

Northern Illinois Area 20 2021 Fall Assembly Minutes



September 18, 2021
Online Audio/Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Area Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela made announcements and gave instructions for using Zoom during the meeting. She introduced Mark E., Past East Central Regional Trustee, the moderator for the elections of Panel 72 area delegate, officers and committee chairs/alternate chairs later in the day.

Total Attendees

102 people registered for the assembly.

New Attendees

Brian L., D41 committee chair	Eric C., D62, GSR
George P., D43, group member	Holly G., D28, GSR
Tim W., D70, GSR	Phillip M., D62, DCM
Cheryl K., D70, GSR	Debra U., D70, GSR

Anniversaries

Dawn B. – 9/11, 18 years	Cheryl K. – 5/7, 35 years	Eva C. – 7/29, 31 years
Kate D. – 7/8, 15 years	Gary P. – 8/23, 37 years	Jeff K. – 7/18, 5 years
Lisa S. – 9/17, 22 years	Barbara H. – 7/20, 17 years	Ana Z. – 8/28, 3 years
Ed M. – 8/23, 33 years	Dennis R. – 7/14, 8 years	Joe B. – 7/11, 8 years
Karen F. – 8/16, 34 years	Kim T. – 8/25, 13 years	Carmela R. – 7/12, 21 years

Celebrating 300 years of sobriety!

Approval of 2021 Summer Assembly Minutes

Kevin A. made the motion to approve the June 26, 2021, Spring Assembly minutes and Robert S. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Welcome to the Fall Assembly. I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are staying safe and healthy. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person soon.

I have been giving my General Service Conference report to some more of the districts.

I met with the East Central Region Delegates and our new Regional Trustee, Cathi C. on Sunday September 5th to discuss what is going on in our areas. That is when I learned that there will be a Delegates Past and Present Conference in person in Area 74 on February 12-13, 2022, at the Double Tree, Appleton, Wisconsin. I asked if

this would be a hybrid meeting and was told it wouldn't be hybrid. I asked for a flyer for this conference but so far, I have not received one. Also, from what the other delegates said, attendance at meetings and assemblies seems to be down in most of the areas.

Some financial highlights:

- So far, Seventh Tradition contributions are up from last year. For the six months ended June 30, 2021, contributions were \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000 and \$911,513 more than this time last year. Contributions are averaging \$829,386 per month, higher than the budgeted amount of \$810,417 for 2021.
- Gross literature sales year to date are \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000 and \$837,572 more than last year. Gross literature sales are averaging \$955,950 per month.
- Payroll and benefits year to date are \$4,535,220, which is 49% of the budget amount of \$9,225,438 and \$83,668 less than last year.
- Total operating expense year to date is \$7,611,401 which is 53% of the budget amount of \$14,479,506 and \$75,068 more than last year. Total operating expense is more than budget because:
 - The NYS unemployment insurance tax rate increased.
 - Depreciation expense was budgeted as non- operating expense but is being charged as operating expense in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Surplus for the first six months is \$1,430,178 compared to a budgeted surplus for the year of \$641,388. The surplus is driven primarily by greater than budgeted literature sales.
- As of July 19, 2021, operating cash is \$1,620,415, which represents 1.3 months of expenses.
- On June 30, 2021, the Reserve Fund balance was \$12,537,739. The current balance covers 8.41 months of expenses calculated based on the original expense budget for 2021. (This is before the recommended transfer noted below.)
- The trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve an immediate transfer of \$250,000 to the Reserve Fund.

The AA Grapevine Board

- Expenses through May were \$665K. La Vina expenses were \$173K.

From Publishing:

- For the five months ending May 31, 2021, Grapevine income was \$742K (excluding a \$180K insurance payment and \$12.5K interest, which is \$145K (24%) over the budgeted amount. La Vina income was \$5K, or \$6K under budget.
- Grapevine Pandemic-related disruptions to the manufacturing and printing of A.A.W.S. literature are expected to continue for some time.
- Reduced shipping charges continue through October 18, 2021.
- Special Summer Offers continue through September 30, 2021.
- Our Great Responsibility eBook is projected to be available in October.

- The brand new, fully revised *A.A. Service Manual* is projected to be available in digital format in November. (Expect print version to be delayed).
- *Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza* (newly completed Spanish translation of the English-language title *Experience, Strength and Hope*) is expected to be available around January 2022.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
Marilyn F. Area 20 – Panel 70 Delegate

My total expenses for 2021 to date: \$117.58

Discussion:

A member asked how 2021 contributions compared to 2020 contributions. Marilyn said they were greater than 2020 contributions. In the first six months of 2021 they covered 51% of the budget.

