items that may come up at the ad hoc committee meetings will be forthcoming.

Discussion:

Carol H. asked if the three-month outlook include the Winter Committee Meeting and the Spring Assembly. Erik replied they will because they both occur within three months of this Winter Assembly. Chair Carmela added that Winter Committee Meeting has already been confirmed as virtual.

Cheryl V. said it would be good to take care of the current next three months today. Chair Carmela replied that we can do that today when we review and discuss the proposed 2021 Area Calendar.

Officers' Reports

Alternate Delegate – Chris D.

First off, thanks to all for attending our Winter Assembly.

I'd like to start out by thanking the Area Big Book Conference Committee for giving me the opportunity to share on a panel at the last Big Book Conference. In what is becoming a "little T" tradition, I was once again given the opportunity to share along with Andres D. (Area 87 –Montreal, Canada) Big Book coordinator, and his sponsor on a panel. It was personally fulfilling to see such a high attendance rate from International members and was quite the task to try and follow along all the "after meeting comments", many of which were in French. What a wonderful experience!

We held our first (virtual) DCM meeting last month. This is a meeting held in-between Assemblies where the DCM's have a chance to discuss upcoming Area business (and whatever other topics may arise) in an effort to help everyone involved stay updated on Area business matters so they can better inform their districts.

I've also had the opportunity to take part in monthly meetings composed of all the Area Alternate Delegates. This is new "committee" (with no official business being transacted) put together by the Alternate Delegate from Southern New York (SUNY). It's been an excellent opportunity for us "Alternates" to meet one another and stay connected on issues that are common to our Areas.

Lastly, I've also volunteered to take part in the ad-hoc committee now forming to establish a document management platform and processes to share, store and archive area files. I look forward to helping in any way I can.

Also, be sure to attend the January Winter Committee meeting on January 9th, 2021 where we will be holding our annual Service Orientation Workshop.

2020 Reimbursement Requests:

I have no reimbursement requests since my last report.

Respectfully submitted – Chris D. – P70/A20 – Alternate Delegate
(nia20altdel@gmail.com)

Chair – Carmela R.

Wow – 2021 is almost here. What a year!

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – started in July, carries on monthly.
- Finalizing Illinois State Conference Policy documentation.
- Preparing our 2021 Calendar and considering when we might be face to face again.
- Appointed two ad hoc committees to serve us:

- Ad hoc committee #1 – The future of area business meetings: in times of restriction, the future of virtual, plans for back to in-person, planning procedures updates and guideline recommendations. Erik L. is lead.
- Ad hoc committee #2 – Assess and recommend an area wide document management solution (file, share, store). Christy B is lead.

What's coming up:

- Officer meeting and Winter Assembly prep – next Officer's meeting is 1/6/21.
- Focus on key areas:
 - Technology committee - Zoom support, file sharing, building committee
 - Open Area roles
 - 2021 and 2022 conference planning support
 - Active committees – using our Zoom account(s) to meet + build area calendar
 - Support increased engagement and participation
 - Survey our Assembly to gather feedback about our meetings
 - Talk about it with you
 - Send me your feedback and ideas

Expenses to date: \$631.70.

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 Conference for Delegates Past and Present (CDPP) \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Carmela R.
Area Chair, chairperson@aa-nia.org

Discussion:

Rich H. asked Carmela to use the procedure in the Service Manual for the preliminary agenda to come out two weeks after the previous committee meeting or assembly, and the final agenda to come out one week before the upcoming meeting or assembly, so that the items to be discussed go to the Area Committee in a timely manner. He said the GSB Chair rotation is every four years, the same rotation schedule as our East Central Regional Trustee. He said the announcement of the new GSO manager will come out soon after the January GSB meeting.

Carmela appreciates Rich's concern about getting agenda information out to the Area Committee within the guidelines. She will continue to work on communicating within the recommended timelines.

Alternate Chair – Erik L.

Hello Area 20:

This year has zoomed right along!

Since our last Assembly Sept. 19:

Attended the BBC Planning Committee Meetings and attending the Big Book Conference in October. As our first conference to be held virtually, I want to give a particular shout out to the Host Committee as well Technology Committee for their help and leadership in making the conference a success.

Worked with the Conference Advisory Committee and Technology Committee to form an Ad Hoc committee to assess the logistics and specific needs of how we can conduct our Area business meetings during periods when in-person meetings are restricted. We have had 2 meetings, one in November and one in December to discuss what we have learned from our adaptation to Zoom meetings as well as what in-person meetings might look like going forward.

The ad hoc Committee will make a few recommendations at the Winter Assembly and will review any impact the recommendations might have on our Area Planning guidelines and any impact on roles and responsibilities of the people involved with our current planning procedures.

Communicated with other Areas, particularly Area 36, on how they virtually handled 3rd legacy voting procedures for their 2020 elections, something we fortunately didn't have to fully embrace this year. Shared this info with our Area Chair for consideration on how we can handle in Area 20.

Best regards and see you Saturday!
Erik Long
Alt. Area Chair

Registrar – Carol H.

Carol presented the following two paragraphs of her report about current state of her Registrar's work in connection with GSO.

The new group forms and group change forms continue to come in from the district secretaries and registrars. As your area registrar, I continue to send them to the records department at the General Service Office (GSO). Although their response time has greatly improved, it is a very cumbersome process. Well, that will be changing soon with the announcement that the "Fellowship Connection" which is the new name for the "My Portal" database that stores all the group records at GSO, will become available for use by the area registrars on December 24th! This will streamline the process and provide immediate access to all the group, district and area contact information which we have only been able to obtain from spreadsheets that GSO has provided in the last couple months.

Another challenge that will continue to unfold is the question about registering online groups at the GSO. In the past there were a couple options. If you had an online or virtual group that had no geographical location, you were asked to register either as an online group or with the A.A. Online intergroup.

At this point, Carol V. raised a point of order issue: that Carol should not present the floor motion from the Registrar on today's agenda in new business as part of her Registrar's report. Chair Carmela agreed and asked Carol to present the remaining content of her report as part of the motion presentation. This will save time by avoiding duplication of the presentation.

The entire Registrar's Report that was to have been read is attached to these minutes.

Alternate Registrar – Rob M.

Rob reported that he has been working with the Big Book Conference committee, the Technical committee, and has gotten a copy of each district report listing all meetings to each DCM. This had taken a lot of time to do manually.

Secretary – Christy B.

Christy reported she is working on catching up on getting minutes written and sent out. She is aware of the that the guideline in the Service Manual for the completion of minutes is two weeks from the date of the meeting. She is looking forward to chairing the ad hoc committee on file sharing and saving for both the Area in general and also for the Area Archives.

Alternate Secretary – Karen F.

Karen is working with Chris D. and Christy on the District Meeting List. She asked the DCMs and GSRs to send in any changes to information about their district meetings to her for updating the list.

Old Business

2020 Big Book Conference Report – D10 & D12 (October 24, 2020)

Conference Chair's Report – Kevin A.

Hey all , I hope you are well and enjoying the weather “mmmmmm”.

We had a reasonably consistent number of 101 attendees throughout the day.

- We had \$2,500.00 seed money
- There was a money order deposit from D79 of \$180.00.
- For a total of \$2,680.00
- Less two USPS kiosk charges totaling \$3.60 (Not done by our treasurer.)
- We paid out \$200.00 for the ASL signer Megan.
- We upgraded our Zoom to accommodate more attendees per breakout. That cost was put on the area Zoom account @ \$284.95
- For a total of \$484.95 cost
- Donations through PayPal were \$380.86
- We will be returning \$2,572.27

Whew!

We hope those who attended our first ever virtual conference had fun.

We are working with CAC to see how we can do this better; stay tuned for that report.

Finally, I would like to thank our crew. We had to pivot and reorganize, repurpose our positions from the guidelines. It was er, um, different and new. . . . Everybody did as best they could.

In service,

Kevin P Ashley, 2020 BBC Chair and D10 DCM (outgoing)

Breakout sessions were held from 11:00 to 11:30 followed by lunch from 11:30 to 12:00 noon.