Treasurer’s Report – Dawn B.

This report is posted on the NIA website.

Balance Sheet

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See the NIA website for the full Balance Sheet for the period from January 1, 2021, through September 15, 2021:

- Checking account balance: \$34,637.56
- Operating funds balance: \$29,668.86¹
- Restricted funds balance: \$4,948.70 and consists of:
 - “Pink Can” \$1099.56
 - “Green Can” \$849.14
 - ECRC Seed Money: \$3,000.00
- 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 the NIA website for the full Profit and Loss Statement for the period from January 1, 2021, through September 15, 2021:

- Total Contributions: \$30,151.69
- Total Expenses: \$11,348.39
- Net Operating Income: \$18,803.30, which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2021.

Miscellaneous

- We have been having PayPal donations come through. The address for PayPal is on the NIA website. It is: treasurer@aa.nia.org. Please clarify if this is a personal, meeting, or District donation. If it is a meeting donation, please clarify meeting number or day/time/location so that we may credit the correct meeting.
- Clubs, please remember, we cannot accept donations from you. We WILL accept donations from meetings at clubs.
- If you would like myself or Allen at your District meeting, please ask. We are happy to come out.

¹ Typographical error—correct amount from the Quick Books balance sheet is \$29,688.86.

- The final insurance installment for 2021 has been paid. After Covid hit, the insurance agent asked me if I would prefer to pay the insurance in installments, and since I had no idea what was going to happen, that's how we're doing it.
- There is a District Treasurers workshop on September 30th. These are very informative, and District Treasurers exchange
- ideas and methods. ANYONE who is interested is welcome to attend, especially incoming treasurers.
- The Finance Committee will meet soon to begin planning the tentative 2022 PPB

Respectfully submitted,

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

Discussion:

An attendee asked if the Finance Committee was going to consider sending excess funds to the General Service Board. Dawn replied that a recommendation from the Finance Committee would be forthcoming.

An attendee asked Dawn to repeat when the Treasurers workshop will be held. Dawn replied that it will be held on September 30. She will send an invitation email to the Area Committee members.

Approval of 2021 Fall Assembly Treasurer's Report

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Cheryl V. and seconded by Sue M. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alternate Treasurer's Report – Allen J.

Allen reported that he had send his report the Area Committee by email. The contribution totals on his Summary of Contributions report matched fairly closely to the Profit and Loss Statement for the period because he was up to date on entering contributions into the spreadsheet. He still has some thank-you letters to send out.

The Alternate Treasurer's Report containing the Summary of Contributions will be posted on the NIA website.

Discussion:

A DCM asked why three groups from his district all had a contribution amount of \$38.82, which seemed an odd amount. Allen replied that it is a result of the PayPal fee being deducted from the payment submitted to NIA 20. Each group made a \$40.00 contribution, of which the PayPal fee was \$1.18 (2.95% of the transaction).

Delegate Marilyn said she did not receive the emailed Alternate Treasurer's Report. Allen said he would send it out to her, and he has asked the Webmaster to post it to the NIA website.

Approval of 2021 Fall Assembly Alternate Treasurer's Report

A motion to accept the Alternate Treasurer's Report was made by Robert S. and seconded by Kevin A. The motion was approved unanimously.

Panel 72 Elections (2022-2023)

Robert S., our most recent past delegate, facilitated the elections, in accordance with the NIA 20 Service Manual. He reviewed the voting procedures: who is eligible to vote, how electronic voting will be conducted, and how the Third Legacy voting procedure works for election of the delegate and officers, requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast for election. If no candidate receives a two-thirds majority after a maximum of 5 rounds of voting, the remaining candidates' names will be put in a hat, and one will be drawn out by a non-voting attendee. He stated that the election of committee chairs and alternates will be by simple

CL

majority vote. He gave the eligibility requirements for area delegate. In response to a question, he stated that Mark E., past East Central Regional Trustee will assume the Zoom host duties with no co-hosts, so all eligible voting members can vote electronically.

Candidates stood for or were nominated for each position starting with the position of delegate. Some persons nominated respectfully declined the nomination. Each remaining candidate gave a two-minute presentation of their qualifications, and voting was conducted for the position.

NIA 20 OFFICERS AND ALTERNATES

Delegate

Stood for the position: Chris D.
Erik L.
Nominated: Carol H.

Chris D. was elected from the hat after five rounds of voting with no candidate receiving 2/3 of the votes cast.

Alternate Delegate

Stood for the position: Erik L.
Carol H.
Nominated: Carmela R., who respectfully declined the nomination

Erik L. was elected with a 2/3 majority of the votes cast after the second round of voting.

Area Chair

Stood for the position: Jeff L.
Nominated: Dawn B., who respectfully declined the nomination
Carol H.
Lisa S., who respectfully declined the nomination
Rob M.

Rob M. was elected with a 2/3 majority of the votes cast after the fourth round of voting.

Area Chair – Alternate

Stood for the position: Jeff L.
Nominated: Nicole E., who respectfully declined the nomination
Carol H.
Dawn B.

Dawn B. was elected with a 2/3 majority of the votes cast after the second round of voting.

Area Secretary

Stood for the position: Kate D.
Nominated: Karen F., who respectfully declined the nomination

Kate D. was elected unanimously.

Area Secretary – Alternate

Stood for the position: Sue M. (unopposed)

Sue M. was elected unanimously.

Area Treasurer

Stood for the position: Allen J. (unopposed)

Allen J. was elected unanimously.

Area Treasurer – Alternate

Stood for the position: Jeff L. (unopposed)

Jeff L. was elected unanimously.

Area Registrar

Stood for the position: Chris E. (unopposed)

Chris E. was elected unanimously.

Area Registrar – Alternate

Stood for the position: Christy B. (unopposed)

Christy B. was elected unanimously.

NIA 20 SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ALTERNATES

Accessibilities Chair

Stood for the position: Susan H. (unopposed)

Susan H. was elected unanimously.

Accessibilities Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Answering Service Chair

Nominated: Carol H., who respectfully declined the nomination
Tom M., who was not present to accept or decline

The position remains open.

Answering Service Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Archives Chair

Nominated: George C., who respectfully declined the nomination
John O., who respectfully declined the nomination
Tom B., who respectfully declined the nomination
Gary F., who respectfully declined the nomination

The position remains open.

Archives Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) Chair

Stood for the position: Karen F. during the afternoon session (unopposed)

Karen F. was elected unanimously.

BTG Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Corrections Chair

Stood for the position: Phil M. (unopposed)

Phil M. was elected unanimously.

Corrections Chair – Alternate

Stood for the position: George P. (unopposed)

George P. was elected unanimously.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

CPC Chair – Alternate

Nominated: Ed M., who respectfully declined the nomination

No one else stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Grapevine Chair

Nominated: Terry M., who respectfully declined the nomination

No one else stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Grapevine Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Literature Chair

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Literature Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Public Information Chair

Stood for the position: Lisa S.
Ed M.

Lisa S. was elected by a simple majority of the votes.

Public Information Chair – Alternate

Stood for the position: Ed M. (unopposed)

Ed M. was elected unanimously.

Treatment Chair

Nominated: Kevin A., who respectfully declined the nomination

No one else stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Treatment Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for the position, and it remains open.

Service Committee Positions That Remain Open (14 total):

- Accessibilities Chair - Alternate
- Answering Service Chair and Alternate
- Archives Chair and Alternate
- BTG Chair – Alternate
- CPC Chair and Alternate
- Grapevine Chair and Alternate
- Literature Chair and Alternate
- Treatment Chair and Alternate

An election to fill these open positions will be held at the 2021 Winter Assembly in December.

Lunch Break

Conference Reports and Bids

2021 Big Book Conference (October 30, 2021)

We are very excited to be hosting this year's Big Book Conference "164 And Much More."

Today we are six weeks away from our Area 20 Big Book Conference Hosted by District 11. I sent an update to our DCMs and Alt. DCMs this past week, and plan to do that again prior to our next Area 20 Committee Meeting on October 16th. This Sunday September 12th, Georgene and I attended the District 22 Business Meeting to talk about the Big Book Conference. We would make every effort to attend your District Meeting upon request, live or virtual.

Our current registration is 31, with 15 from our Big Book Conference Committee, 5 from our own District 11, 10 from individuals within Area 20 and 1 from Tucson. Registration will be similar to this meeting today. Upon registration you will receive this response Hello! Thank you for registering for the Northern Illinois Area 20 Big Book Conference We'll send out the Zoom Meeting information during the week prior to the conference, so be on the lookout!