Preparation for Business to be Conducted

Chair Carmela R. reviewed the Area election process, including the Third Legacy process for electing officers because the Alternate Area Treasurer position is open, and who the voting members are. Elections for service committee positions will be decided by simple majority vote.

Registrar Carol H. and Alternate Registrar Rob M. submitted a floor motion for the assembly to consider. The procedure for bringing a floor motion includes the sponsors presenting it to the assembly. After the presentation, any voting member of the assembly can bring a motion to decline to consider the floor motion, which must then be seconded. No discussion is allowed prior to voting on the motion to decline to consider. The motion to decline to consider is voted on. Two-thirds of those voting must vote in favor of declining to consider the motion for the motion to pass. If the motion to decline to consider passes, the floor motion is taken off the table and no further action is taken on it.

Carol H., Area Registrar, read the floor motion.

Floor Motion – Approve Delegate Letter Asking for 2021 Addition to Agenda for Approval of Groups Meeting Online to Register with GSO

The Area 20 Registrar and Alternate Registrar motion to request that the Area Delegate forward a letter to the Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office prior to the December 15, 2020 deadline, with a request to allow Online Groups to register under their respective district and area instead of the Online Intergroup “<https://aa-intergroup.org/>”.

Cheryl V. made a motion to decline to consider the floor motion and Chris D. seconded it.

Vote on Motion to Decline to Consider Floor Motion Brought by Area Registrar

In favor of declining to consider the floor motion = 33.9%

Opposed to declining to the floor motion = 66.1%

The motion to decline to consider the floor motion did not pass with a two-thirds majority; therefore, the floor motion will be discussed and voted on in the new business portion of today’s meeting.

Old Business

Open Positions Elections

Officers

Area Treasurer – Alternate

Dawn B. nominated Allen J for the position and he accepted the nomination. No one else was nominated for or stood for the position. Allen gave his qualifications including serving as GSR, alternate DCM and DCM in District 23, Area Grapevine chair, district treasurer, and the third alternate Area treasurer during an earlier rotation. He is treasurer of his A.A. wanderers’ group, and has been interim alternate Area treasurer since September 2020.

Vote for Area Treasurer – Alternate

Votes in favor of Allen J. = 59 (98%)

Votes opposed to Allen J. = 1 (2%)

Total votes = 60

Allen J. was elected to be Area Treasurer – Alternate.

Service Committee Positions

Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood or was nominated for the position.

Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood or was nominated for the position.

BTG Committee Area Chair

Kevin A. stood for the position. No one else stood for or was nominated for the position. Kevin give his qualifications including alternate DCM and DCM in District 10, district Grapevine chair, and district Literature alternate chair and chair. He has served on many committees for district events and as the 2020 Big Book Conference committee chair. He has a sponsee who is alternate BTG chair in his district.

Vote for BTG Committee Area Chair

Votes in favor of Kevin A. = 55

This was a majority of those voting and Kevin A. was elected to be BTG Committee Area Chair.

BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood or was nominated for the position.

CPC Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood or was nominated for the position

Chair Carmela suggested that perhaps someone in a district that is rotating out their officers and committee chairs as of January 1, 2021, would consider standing for this position, or one of the other vacant committee positions. The duties and responsibilities of these positions are given in the Area Service Manual.

Grapevine Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood or was nominated for the position.

Elections for these open service committee positions will be included on the Spring Assembly agenda.

Bids on 2021 and 2022 Conferences

2021 Big Book Conference Host Bids

Kate D., DCM D11, has sent an email to Chair Carmela indicating that District 11 is bidding to host the 2021 Big Book Conference but has not yet prepared a formal bid. They have 11 volunteers already and the hosting has been approved at the district level. Chris E., DCM D21, will ask his district this week if they will co-host the conference.

Discussion:

Allen J. asked if District 11 has done any planning, like getting a venue. Kate D. replied that they weren't sure if they needed a go-ahead from the Area before they started planning. They are also unsure if the conference will be in-person, virtual, or hybrid.

Chair Carmela asked if the Assembly was willing to vote to accept District 11 as host, despite them not having a formal bid yet. Kevin A. said it was hard to write up a detailed bid under the current pandemic circumstances and we should make a motion to give them the bid. Cheryl V. said if they are willing and have it approved already at the district level; we should give it to them.

Sue was on the committee when D11 hosted this conference previously at the Huntley Park District and said that they might be able to use this venue again. She is aware, however, from her employment in the industry, that no venues are signing contracts right now.

Chair Carmela decided we should vote today on accepting District 11 as host and let Chris E. find out if District 21 wants to co-host.

Vote on District 11 Hosting the 2021 Big Book Conference

District 11 as host for the 2021 Big Book Conference was approved electronically by a simple majority of those voting.

Chair Carmela told Kate D., D11 DCM, that the CAC is ready to help by sharing their experience, strength and hope with the district during the planning.

2022 Spring Assembly Conference

Chair Carmela indicated that no district has expressed interest in hosting the 2022 Spring Assembly Conference yet. She encouraged folks to discuss this at their districts and contact the CAC if they are interested.

2022 State Conference

NIA 20 is scheduled to host the State Conference in 2022. This is a rotation, and NIA 20 must host in 2022. Chair Carmela asked the districts to start thinking about hosting. We have former State Conference Committee chairpersons ready to help the host district with the planning, as well as Marilyn and herself, who have been serving on the State Conference Planning Committee.

New Business

Approval of the 2021 Primary Purpose Register (PPR)

Area Treasurer Dawn B. presented the main expense changes in the 2021 PPR from 2020, and the reason for them. The motion to accept the 2021 PPR came from the Finance Committee and therefore does not require a second.

- The Finance Committee assumed that normal in-person Area activities would not begin until July 2021, and would continue through December 2021. The expected expenses for Area activities that occur regularly throughout the year were reduced by 50% for 2021 to account for only six months of activity.
- Activity B02 was changed to \$2,121.14 to reflect the actual amount of the cost for NIA 20 Delegate Marilyn F. to attend the 2020 General Service Conference. Marilyn got this exact expense amount from the East Central Regional Trustee, Mark E.
- Activity B07 for The Concepts newsletter was reduced to \$2,500 for 2021 because it will be distributed electronically with some mailed copies instead of all mailed paper copies as in previous years, as was approved by majority vote on the motion to change to electronic distribution at the 2020 Fall Assembly.
- No expenses were allocated to Activities B12 and B14 for the Spring Assembly Conference because there will not be one in 2021.
- Activity B13 that supplies seed money for the Big Book Conference was increased to \$3,000 from \$2,500 in 2020 to account for inflation. It is assumed that this Fall conference will be held in person.
- Expenses for committee chairs/alternate chairs or other authorized Area members to attend the national BTG Conference (B18), Technology Conference (B20) and Corrections Conference (B21) were retained with small adjustments for inflation. These conferences that occur later in 2021 are expected to have in-person attendance.
- Expenses for Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) 074 for A.A. literature for people in treatment was retained at \$4,000 with the expectation the current Treatment Chair Lisa S. will present a motion for this expenditure, and it will be approved by the Assembly.

Discussion:

Kelly L. asked if the cost for the 2021 GSC will be greater than the 2020 cost because it will be longer than the shortened 2021 conference. Marilyn replied that Greg T., GSO Manager, had indicated that the 2020 GSC costs incurred by the GSO were unique to 2020 because they included hotel costs for cancelled registrations, non-refundable delegate air fares, and other non-refundable expenses for the cancelled in-person conference. The cost for the 2021 GSC to be held on Zoom should be less.

Rob M. asked if it was Activity B02 where Marilyn's GSC preparation expenses were added. Dawn replied that they were added to Activity B01.

Chair Carmela said this motion would only require a simple majority to pass. Cheryl V. said as a point of order that the approval of the PPR for 2021 expenditures by the Area as a major financial item required a substantial unanimity to pass, e.g., a two-thirds majority. Allen J. and Rich H. agreed with Cheryl.