The 7th Tradition states that we are "fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." We will be practicing the 7th Tradition via PayPal during the zoom conference. Use the link below to contribute.

Our Treasury started with \$2500.00 Seed Money from Area 20. Current Donations total \$109.18, with an additional check, currently in the mail from Area 20 Treasurer which was sent there, and not included in this report. \$64.52 came from within our Big Book Conference Committee, much of that was us testing the links on our flyer. \$56.10 from outside of our committee. We have a current expense of \$11.44 in PayPal Fees, with a current balance of \$2,390.82. With future expenses for Spanish Language Interpreter, Sign Language Interpreter, and printing.

We have a Beautiful Color Flyer in English and Spanish that are great for display at your meetings and on your websites. We also have a black and white version of each flyer for economical printing.

CL

We are in that final phase of a project where the last 10% of the job requires 90% of the attention. Everybody is up to speed; all speakers and panelists have been selected and communicated with. There will be additional communications as we approach our date. We had a great combined effort to produce all of our flyers. And a wonderful team effort to help us write this report. Our PI Committee is in process of distribution of our Flyers near and far, in hard copy and electronic form. Our Secretaries and Alternate Committee Chair are in process of gathering our reports and documents for our Final Report. Our Literature/Grapevine Chair has prepared Power Point Presentations that will be viewed during the day. Our Treasury is set up and accepting donations using the QR Code on the right-hand side of our flyer. You can also contribute after you register. You can register using the QR Code on the left-hand side of the flyer. You can also click on "Click Here to Register" and you will be able to Register and Contribute. Directly below that on our flyer you can click on to our Big Book Conference Website where you can find our flyer(s) and ability to register and contribute. On the lower right-hand side, you can click on that email address, and six members of our committee will receive that email to assist you. You will soon be able to easily find our flyer on the Area 20 website.

Our Registration is set up and currently accepting registrations. Registration Committee is preparing the process to notify all participants prior to the Conference on how to join in. Our written Interactive Program is now in development, and you will easily be able to move from Panel to Panel on your own. All our Speakers and Panels will be audio recorded and our Sign Language Interpreter will be video recorded. Our Main speakers will be Spanish Translated and Sign Language Interpreted. Upon request from our deaf AA Members our Sign Language Interpreter will go to Panels. Our Spanish Panels will be translated into English. This will all happen in a joint effort between AMOT AUDIO and our Big Book Conference Technical Committee. AMOT will post the audio recordings on the free zoom section of their website. They will be posted there for 30 days and then be moved to the member and purchase section. The video/audio of the Sign Language Interpreter will be posted on the Sober Hands section of their website, these will be available for free indefinitely. AMOT AUDIO website is amotaudio.com.

The day will start off with Kathleen CH from Dallas Texas presenting Angels Sinners and Saints. The history of early woman in AA in the 1930s and 40s and how they helped in the formation of our fellowship. This will be followed by a question-and-answer period. The panel topics are chosen from all 4 Editions of the Big Book, with stories being read before the panel begins. And we are very excited about our 2 Spanish Panels and the stories they have chosen. The day will conclude with William S from Fairfield Connecticut, with a presentation of the 18 months it took to write the Big Book. The places, the people and all the contributors to our Big Book and how it all came about. He and his wife spent 11 years putting the pieces together for this amazing history of the Big Book writing. This will also be followed by a question-and-answer period.

We are looking forward to you and all your friends in joining us for a fun filled and informative day

THANK YOU

Rich and Georgene and the entire 2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference Committee

Discussion:

In response to a question from an attendee, Rich said the best way to get the flyer at the district level is from your DCM. Chair Carmela added that the NIA Webmaster is a little behind in posting items to the web, but he will catch up and Carmela will be helping him if she can.

D22 DCM Joe B. thanked Rich and Georgene for their Big Book Conference presentation at their most recent district meeting.

Javier H. asked for help from the planning committee with the Spanish-language portion of the conference.

2022 Illinois State Conference Report – Mary R., Planning Committee Member

Committee members went to the 2021 Illinois State Conference (ISC) committee meeting and got the Zoom handoff. They have a new flyer for the NIA website and Area committee that includes “More will be revealed.” They meet every two weeks on Zoom on Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30, and they need more volunteers. Mary will send the link to the 2022 ISC website and the flyer to Chair Carmela, who will help to get the word out about the conference. The committee will have the final flyer ready that includes information about the concurrent East Central Regional Conference in February 2022.