Vote on the 2021 Primary Purpose Register as amended to change Activity B02 to \$2,121.14 per Delegate Marilyn F.

In favor of approving the 2021 PPR = 60 (98%)
Opposed to approving the 2021 PPR = 1 (2%)
Total votes = 61

The 2021 Primary Purpose Register was approved by a substantial majority (98%) of those voting.

Chair Carmela asked if there was a minority opinion from the person voting against the approval. There was not. The motion stands as approved.

Approval of the 2021 NIA 20 Events Calendar

Chair Carmela presented the 2021 Events Calendar. She asked if there was any discussion of or changes to the calendar.

Discussion:

Amy L. asked to have the typographical error in dates for the Illinois State Conference corrected. It should be August 27 through August 29 2021, instead of August 27 through August 20, 2021. Carmela fixed the error and said that the State Conference will be a virtual conference, so it may not be held on all three days.

Mary R. asked to have the question mark (?) removed after the entry for the Big Book Conference because we now have a host district. Carmela removed it.

Chris M. made a motion to accept the 2021 NIA 20 Events Calendar and Chris E. seconded it.

Vote to Accept the 2021 NIA 20 Events Calendar

In favor of accepting the 2021 Events Calendar = 64 (100%)
Opposed to accepting the 2021 Events Calendar = 0 (0%)
Total votes = 64

The 2021 NIA 20 Events Calendar as edited in real-time by Chair Carmela was accepted unanimously.

Assembly Motions

Motion to Amend the Duties of the Secretary and Archivist

It is moved by the NIA Archivist to amend the Duties of the Secretary and Archivist by moving the bullet point shown below from the Duties & Responsibilities of the Secretary to that of the Archivist.

Bulleted point:

- Maintain the database of N.I.A. Voted Actions, including both approved and failed Motions.
Prepare an anonymity protected version for posting on the N.I.A. website.

Background material:

The current list of responsibilities for Secretary is lengthy, and this item was missed in the past. The work was picked up in past years by various Area Chairs, and more recently has been kept up by the Archivist. Since this effort aligns with keeping the historic data of the Area, it would seem to best lie within the effort of the Archivist role.

Discussion:

Rob M. asked who will compile the data for transfer to the database? Will that still be the secretary? Cheryl said that the data will be captured in the minutes prepared by the secretary, and Cheryl will take it from the minutes for the Area Actions database.

Robert S. is in favor of the transfer of responsibilities. The Archivist is the most appropriate person to keep a record of past activities.

There being no more discussion, Chair Carmela called for a vote to approve the motion. Approval requires a two-thirds majority because it is a change to the Area guidelines in the Service Manual.

Vote to Approve the Motion to Amend the Duties of the Secretary and Archivist

In favor of the motion = 58 (98%)

Opposed to the motion = 1 (2%)

Total votes = 59

The motion was approved by a substantial majority.

Chair Carmela asked if the person opposed to the motion wished to state a minority opinion. That person did not.

The motion stands as approved.

Floor Motion – Approve NIA 20 Delegate Letter to Add 2021 GSC Agenda Item for Registering Online Groups with GSO

The Area 20 Registrar and Alternate Registrar motion to request that the Area Delegate forward a letter to the Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office prior to the December 15, 2020 deadline, with a request to allow Online Groups to register under their respective district and area instead of the Online Intergroup “<https://aa-intergroup.org/>”.

Area Registrar Carol H. read the motion and presented the background material. The motion came about because a new group in District 28 that was meeting online using Zoom wanted to register with the Area and GSO using the Zoom information instead of a geographical address for the meeting place because it is online. While there is nothing wrong with registering with the Online Intergroup, meetings registered this way aren’t part of the U.S./Canada service structure. Carol and Alternate Registrar Rob M. stated the reason for bringing this motion in the background material: “As many groups were forced to go virtual, new online groups were formed. We feel that each group should have the option of continuing to be a part of the service structure in the district and area that they reside.”

The full written background material is posted on the NIA website and attached to these minutes.

Carol made the motion and Kelly L. seconded it.

Questions:

Christy B. asked Carol if she would insert into the phrase “with a request to allow Online Groups to register” the words “an agenda item” after “with a request” to make it clear the request is for a 2021 GSC agenda item addition. The phrase would then read “with a request “for an agenda item to allow Online Groups to register”. Carol said she would make that addition.

Robert S. asked if Carol had reached out to other areas to see if they were supporting this. Carol replied that she is not sure about other areas, but she is sending the same request for this agenda item as part of another group. She knows there are other similar motions about virtual meetings going to the GSC coordinator in New York.

Kevin A. asked about what happens when some of the virtual groups fold following the pandemic. Carol H. replied that this is motion is not about allowing all virtual meetings to be registered with GSO instead of Online Intergroup, but instead to allow groups to register with their districts, Area and GSO if they want to be registered this way.

Rob M. said that at GSO groups are required to have a physical address, so groups without one can only register through the Online Intergroup. We are asking to have the Board consider changing the rule at GSO.

Allen J. asked if meetings are online only, will members be willing to attend in-person district and area meetings, or will they only attend online, requiring all meetings that individuals from that group may be involved in to have an online component. Chair Carmela said that was an intriguing question, but it is beyond the scope of what we are voting on. Carol said this question may not apply because each group is autonomous, so they are not required to attend anything if they don't want to. Rob added that this motion is only about bridging a gap in the registration process, so that local virtual meetings can register with GSO to be part of the service structure.

Chris D. asked if this was already on the preliminary agenda for 2021. If it is, are we saying we support the agenda item, or are we asking to have an agenda item added. Carol H. replied that she hasn't seen it on the preliminary agenda and added that every area has the option to present a request for an agenda item, and the same or similar motions can be presented by more than one area. Chair Carmela asked Delegate Marilyn if she knew if it was already on the agenda. Marilyn did not know at this time.

Sue said that her group has two meetings in her district, one online and one hybrid. They voted to stay online permanently after the pandemic. She asked if Carol was saying she can't register her two groups with GSO. Carol replied that if the groups had previously registered as in-person meetings, they will continue to be registered at GSO. This motion only pertains to new virtual meetings being formed currently. Even if these are local meetings with members from one district, they cannot be registered with GSO currently, because they don't have a physical location for their meeting. They can only register with the Online Intergroup in New York.

Robert S. brought up the potential difference between a virtual meeting held via Zoom, etc. where the attendees were all from a geographical area and an online meeting that is open to anyone anywhere in the world where there is internet service, which is the type generally listed in the Online Intergroup. Is the request addressing the former or latter? Carol replied that this is about virtual meetings being held by members who are all from a geographical area. She is willing to change the wording to "virtual or online".

Discussion:

Cheryl V. said that this request should be postponed to 2022 because the 2021 GSC already had a full agenda with items held over from the shortened 2020 GSC. By 2022, Covid should be behind us, and A.A. may have a clearer picture of the need for making a provision for geographically homogenous virtual meetings to become part of the service structure.

Rich H. said that we need to send the letter to let the GSB/GSO know this is an issue that needs to be discussed at the 2021 GSC without regard to the fullness of the schedule.

Robert S. was opposed to the motion because it is uncommon for any two people attending an online meeting to be in the same geographical location. Meetings with attendees from around the world shouldn't be included in the U.S./Canada service structure. He brought up the difference between "online" and "virtual". Carol said she was willing to change the wording to

Some members are in favor of the motion because they already know that some meetings in their districts are already planning to continue to meet online permanently, even after the pandemic ends, or the new group being formed will go back to in-person when the pandemic ends. New virtual groups who want to start participating in service work at the district, area and GSC, need to be registered now. Carol reiterated that if these meetings were

registered pre-pandemic, they will stay registered. If they were formed during the pandemic, this request to allow these meetings into the U.S./Canada service structure is relevant.

The issue of people who only attend virtual/online meetings being willing to attend in-person service meetings was raised again during the discussion with comments similar to those expressed in the questions portion of the motion discussion.

Some members are in favor of the motion because it helps us to continue to carry the message and may also help us to get more participation in service work.

Ted S. pointed out that by registering a virtual/online meeting with the Online Intergroup, the group gets a group number that allows it to make contributions to GSO, which is important.

A member said the letter is good because it helps show the GSB/GSO that it is important at the district level to know about virtual meetings being formed and that these groups need to be informed of and involved in district, area and GSO activities.

One member said that GSO's objection to registering virtual/online meetings in the group database may be more about GSO not wanting to change their registration process than about them not wanting virtual/online meetings to participate in the service structure.

Kelly L. called the question and Chris E. seconded her motion to end the discussion.

Vote on Motion to Call the Question

In favor of calling the question = 57 (98%)

Opposed to calling the question = 1 (2%)

Total votes = 58

The motion to call the question passed.

Some additional discussion of the motion wording ensued, including possible use of the words "virtual" or "with no geographical location" as a substitute for or in addition to "online". Robert S. said we should table the motion because the sponsors and the assembly cannot agree on wording of the motion. Rob M. said we had previously accepted "virtual" as an addition to the wording. It is similar in meaning to "online" which will remain in the motion. The wording previously accepted is "a request to allow Virtual / Online Groups to register. . . ."

Rich H. said we had to vote now because the deadline for submitting items for the 2021 GSC is December 15, 2020, three days from now. Delegate Marilyn confirmed this deadline date.

Chair Carmela said we will vote on the original motion with the wording change of "a request to allow Virtual / Online Groups to register. . . ." A two-thirds majority is required to pass because the letter is on behalf of the Area.

Vote on Motion to Approve NIA 20 Delegate Letter to Add 2021 GSC Agenda Item for Registering Online Groups with GSO

In Favor of the Motion = 56 (82.4%)

Opposed to the Motion = 12 (17.6%)

Total votes = 68

The motion passed with a majority exceeding two-thirds (82.4%).

Minority Opinion:

The Area Chair asked if there was a minority opinion from anyone who voted in opposition to the motion.

Robert S. stated his opposition because of the wording “Virtual / Online groups”. Virtual groups within a geographical location are okay; online groups with no geographical location are not. No one else voting in the minority made a statement in opposition.

No one voting in the majority wished to change their vote based on these opinions.

The motion stands as passing.

Agenda Change

A Sharing Session and Service Committee Question and Answer Session were both on the agenda for today. Carmela said there was only time for one of these two agenda items if we were to adjourn the meeting on time. She asked for the assembly by vote on which one they wanted to omit. She indicated that some committee reports were included in the pre-assembly packet and were posted the NIA website.

After a brief discussion, the Assembly voted to have the Sharing Session and omit the Committee Question and Answer Session.

Committee Reports received by the secretary and posted on the NIA website are attached to these minutes.

Sharing Session

Topic: What are districts and groups doing to carry the message during the pandemic?

Chair Carmela started off by asking some questions.

- How are groups staying active and united?
- What could we do differently in these times?
- What neat things are groups or districts doing that another group or district might try.

Jim A, DCM D42, said he had created in Word a one-page GSR report and emailed to all his out to all his GSRs. They can modify it as they want to capture what they consider important actions such as group events, donations to Area and GSO, etc. and then send it back to Jim via a Chat. This gets the information back to the district, and to other groups, even when GSRs don't attend the district meetings. Jim offered to share the report form with other districts.

Area Registrar Carol H. has been attending various Zoom meetings and has found that some of them have service assignments within the Zoom meeting to get more people involved in service. Some examples are greeters, Chat monitors, and Zoom tech help people.

Robert S. has found a treatment program that has an in-person A.A. meeting that he can help with. He knows of another treatment program where A.A. members participate in Zoom meetings with patients. There are opportunities to participate in meetings for people in treatment; you just have to look for them.

Amy said she started a half-hour of Zoom fellowship before the start of her A.A. meeting when members said they missed the opportunity for fellowship before and after meetings. She said not everyone is aware that if you have a paid Zoom account for your meeting, you can be on Zoom longer than just the time for the meeting.

John O. said it was important to keep two-way communication going between the DCM, other officers and committee chairs and the GSRs and groups. This can be done by phone call, email, or Zoom meeting. When you keep the communication open you can share problems and find solutions together.

Rob M. said he started to suffer from the effects of isolation when we started having to stay home. His involvement with Zoom meetings helped because you can still “see” people. Zoom is great to help people who cannot or will not get out to meetings to stay involved.

Chris E.’s home group created a texting group and almost all the members opted in. He uses it to send flyers about conferences, workshops, special events and meetings to the whole group. He has expanded his search for flyers to the Chicago and Southern Illinois areas, and other NIA districts. He has found conferences to attend from all around the country, which has been a great experience.

Johnna said a couple of her groups have created a group chat through Messenger, and some groups have created private Facebook pages to share information. A group in Kentucky has connected with their northern Illinois group and the two groups share flyers, speakers and other A.A. information. It has been great experience.

Ginny, D11 Alternate CPC Chair, has been working with groups to create a spreadsheet of information for the professional people working with alcoholics in all the towns in her district. They are gathering email addresses for direct contact, as opposed to snail mail, as today’s standard means of communication. Some of the contacts are police departments, clergy, nursing schools, judges, and 911 centers. They send information on A.A. including a link to their website, information on the answering service, meetings lists and a link to appropriate videos on the A.A. (GSO) YouTube channel. Kate D., D11 DCM, added that they are sending a link to these professionals for a presentation put on by A.A. in western Canada in December on Professionals Working with Alcoholics. Jeff L., Area CPC Chair, is going to get together with District 11 to present a CPC workshop.

Kristen, D11 Accessibilities Chair, has been contacting assisted living facilities and nursing homes to ask if there is anything A.A. related they need because their residents are restricted to their facilities now. Pat M., D11 Alt DCM, added that Kristen got a call to get some help for an older alcoholic man who was struggling with isolation and she got together some volunteers to call him from time to time to help him stay connected with the program. They are hoping to expand to meet the needs of other isolated recovering alcoholics.

Karen F., DCM D12, said they have a new mental health hospital in their district. They have been able to get some volunteers in there to hold a Zoom meeting for the patients. Two volunteers are allowed in the hospital at a time and put in a room with access to Zoom away from the patients. The patients participate from their locations in the hospital. They still are not able to get into Lake County Jail for meetings. She would welcome input from other districts on how they are doing with meetings in jails.

Karen D., DCM D73, said they had a printed meetings list posted on their website which was current before the pandemic, and also an electronic list of temporarily suspended meetings. People were going to the printed list and getting out-of-date information, which was very confusing. She created an updated printed meetings list with temporarily suspended meetings highlighted in yellow. This list has been posted on the website and given to the answering service and folks on the answering service list to help reduce the confusion.

Susan H., Area Grapevine Chair, is going to present a workshop on “What You Need to Know to Navigate the New Grapevine Website” hosted by District 40 on January 7, 2021.

Phil M. said he is thinking of having a Zoom meeting for GSRs on the Friday night preceding the Assemblies to generate interest in service work. He has also thought that since Joe and Charlie who recorded the Big Book tapes are dead, he would like to get some Area old timers to come to his district to read the Big Book and comment on their reading for newcomers to A.A.

Christine K. said that some Thursday night meetings in her district had Gratitude meetings on Thanksgiving that brought some old timers who had never used Zoom before to the meetings. A Gratitude meeting seemed to be a good way to get them involved in online A.A.

Chris E., DCM D22, said he has downloaded the latest electronic versions of The Concepts and Box 459 and sent them via email to his district to spread the word on A.A. It is very easy to do it electronically.

Meeting Closure with Open Mic

Open Mic:

Don J. announced that there will be an in-person Alcathon in Sterling starting Christmas Eve at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. Christmas Day. There will also be one starting on New Year's Eve at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Chair Carmela announced for Concepts Editor Robert S. that the next deadline for Concepts is February 15, 2021.

Adjournment

Chris E. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kristen F. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Spring Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on March 13, 2021.