Discussion:

A member asked if all the planning committee positions were filled. Mary replied that she didn’t think all positions were filled, but the big ones were.

2023 Spring Assembly Conference Bids

No bid was presented for the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference.

Officers Reports

Alternate Delegate – Chris D.

First off, thanks to all for attending today’s Fall (Elections) Assembly.

By the time this report is read at the Assembly, the Area will have already selected their slate of Panel 72 trusted servants. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in today’s elections whether they were voting members or members who chose to stand for positions to serve Area 20. Additional thanks go out to Robert S. and Mark E. for their incredible help as well.

Since our last committee meeting, I attended the (virtual) Illinois State Conference a couple weekends ago and wish to send out thanks to Area 21 (Southern Illinois) for putting on a great conference under trying circumstances. I’m sure all who attended join me in sending applause down south, as well as sending a shout out to Marilyn and Rich for their terrific performance in AA Jeopardy. Additional thanks also go out to all the other Area 20 trusted servants who participated!!

I had the great pleasure to speak briefly at the District 11 (Crystal Lake / Woodstock) GSR meeting earlier this month and also traveled IN PERSON with Marilyn to give presentations in Joliet at District 51’s GSR meeting. Believe it or not, I actually incurred mileage expense for the first time in a long time!! Thanks to Kate & Mike for the invitations and I’m looking forward to visiting District 21 (Palatine) in October!

Our Area Chair continues to host a monthly Officer’s meeting which I attend, and I’ve also continued to attend the monthly meeting of NAAD (North American Alternate Delegate’s) where I continue to meet passionate and dedicated trusted servants from all over the US (and Canada)!! I continue to serve on the Ad-Hoc document storage and retention committee but have no update at this time.

Please feel free to reach out to me (or any Area officer) if you would like to schedule additional service workshops or sharing sessions in your districts.

2021 Reimbursement Requests - \$48.00

Respectfully submitted and grateful to be of service – Chris D. – A20/P70 – Alternate Delegate

Chair – Carmela R.

Thank you so much to the Area Committee for participation in the IL State Conference last month—it was great to see and hear many of you share your experience strength and hope.

CL

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – carries on monthly. Next meeting set for 10/6.
- Continue to support requests for our NIA20 Zoom account – by districts and various committees, to set up and help produce their events, as needed.
- Officer meeting and Fall Assembly meeting prep on 9/9. We worked to develop procedures for today's event. Thank you so much to Mark Everett for being willing to serve with us.
- Participated in a panel at the IL State Conference last month on the topic of "How I Got Here – From Coffee Maker to Area Chair." It was a wonderful experience to participate with my fellows from 19 and 21.

What's coming up:

- Focus on key areas:
 - Technology committee - Zoom support, building committee
 - 2022 and 23 conference planning support
 - Active committees – using our Zoom account(s) to meet + build area calendar
 - 2nd account has been dedicated for use by our conference committees
 - Main account reserved for Area events and
- Starting to think about transition
 - As we are in election season, it will be time soon to engage with our servants- elect to begin to pass along our experiences from Panel 70 to 72.

Expenses to date: \$631.70

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 CDPP \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
Respectfully submitted,

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

Alternate Chair – Erik L.

Since our Summer Assembly:

Attended BBC '21 Planning Committee Meetings. This year's event should be both informative and a of fun. The host committee has done a great job!

Attended District 21's monthly meeting and shared my experience with as alternate Area Chair.

Attended meeting of the Conference Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee. The CAC will be presenting 1 motion today whereby we recommend that Area 20 establish a definitive cut-off for planning the Spring Conference. That is, if no district volunteers to host the event by the Winter assembly of the year prior (15 months earlier), the event would be cancelled for the following year.

Worked with our ISC 2022 Co-Chairs on site selection, contract review and logistics.

Participated on a panel at the 2021 Illinois State Conference on Hybrid/Virtual and in-person meetings. Area 21 did a great job hosting this year's virtual event.

Erik Long, Alt Area Chair, 630-809-7789

CL

Registrar – Carol H.

Carol reminded attendees to send changes for a group or GSR to Registrar@aa-nia.org or the Records Department at GSO. She has received copies of some registrations sent to GSO without our Area 20 identification. GSO puts groups that register without an area identification into an “unknown area” category instead of in Area 20, so it’s important to make sure you identify your group with Area 20 when you register. It is very important that registration of a new group, changes to current group registration, or registration of GSRs and district officers are made correctly is to send the forms to both the Area Registrar and GSO.

You do not need to send a change form to the GSO Records Department when your group changes from in-person to virtual, or vice versa. The Records Department currently does not keep track of how the group meets, or time, date and address of meeting. That is now all listed and changed in the Meeting Guide database. When registering a new group, the Records Department does need a street address (no P.O. boxes) for the group GSR or contact person for acceptance of the group’s request to register.

The Registrar’s written report is being sent out.

Discussion:

Karen F. sent a form for her district to GSO online, and asked Carol if she could also send the form to the Area Registrar online. Carol responded that the NIA website is not set up to accept online forms for the Registrar at this time. The form should be sent to the Registrar via U.S. Mail or sent as a PDF attachment to an email.

Alternate Registrar – Rob M.

No report

Secretary – Christy B.

Christ thanked Kate D. for stepping up to be the Panel 72 Area Secretary. The Summer Committee Meeting minutes will be coming out soon.

Alternate Secretary – Karen F.

No report

Service Committee Breakout Meetings

The service committee breakout meetings were held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Ongoing and New Business

Chair Carmela started elections for open Panel 70 Service Committee positions. These positions are for the period ending on December 31, 2021. The assembly voted to use simple majority vote elections for these positions.

Open Positions Elections – Service Committees

Accessibilities Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for this position; it will remain open.

Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for this position; it will remain open.

Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for this position; it will remain open.

CL

BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate

No one stood for or was nominated for this position; it will remain open.

Public Information (PI) Area Chair

No one stood for or was nominated for this position; it will remain open.

Elections for the remaining open service committee positions will be included on the Fall Assembly agenda.

Motion from the Conference Advisory Committee Motion to Impose a Deadline for Hosting the Spring Assembly Conference

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

Erik L., Alt Area Chair and chair of the Conference Advisory Committee, read the motion and gave introductory comments. The purpose of this motion is to have a policy providing for a firm date for canceling each year’s Spring Assembly Conference if no bid to host it is made. The motion and background material are attached.

Questions:

Rich H. asked if we were going to hold true to this motion for the bidder to complete a “formal presentation” or allow anyone who says, “I will make a bid at the Winter Assembly” to go forward.

Barbara H. asked for clarification that it’s not just anyone who says “I’ll make a motion in the future;” it’s someone who makes a formal bid presentation at the Winter Assembly. Erik replied that this is correct.

Gary F. asked what defines a complete bidding process.

Erik said the intent was that the bidder would have a proposed venue location and a preliminary budget ready by the Winter Assembly. If the bidder were in the negotiation process with the venue and had a rough idea of what the budget would be, they could be allowed to go forward as the host. The idea is that we want to have a Spring Conference, and we can have some flexibility. Carmela added that the Area Guidelines for Conferences provides an outline of what constitutes a formal bid.

Discussion:

Gary F. supports the motion with a cancellation date of 15 months out. He has been through the experience of having the venue fall through, so he knows 15 months lead time is good.

Christy B. supports the motion based on past experience with finding hosts. If we don’t want it enough to bid by the Winter Assembly, hold to the motion—we won’t do it if no formal presentation with a minimum of general budget and venue identified; just raising a hand a saying “We will do it,” is not enough.

Dave T. confirmed with Erik that “no formal bid by Winter Assembly 15 months ahead, no conference.” He asked if the Area planned to hold to rotation of hosting among districts in the guidance. If it’s too soon, will you say no to the bid? Carmela replied to Dave’s question by confirming rotation among districts is part of the guidance, but in practice we haven’t always held to that, and it can be worked out at the Area committee meeting or by vote at the Assembly. A district or group of Area people wanting to bid would work with the Area committee ahead of the deadline to work through issues like potential violation of rotation guidelines.

Rob M. likes the motion. With a hard deadline, those wishing to host will have to form a formal committee to prepare the bid by the deadline to be able to make a formal bid. He asked if it is correct that this motion does not include wording for guidance updates listed as follow-up items. Who will do the guidance updating follow-up actions presented with the motion? Carmela said the Report and Charter is responsible for working with the motion committee to get the guidance updated.

Chris E. read from the Area Planning Procedures that districts will not be allowed to bid to host within three years of having previously hosted the conference.