NOTE: Get ready to participate in the NIA Pre-General Service Conference Workshop in March in preparation for Delegate Marilyn to attend the General Service Conference in April!



**List of Attachments to the Winter Assembly Minutes
December 12, 2020**

1. 2020 Winter Assembly Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer
2. NIA Contributions Statement – January 1 through November 24, 2020
3. 2020 Winter Assembly Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar
4. 2020 Winter Assembly Floor Motion – Approve NIA 20 Delegate Letter to Add 2021 GSC Agenda Item for Registering Online Groups with GSO with Background Material
5. Archives Committee Chair Report
6. CPC Committee Chair Report
7. Treatment Committee Chair Report

Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.
PO Box 808
Streamwood, IL 60107-2971



2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer NIA Winter Assembly – December 12, 2020

Balance Sheet

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020:

- Checking account balance: \$19,871.74
- Operating funds balance: \$15,017.43
- Restricted funds balance: \$4,854.31 and consists of:
- "Pink Can" \$4,112.41
- "Green Can" \$741.90
- Savings account balance: \$23,514.00 (Prudent Reserve)

Profit and Loss Statement

The QuickBooks Profit and Loss Statement summarizes the revenues, costs and expenses incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 1, 2020:

- Total Contributions: \$41,959.76
- Total Expenses: \$31,341.96
- Net Operating Income: \$10,617.80 which is the amount that our expenses exceed our income in 2020

Miscellaneous

- Paypal for Area Donations is all set up. As soon as the Webmaster makes it live, I will let the Area Committee know. Unfortunately, there are some hiccups at Pay Pal's end, and Earl is working on it with them.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn B., NIA Treasurer – Panel 70 treasurer@aa-nia.org

NIA Alternate Treasurer's Report

Report date: 12/2/2020

The address for the NIA Treasurer for the Panel 70 rotation is: Northern Illinois Area, Ltd., P.O. Box 808, Streamwood, IL 60107. Contribution envelopes are available at every NIA Assembly and committee meeting. Please complete the form on the envelope when making contributions to NIA so we can correctly account for your contributions.

In service,
Allen Jacks., NIA Interim Alternate Treasurer
alt-treasurer@aa-nia.org

Summary of contributions received from 1/1/2020 through 11/24/2020

Date deposited (All)

Row Labels	Sum of Contribution amount
(blank)	
Group Contribution	\$31,686.40
District Contribution	\$8,322.27
Conference contribution	\$361.59
Green Can Contribution	\$852.80
Pink Can Contribution	\$2,511.39
Personal Contribution	\$577.25
Conference Contribution, seed money	\$81.64
Grand Total	\$44,393.34

Date deposited (All)

Sum of Contribution amount					
District	Group number	Group name	Contribution type	Total	
0	716872	Valley View Daily Reflections Group	Group Contribution	\$300.00	
0 Total				\$300.00	
10	104715	Grayslake Southsiders Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00	
	127397	Early Birds Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00	
	134944	Wanderers No 40 Group	Group Contribution	\$98.00	
	167658	Sunday Discussion Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00	
	172658	Wanderers No 116 Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$100.00	
	602117	Easley Does It Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$100.00	
	646390	Shed Group	Group Contribution	\$210.00	
	647883	After Work Study Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00	
	661521	Wednesday Morning Women's Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00	
	665831	Red Door Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00	
	699215	I'm Here Because I Need A Meeting Wom	Group Contribution	\$100.00	
	699432	Monday 5PM AA Big Book Step Study Gr	Group Contribution	\$50.00	
	703290	Spiritual Kindergarten Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00	
	715447	Saturday Morning Mens Big Book Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$100.00	
	723437	Primary Purpose New Group	Group Contribution	\$72.00	
	(blank)	Sunday Night Basement Dwellers	Group Contribution	\$67.50	
		District 10	District Contribution	\$1,500.00	
10 Total				\$3,077.50	
11	43028	Clean Air Group	Group Contribution	\$45.00	
	104267	Cary Grove Wed Nite Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00	
	104625	Fri Nite Mens Fellowship Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00	
	104964	Wonder Lake 12 & 12 Group	Green Can Contribution	\$64.00	
	105290	Freedom Farm Campfire	Group Contribution	\$60.00	
	106157	Suggested Men's Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00	
	120853	Twelve Steps To Freedom Group	Group Contribution	\$72.00	
	125327	Cary Park District Group	Group Contribution	\$180.00	
	125619	Monday Noon Meeting Group	Group Contribution	\$54.00	
	130912	Serenity Seekers Group #5	Group Contribution	\$150.00	
	135243	Beginners Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00	
	141413	10:00 A.M. Serenity Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00	
	141414	Mc Henry Open Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00	

11		150979	Clean Air Closed Discussion Gp	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		156474	Happy Hour Group	Group Contribution	\$120.00
		156566	Clean Air Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		166266	Lost & Found Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		167015	Sobriety & Beyond Group	Group Contribution	\$120.00
		176778	Broad Highway Women's Grp	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		610896	Winners & Beginners Group	Group Contribution	\$275.55
		610981	Wmns Spiritual Progress #2 Grp	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		646950	From The Book Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$70.51
		655136	Growth And Change Group	Group Contribution	\$116.20
		657318	12 Steps & 12 Traditions Group	Group Contribution	\$25.00
		671099	Wanderer's 102 Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		672162	Enchanted Cottage Group	Group Contribution	\$33.00
		672942	Mens Big Book Priority-A Group	Group Contribution	\$91.50
		675712	Attitude Adjustment Group	Group Contribution	\$3,281.79
		679444	Faith's Way Group	Group Contribution	\$33.00
		688329	Design For Living Group	Group Contribution	\$36.38
		688361	First Things First Group	Group Contribution	\$58.05
		694876	Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
		695282	Women's Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$180.00
		698048	Whatever It Takes Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
		699065	Men's Priority Big Book 5B Group	Group Contribution	\$145.50
		708649	Rainbow Connection Group	Group Contribution	\$104.74
		709535	Reach Out Now Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		722670	Comrades Group	Group Contribution	\$45.00
		724165	Meeting	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	(blank)		District 11	District Contribution	\$1,250.00
			Thursday Night Discussion	Group Contribution	\$60.00
			90 Centers Thurs Wanderers	Group Contribution	\$10.00
11 Total					\$7,841.22
12		126433	Dry Dockers Group	Group Contribution	\$51.20
		664612	WOW Group (Women On Wednesday)	Group Contribution	\$84.00
	(blank)		Trinity UCC Teus 7:30pm	Group Contribution	\$177.00
			Serenity House	Group Contribution	\$30.00
			Meeting	Group Contribution	\$30.00
			St James Friday Night	Group Contribution	\$125.00
			The Emotional Sobriety	Group Contribution	\$100.00
12 Total					\$597.20
20		690813	Grupo Ayer Y Hoy	Pink Can Contribution	\$37.00
20 Total					\$37.00
21		104181	Thursday Morning Ladies Group	Group Contribution	\$20.33
		104827	Monday Night Big Book Study Gp	Group Contribution	\$70.00
		161598	Tues Nite Wanderers #112 Gp	Group Contribution	\$72.00
	(blank)		(blank)	Pink Can Contribution	\$40.00
21 Total					\$202.33
22		104250	Sun Morning Fellowship Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00
		104269	Dundee Mens Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		117174	Big Book 12 & 12 Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		117398	Elgin Wed Night Eastside Group	Group Contribution	\$25.00
		118489	Fellowship Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		120644	West Side Grapevine Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
		123511	Tuesday Night Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$50.00
		125010	Mon Night Westside Fellwshp Gp	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		148143	Womens New Beginnings Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		148146	Wednesday Night Serenity Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		148856	People Rebuilding Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00
		164500	New Horizon Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		614385	Monday Second Shifters Group	Group Contribution	\$80.00
		615946	Today's Gift Group	Group Contribution	\$70.00
		638023	Gratitude Gals Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
		672159	Saturday Night Open Speaker Group	Group Contribution	\$420.00
				Green Can Contribution	\$227.00
		673488	Stepping Up Group	Group Contribution	\$200.00
		673494	We're All In This Together Group	Group Contribution	\$45.00
		681573	As Joe & Charlie See It Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00