A vote was taken on the motion. It will require a 2/3 majority to pass because it will result in a revision to our Planning Procedures and Guidelines.

Votes in favor of the motion = 35 (97%)

Votes opposed to the motion = 1 (3%)

Total votes = 36

The motion was approved with a majority of greater than two-thirds of the vote at 97%.

Minority Opinion:

No one had a minority opinion.

Service Committee Reports

Accessibilities – Mike H., Chair

Not present

Answering Service – Tracy F.

Not present

Archives – Jeff K.

Jeff participated at the recent Illinois State Convention on the Archives panel with Richard from Area 19 and Carl from Area 21. His committee is continuing work on the Archives webpage on the NIA website. He asked for someone to step up to chair the committee for the next two years. He has a briefcase and portfolio ready for the new chair and will meet with them to get them going. The materials are in good shape, so they are good to go.

Discussion:

Ed M. has had an opportunity to work with Jeff during his time as Archives chair and thanked him for his service.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) – Kevin A.

Kevin met with Karen F., the newly elected Panel 72 BTG committee chair, in the breakout session to discuss going moving forward in our districts, and a means to combine the freestanding Area BTG database with the NIA website BTG page to make it more workable.

Concepts – Robert S.

Not present

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) – Jeff L.

Not present

CL

Corrections – Scott M.

Kane County Jail and DuPage County Jail have meetings back up and running. DuPage County Jail has applications available for going into the jail for meetings. He has very little information about applications/training for Kane County. To his knowledge, the prisons have not opened up yet; that decision is up to the state.

The National Corrections Conference will be held in person in New Orleans on November 12-14, 2021. NIA 20 will be hosting the 2022 National Corrections Conference, and the planning committee has started meeting again.

Grapevine – Susan H.

The monthly Area-wide Grapevine workshops are going well. There were 11 participants at the September workshop. The monthly workshop is held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Discussion:

An attendee asked where she could find information about the workshops. Susan replied that they are posted on the Events Calendar on the NIA website. It is a Zoom event. A flyer is sent each month to the Area committee, including the DCMs.

Literature – Kim T.

The breakout group today discussed the 2021 GSC Literature approved agenda items and how integral literature is to recovery. Kim did not know if the book *A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous, an Archival Journey*, originally published as a keepsake for the cancelled International Convention in Detroit, was conference-approved literature.

Discussion:

Chris E. said he remembers getting the announcement from the Publishing Department on Valentine's Day February 14, 2021, that said it was the A.A.W.S. keepsake book from the cancelled Detroit International Convention offered directly for purchase because it was already in the printing process when the convention was cancelled.

Public Information (PI) – Ed M., Alternate Chair

Ed said he heard in the breakout that some groups have gotten PI information out on their own during the pandemic and wants groups to know that the Area and some districts may have funds available for PI work. He is interested in looking at what A.A. has on YouTube, and if we can use that content for PI purposes here in the Area to bring us more fully into the electronic information age. He will be working on the list of district PI committee chairs/contacts list for the incoming PI chair to use.

Discussion:

Sue C. said their district (11) did a CPC project and sent YouTube links to A.A. videos to public officials along with other information and the videos were well received.

Treatment – Lisa S.

As mentioned back at the beginning of the summer season, progress had been made in reopening all sectors of the economy with businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new safety guidance and procedures. In the treatment community, requirements for volunteers in health care settings vary. Some facilities that once had opened to volunteers have since closed again due to the high COVID transmission status of all counties throughout the state. Other are requiring masking, social distancing, and evidence of full vaccination or a weekly confirmed negative COVID test in order to continue providing volunteer services.

CL

We continue to provide support both locally and outside NIA 20. During the recent Illinois State Conference, we were able to present the NIA 20 Treatment Center presentation during a panel discussion to highlight the history, challenges and benefits of bringing A.A. into the treatment community.

We continue to partner with local BTG Committee members in connecting patients with an available A.A. member through BTG opportunities. While treatment centers are working on updating COVID-19 health compliance protocols, those who are being discharged need to find A.A. It's still not realistic to expect they are going to find it on their own, especially during this transition phase. We look forward to working with you all as we work towards navigating a safe return to carrying the message into treatment centers across NIA 20.

In love of service,
Lisa S.
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair

Administrative Committee Reports

Archivist – Cheryl V.

Not present

Conference Advisory Committee – Erik L.