22		694918	Wanderers #204 Group	Group Contribution	\$35.00
		715048	Open Big Book Study Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
		723063	Men's Into Action West Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		723149	Expository AA Study Group	Group Contribution	\$135.00
				Green Can Contribution	\$74.55
22 Total					\$2,381.55
23		141030	Staying Alive Group	Group Contribution	\$25.00
		638043	Sunrise Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$18.00
	(blank)		District 23	District Contribution	\$300.00
			Anonymous	Personal Contribution	\$245.00
23 Total					\$588.00
28		104365	Saturday Morning Mens Group	Group Contribution	\$111.00
		104755	Lake Zurich 12 & 12 Group	Group Contribution	\$200.00
		134171	No Name Group	Group Contribution	\$129.00
		170002	Big Book Study Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
		175230	Wanderers Priority Big Book XIII (Men) G	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		175535	Wednesday Night Beginners Grp	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		618314	Sunday Morning Newcomers Grp	Group Contribution	\$50.00
		630250	Sun Morning Early Birds Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00
		634567	Living In Recovery Group	Group Contribution	\$75.00
		639095	Priority Big Book VII Group	Group Contribution	\$28.00
		657311	Sisters In Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$75.00
				Green Can Contribution	\$62.25
		658285	Monday Night Serenity Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		664134	Usual Suspects Group	Group Contribution	\$80.00
		673285	Tuesday Real Time Home Group	Group Contribution	\$257.00
		713901	Wednesday Night Women's Way	Group Contribution	\$14.00
	(blank)		Spring Conference	Conference contribution	\$361.59
			District 28	District Contribution	\$493.77
28 Total					\$2,326.61
40		104703	Glen Ellyn South Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
				Pink Can Contribution	\$50.00
		104943	Anona Center Earlybirds Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		104947	Anona Sunday Evening Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		149311	Anona Weekday Evening 5:30 P.M. Gp	Group Contribution	\$130.00
		174566	Big Book Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$65.00
		176124	Gift Of Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		636738	Words Of Wisdom Group	Green Can Contribution	\$100.00
		718655	Wheaton Sunday Nite Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		719127	Saturday Morning Mens 12 X 12	Group Contribution	\$90.00
	(blank)			Pink Can Contribution	\$359.00
			District 40	District Contribution	\$1,000.00
			Dupage Thursday Night Open	Group Contribution	\$75.00
				Pink Can Contribution	\$75.00
			Anonymous	Personal Contribution	\$30.00
			Wednesday Night Stag	Group Contribution	\$30.00
40 Total					\$2,354.00
41		104413	Tioga Monday Night Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$50.00
		104776	Hope Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$15.00
		117713	Stepping Stones Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$45.00
		160375	Sisters In Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$127.80
		170702	Tuesday Nite Big Book Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$20.00
		171276	New Hope Group	Group Contribution	\$75.00
		614267	Phoenix Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
		627761	Lombard Lunch Bunch Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$126.00
		637845	Genesis II Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$29.00
		652581	Slow Learners Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	(blank)			Pink Can Contribution	\$50.00
41 Total					\$647.80
42		132959	Tuesday Serendipity Morning Womans G	Group Contribution	\$128.00
		159305	Hinsdale 12 Step Group	Group Contribution	\$840.00
		163425	Women Serenity Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$45.00
		600913	Acceptance Group	Group Contribution	\$70.00
				Pink Can Contribution	\$50.00
		608720	We Are Group	Group Contribution	\$54.00

42	696588	Life Is Good Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
			Pink Can Contribution	\$348.00
	699040	Sunday 6:30 P.M. Group	Group Contribution	\$40.00
	703505	Next Generation Group	Group Contribution	\$70.00
	708082	It's All About Me Group	Group Contribution	\$42.00
	722812	Teus 6:30am	Group Contribution	\$175.00
	728082	Unknown Group name or Number	Group Contribution	\$25.00
42 Total				\$1,977.00
43	147736	Brownbaggers Of Naperville Group	Group Contribution	\$220.00
	155901	Anniversary Group	Group Contribution	\$120.00
	165272	How & Why Group	Group Contribution	\$129.60
			Pink Can Contribution	\$121.00
	178942	Hope For Today Womens Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$94.88
	601775	Womens Spirit Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$102.00
	606539	Thursday Discussion Group	Group Contribution	\$2,520.00
	631359	How It Works Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	637746	Do Not Be Discouraged Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$100.00
	648705	Beyond Any Length Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	683904	Tuesday Keep It Simple Group	Group Contribution	\$120.00
	691334	Wanderers 30 Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	716596	Babes without Booze Big Book Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$100.00
	719127	Saturday Morning Men's 12 + 12 Study G	Group Contribution	\$65.00
			Pink Can Contribution	\$25.00
43 Total				\$3,947.48
51	104738	Steel City Group	Group Contribution	\$82.00
	104739	St. Francis Sunday Open Mtg Group	Group Contribution	\$111.60
	104762	Lemont Boondocks "104762"	Group Contribution	\$91.50
	104854	Plainfield Serendipity Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
	127488	St. Pauls Group	Group Contribution	\$180.00
	134454	H.O.W. Group	Group Contribution	\$25.00
	140821	Madison Ave Step Group	Group Contribution	\$92.33
	607634	Sunrise Group	Group Contribution	\$103.89
	629481	(blank)	Group Contribution	\$104.25
	629491	New Hope 12 Step Group	Group Contribution	\$234.81
	640384	Manhattan Kitchen Table Group	Group Contribution	\$43.05
	651095	Came To Believe Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00
	657249	Living Room Group	Group Contribution	\$49.60
	657491	Ladies in Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$2,335.91
	659242	Womens 12 x 12 Group	Group Contribution	\$280.88
	659565	Saturday 12 Step Group	Group Contribution	\$225.00
	676780	Practicing The Principles Group	Group Contribution	\$40.00
	682812	Sober School Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	711161	Valley View Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$290.00
	711163	Valley View 12x12 Group	Group Contribution	\$260.00
	723582	Dwight BB Study	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	(blank)	District 51	District Contribution	\$1,215.00
51 Total				\$6,124.82
52	122693	New Hope Sunday Morning Group	Group Contribution	\$155.00
	134399	911 Group	Group Contribution	\$64.70
	134942	New Hope Friday Nite Group	Group Contribution	\$81.00
	137836	First Things First Group	Group Contribution	\$150.00
	655944	Women To Women Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
	685865	Steps Our Solutions (S.O.S.) Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	719765	Joe & Charlie Big Book Comes Alive	Group Contribution	\$83.10
	722820	Now What are you going to do about it	Group Contribution	\$75.00
	(blank)	District 52	District Contribution	\$150.00
52 Total				\$918.80
61	120353	Friday Night Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
	120451	Elburn Countryside Group	Group Contribution	\$80.00
	134943	Early Birds Group	Group Contribution	\$180.00
	146299	Prayer & Meditation Group	Group Contribution	\$99.00
	161010	Willingness Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	171661	Dough Heads Group	Group Contribution	\$214.32
	172797	Step By Step Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	600092	3-11 Group	Group Contribution	\$103.00

61	605016	B.Y.O.B.B. & B.B. Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	607029	Thursday Brown Baggers Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	610847	Dawn Patrol Group	Group Contribution	\$90.00
	612847	Phoenix Group	Group Contribution	\$25.00
	650203	Twelve & Twelve Group	Group Contribution	\$65.00
	678789	La Fox Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	703219	One Step At A Time Group	Group Contribution	\$58.40
	718655		Group Contribution	\$78.46
	724956	Lafox BB	Group Contribution	\$30.00
(blank)		Willingness Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
		District 61	District Contribution	\$600.00
61 Total				\$1,953.18
62	127727	Saturday Niters Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
	148865	One Day At A Time Clsd Disc Gp	Group Contribution	\$433.03
	685783	5:15 Mix It Up Group	Group Contribution	\$104.40
	692050	Second Hand Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$359.50
			Green Can Contribution	\$317.00
	703591	Living Sober On The Hill Group	Group Contribution	\$43.03
	713235	Sisters In Sobriety Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	714876	A Good Start To Your Week Group	Group Contribution	\$94.00
(blank)		Church of the Brethren Thursday Night	Group Contribution	\$42.60
			Pink Can Contribution	\$43.00
62 Total				\$1,546.56
63	608698	Wanderers Group	Group Contribution	\$36.00
63 Total				\$36.00
64	124221	Upstairs Downstairs Group	Group Contribution	\$37.90
	174027	Saturday Morning Alive Group	Group Contribution	\$58.50
	610611	Monday Starter Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	672158	It's In The Book Group	Group Contribution	\$139.53
	684434	Back To Basics Group	Group Contribution	\$110.00
64 Total				\$375.93
65 (blank)		District 65	District Contribution	\$60.00
65 Total				\$60.00
70	122494	East Side H.O.W. Group	Group Contribution	\$600.54
	130338	S.H.E. Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
	145204	The Upper Room Group	Group Contribution	\$70.00
	176256	Augury Group	Group Contribution	\$10.50
	616115	Healthy Solutions Group	Group Contribution	\$120.00
	681239	Belvidere Wednesday Closed Discussion	Group Contribution	\$495.68
	681933	Belvidere Bridge Group #1 + #2	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	718645	Northeast Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	726369	Y.E.S. Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
70 Total				\$1,486.72
71	127172	Tuesday Nite Fellowship Group	Group Contribution	\$80.00
	135496	Fox Valley Group (Non-Smoking)	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	139472	Learning To Live Gp	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	143422	Back To Basics Group	Group Contribution	\$15.00
	162030	Sunday Evening Group	Group Contribution	\$1,000.00
	165715	Pass It On Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	171278	Sandwich Steppers Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	177974	Back To Basics Group	Group Contribution	\$30.00
	606354	Monday Morning Big Book Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	616198	Program Of Recovery Group	Group Contribution	\$72.00
	650779	Kingston Friendship Center Grp	Group Contribution	\$25.00
	654357	Sycamore Monday 5:30 12 & 12 Group	Group Contribution	\$40.00
	664009	Expect A Miracle Big Book Study Group	Pink Can Contribution	\$56.00
	671206	It Is What It Is Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
	689866	Hood Street Step Group	Group Contribution	\$60.00
(blank)		District 71	District Contribution	\$400.00
71 Total				\$2,038.00
72	155900	Attitude Adjustment Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	719766	Friday Night Grapevine	Group Contribution	\$51.85
72 Total				\$151.85
73	121962	Oregon Blackhawk Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
	718879	Never Alone Saturday Morning Women's	Group Contribution	\$30.00

	73	(blank)	District 73	District Contribution	\$753.50
73 Total					\$883.50
	79	(blank)	Distrito 79, 1210 11th St, Rockford	District Contribution	\$60.00
			District 79	District Contribution	\$240.00
79 Total					\$300.00
	80	104856	Princeton Group	Group Contribution	\$200.00
80 Total					\$200.00
	90	104748	Kewanee Henry Co. Group	Group Contribution	\$100.00
		123318	Easy Does It Camping Group	Group Contribution	\$50.00
		158988	Last Chance Group	Group Contribution	\$12.50
		164196	Downtown 3rd Tradition Group	Group Contribution	\$490.19
		640215	Stutsman Group	Group Contribution	\$280.71
90 Total					\$933.40
	91	(blank)	District 91	District Contribution	\$300.00
91 Total					\$300.00
		272121	(blank)	Green Can Contribution	\$8.00
				Group Contribution	\$20.00
		719127		Pink Can Contribution	\$45.00
		723198		Group Contribution	\$25.00
		728179		Group Contribution	\$75.00
	(blank)			(blank)	
			Monday & Wednesday Men's Meeting	Group Contribution	\$250.00
			Alanon Family Groups Area 14/Oct 18-20	Conference Contribution, seed money	\$81.64
			Anonymous	Personal Contribution	\$302.25
Total					\$806.89
(blank)	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)	(blank)	
(blank) Total					
Grand Total					\$44,393.34

**Area Registrar
PO Box 524
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524**



2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar Winter Assembly – December 12, 2020

The new group forms and group change forms continue to come in from the district secretaries and registrars. As your area registrar, I continue to send them to the records department at the General Service Office (GSO). Although their response time has greatly improved, it is a very cumbersome process. Well, that will be changing soon with the announcement that the "Fellowship Connection" which is the new name for the "My Portal" database that stores all the group records at GSO, will become available for use by the area registrars on December 24th! This will streamline the process and provide immediate access to all the group, district and area contact information which we have only been able to obtain from spreadsheets that GSO has provided in the last couple months.

Another challenge that will continue to unfold is the question about registering online groups at the GSO. In the past there were a couple options. If you had an online or virtual group that had no geographical location, you were asked to register either as an online group or with the A.A. Online intergroup.

Group Services at GSO provided this statement about the registering of groups, "As embodied in the Fourth Tradition, the formation and operation of an A.A. Group resides within the group conscience of its members. While, hopefully, every A.A. group adheres closely to the guiding principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practice of any A.A. group. Groups listed with G.S.O. are listed at their own request. A listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any group's approach to or practice of the Traditional A.A. program."

An online group registered at GSO is assigned a 9-digit number to use for corresponding with GSO and making contributions. It means that GSO has a record of them. However, they call it a "group i.d." rather than a group service number because it's not the same as what face-to-face groups receive in that they are linked to a district and area.

The Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, aa-intergroup.org, is a service entity established pursuant to Tradition Nine of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to operate on behalf of the participating online AA groups in accordance with AA's Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts. The Intergroup exists to aid the online groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The Intergroup (OIAA)...is just another 'Intergroup/Central Office' just like the hundreds in the US/Canada....except it serves the digital/virtual community. In the last eight months they have grown from a little over 200 meetings to over 3,000.

We typically register groups with the GSO that have a geographical area. But recently the requests and questions that I have received are can we register an online or virtual group. The answer received from group services at GSO is "has the district discussed this and approved having this group participate in the district? And likewise, has Area 20 discussed this and approved having this group participate in the area?"

Now some of you might say, what is the big deal, just put an address on there even if it is not the location of the meeting and that could be a quick fix. As your area registrar I felt this was putting a band aid on the issue instead of addressing it head on. This is not a situation that is going away, our new norm may very well and most likely continue way past the days of our current pandemic restrictions. Although some group and meetings will go back to in person meetings, there may be some who find the virtual option something they want to continue.

So, my task is to ask all of you, as the fellowship of Area 20, are there any objections to having a group register with connection to a district or area? That request comes in the form of the motion we will discuss today, requesting that our Delegate Marilyn F. send a letter to add an agenda item to the General Service Conference to discuss this issue. If your group would like more information and/or has a concern please send it in writing to registrar@aa-nia.org.

Please send updated group change and new group forms are on the NIA Website <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. **All communication of changes and updates should be sent to the registrar@aa-nia.org mailbox or mailed to Area Registrar, PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524.** Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol H., NIA Registrar – Panel 70
registrar@aa-nia.org

Motion: The Area 20 Registrar and Alternate Registrar motion to request that the Area Delegate forward a letter to the Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office prior to the December 15, 2020 deadline, with a request to allow Online Groups to register under their respective district and area instead of the Online Intergroup "<https://aa-intergroup.org/>".

Background Material:

The Area 20 Registrar contacted the Records Department at the General Service Office to determine what process is used to register virtual meetings. The following response was received:

"As you are aware, our structure encompasses the U.S. and Canada. Because online groups and meetings are by nature international, they are not listed as regular groups in G.S.O.s records. Whether an bunch of alcoholics meeting online consider themselves a group is up to them, as laid out in the Third Tradition (any two or three alcoholics...).

In keeping with a 2006 General Service Conference Advisory Action, G.S.O. provides contact information for online groups and meetings that request us to have this information:

Online meetings listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" continue to be listed with an e-mail contact address only, in keeping with the 1997 General Service Conference recommendation that: On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact."