Eric said the main discussion for this committee in conjunction with the back-to-meetings ad hoc committee has been about how we will meet for the December assembly. The earlier recommendation from the ad hoc committee was to meet virtually for the quarter following an assembly held virtually due to CDC and state mandates/guidelines. That recommendation implies we will meet virtually, but things have changed somewhat since that recommendation was made. Our other main discussion is how we will do hybrid going forward. The CAC committee and Back to Meetings ad hoc committee will continue to work together to answer these questions.

Electronic Equipment – Joe B.

Not present

Finance – Karen F.

Dawn reported for Karen, who had to leave the meeting. Chair Karen F. will be setting a time for the Finance committee to meet to discuss the Primary Purpose Budget (PPB) for 2022, and the possibility of making a contribution to GSO in the near future. All Area committee members will be invited to the 2022 PPB discussion meeting.

Operating Committee – Chris E.

We have held no meetings since the Summer Assembly and have nothing to report.

Report and Charter

We have held no meetings since the Summer Assembly and have nothing to report.

Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V.

Not present

Technology Committee – Earl N.

Committee member Rob M. reported that he and Earl have been working with the Document Management ad hoc committee. He has talked to Erik L. about hybrid meetings and about getting the Technology committee

CL

with the Ad Hoc Return to Meetings committee as they discuss hybrid meetings and prepare a proposal for the assembly.

Discussion:

With reference to hybrid meetings, Erik L. said it was enlightening to be on the Hybrid Meetings panel at the recent Illinois State Conference. He plans to get help from Area 19 (Chicago) about the technology/equipment required for hybrid meetings. He will be meeting with the CAC and Ad Hoc Return to Meetings committees to work on this and will invite the Technology committee to join them.

Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management – Christy B.

Christy and Rob M. have discussed presenting a proposal at the Fall Committee Meeting and a motion for acquiring cloud storage services at the Winter Assembly.

Discussion and Poll – Zoom or In-Person Winter Assembly

Chair Carmela opened discussion about how we will meet in December for the Winter Assembly. She asked for input on what would be an ideal meeting if pandemic restrictions don't intervene: in-person, virtual, or hybrid.

Kevin A. suggested we go live [in-person] and incorporate a virtual component as much as we can.

Chris D. asked how the Chair was going to format the question for the poll; possible options are in-person, virtual, hybrid, or follow any Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines in place 30 days before the assembly. There are only 45 people left in attendance in this meeting now. How will you weight the poll to assure it is representative of the whole Area?

Carmela R. said our procedure per the guidelines is to meet in person, so this discussion is about how we want to meet given current pandemic conditions, guidelines and mandates, rather than meeting format in general going forward.

Sue C. is in favor of all meetings being hybrid going forward; some people will not be able to be in large gatherings for a long time to come. Accessibility issues such as disabilities, driving distance, inclement weather or illness all prevent some from attending in person. Hybrid will provide better attendance.

Ed M. sees us having hybrid forever going forward, but personally likes in-person meetings. As a representative of an outlying district, he thinks we will gain more people by going hybrid.

Carmela said that from what she's hearing based on this discussion and previous ones, we have a preference in general going forward to have hybrid meetings. What she wants to know is if the assembly is okay with the Area Committee deciding at the October Committee Meeting about how to meet for the Winter Assembly based on the pandemic guidelines and mandates in place in October.

Al U. said we should follow the CDC and Illinois guidelines to decide late term on the type of meeting we have in December. We should be cautious and follow the guidelines.

Eva C. is in favor of virtual or hybrid going forward. Virtual only seems safer under current pandemic conditions.

John O. asked that we not let something like this divide us; this discussion is good.

Erik L. said that now masks are mandated again for use indoors in all public places in Illinois, we are back to making a decision based on safety for December versus making a decision to have hybrid meetings for access for the future.

George C. said safety is most important for now, but he is in favor of pursuing an economical and practical solution for having hybrid at meetings going forward.

Susan H. said nothing new will come from this discussion. There is no reason not to go back in-person in December, giving examples of in-person school and university attendance and in-person shopping at stores like Jewel and Walmart in support of an in-person meeting. As for hybrid, she asked if we could do that by hiring someone like Amot Audio to set up and run it for us, if needed.

Rob M. reminded the group that we originally went virtual because of the pandemic quarantine, and we had to make our decision quickly. He said we should not make rash decisions now even though things are not as good