This information is provided in the A.A. Directories in a special section titled "'Online Meetings/Online Groups.'" The Online A.A. Intergroup is also listed in our records and in the A.A. Directories.

Area 95 is sort of a catchall area in our records system. It was created for any individual or entity which has a record in our system, but that isn't part of the U.S./Canada general service structure. It includes international G.S.O.s, World Service Meeting delegates, intergroup/central offices, online and phone meetings, etc.

G.S.O.'s listing of online groups and meetings is not comprehensive. A much more complete list can be found through the Online A.A. Intergroup: www.aa-intergroup.org. An online group or meeting can be listed with either or both entities."

When a New Group Form from an online meeting in District 28 was received, it was forwarded to the records department at GSO requesting that they process the new group form and that although this group is only meeting virtually right now we would like to register it under Area 20 and not an online meeting. We received the following response from the Group Services coordinator.

"The Records Department forwarded your email to me. It would be helpful for us to know more about this. First off, has District 28 discussed this and approved having this group participate in the district? And likewise, has Area 20 discussed this and approved having this group participate in the area?"

As many groups were forced to go virtual, new online groups were formed. We feel that each group should have the option of continuing to be a part of the service structure in the district and area that they reside.

The AA Group:

1. The AA Group registers with the General Service Office (GSO) and assigned a group number.
2. The AA Group receives a complimentary handbook and a small supply of literature at no charge when it registers with the GSO.
3. The AA Group provides a strong bond between the AA member and the Fellowship.
4. The AA Group has a General Service Representative (GSR) and Alternate that is the group's link with the General Service Conference via the district and area.
5. The AA Group is the shared experience and voice of AA's collective conscience.

The Online Intergroup:

1. The Online Intergroup is a service entity.
2. The Online Intergroup operates outside of the service structure and does not have representation at the General Service Conference.
3. The online Intergroup maintains their own online meeting information.
4. The Online Intergroup identify members as voting or non-voting members of the online intergroup.
5. The Online Intergroup is self-supporting through voluntary contributions of its members.

As it says in Concept I:

The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

The A.A. Group — the Final Voice of the Fellowship

"Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside down organization because "the ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees, the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York."

"Twelve Concepts For World Service Illustrated"

Advisory Actions relating to Online Groups

2005 Advisory Action recommended that:

Online meetings in languages in addition to English, French and Spanish be listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" with the meeting language indicated next to the listing and in accordance with the 1997 Conference Advisory Action that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact.

Online meetings listed in A.A. directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS" continue to be listed with an e-mail contact address only, in keeping with the 1997 General Service Conference recommendation that:

On-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added to the "International Correspondence Meetings" in A.A. directories, that each listing include the internet address of the on-line meeting, and that each on-line meeting requesting to be listed in our directories furnish G.S.O. with the name and physical address of a member willing to serve as "mail" contact.

2008 Advisory Action recommended that:

The Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) be listed in a new section titled "Online Intergroups" under the section "International Correspondence Meetings" in the A.A. Directories above where "Online Meetings" appear; the listing will include the online intergroup Web site and e-mail addresses.

The statement "This Directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture" that appears on the cover of A.A. Directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face, etc. (Rescinded by Floor Action)

The Advisory Action of the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, Item B2, which recommended that the statement: "This directory is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation or commercial venture" that appears on the cover of A.A. Directories be made significantly more prominent, e.g. use borders, larger type face, etc., be rescinded. (Floor Action)

2016 Advisory Action recommended that:

The category title "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol H.
Area 20 Panel 70 Registrar
Cell: (815) 715-8514
registrar@aa-nia.org

Rob M.
Area 20 Panel 70 Alternate Registrar
Cell: (630) 886-8032
alt-registrar@aa-nia.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524

Archives Committee Report – December 2020

This report is updated in conjunction with the Area Winter Assembly (virtual) on 12/12/2020. Since the last NIA20 Archives Committee Report submitted in September 2020:

- Archives committee chair (Jeff K) has assisted Districts on request with archives-related workshops and has made/preserved audio files (MP3 plus burning to CDs) for NIA20 Archives of the following:
 - Archives workshop/panel (12/8/20 – D.43 archives)
 - Panel discussion/workshop re impact of pandemic (9/8/20 – D.43)
 - “Long-timers” panel discussion/workshop (7/25/20 – D.42 archives)
 - “Long-timers” panel discussion & workshop held (5/9/20 – D.43 archives)
- We have handled and responded to several outside-the-Area requests for assistance received via the Area website archives committee email address.
- The Archives committee is committed to carry out its service responsibilities by, at minimum –
 - Assisting and supporting the Area Archivist as needed
 - Holding Area-wide archives committee meeting(s) (virtual) between Area assemblies
 - Hosting one or more “Area-wide” archives-related “long-timer panels” or similar workshops in 2021 (planning input to be discussed!)
 - Helping district/local archives committees prepare and/or conduct workshops and panels, deal with district/local archive collection/retention issues, etc.
- The Committee still needs someone to step up for Archives Alternate!
- Regarding the 2021 proposed PPR items that apply to the Archives Committee – and subject to further discussion at the Winter Assembly – it appears reasonable to use a 50% reduction (compared to the 2020 PPR) based on 2020 experience and the likelihood of pandemic-related restrictions continuing well into 2021.

In service,
Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA20
December 1, 2020

Report of the CPC Chair

Winter Assembly

12/12/2020

Hello All and Happy Holidays

Since the last assembly I attended the Area Committee Meeting, saw some of the Grapevine Workshop, November 28, 2020 put on by District 40 and the Regional Forum put on by GSO on December 5, 2020. All were very informative and well organized.

My highlight was receiving an E-mail from Karrie T., from Arizona, she's a P.I. Chair there and she reached out to me because her nephew is a Palatine Police Officer who was sent on a wellbeing call, and came to meet a man very intoxicated and the man told him, "he didn't want to keep living like that and didn't know what to do." He told his Aunt they didn't teach anything about situations like that at the Academy so he called her. She in turned reached out to me to see if I could send him some information.

I left him two voice mails and am hoping he gives me a callback.

I also received my CPC work kit.

Yours in Service

Jeffery L.

NIA Area 20 CPC Chair

Aajlambert2@aol.com

2020 NIA 20 Winter Assembly Area Treatment Chair Report

During the late summer and early fall months, we began to see several treatment centers opening up to very limited in person volunteer opportunities in specific areas of the Northern Illinois Area. However, with Tier 3 mitigations implemented by the recent spike in COVID-19 positivity rates and the resulting impact, it would appear some of these treatment centers are reverting back to virtual communications.

One message that is clear is that there is little consistency among treatment centers in how they are working with volunteers in carrying the message of A.A. within their facilities. Some treatment centers are not allowing for any virtual or in person volunteer communication. Some treatment centers are allowing, encouraging, and actively seeking in person volunteers. COVID-19 health protocols for volunteers also vary widely, from temperature checks, screening questions (both written and/or verbal) and signing in and out not only for accountability but for contact tracing, to doing nothing but having volunteers simply show up and carry the message.

Additionally, some treatment centers are taking further precautions regarding the shared handling of A.A. (and other recovery fellowship) literature. Shared Big Books, 12 & 12s, etc. are considered to be "high touch" surfaces that are difficult to sanitize and therefore not being widely used. Yet in some treatment centers there has been an increase in requests for A.A. literature to ensure everyone has their own.

It's a confusing and concerning time for everyone - treatment center staff and A.A. members alike. But one thing remains the same and that's the need to carry the message of recovery. If this can't occur within the treatment center because of the current health crisis, it's helpful to let treatment centers know A.A. is here for the alcoholic in their treatment program. In conversations with local treatment center leadership, even something as simple as providing them with a list of A.A. members who would be willing to either connect their patients with Zoom meetings or the "new" local in person meetings would be helpful.

In love of service,

Lisa S.
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair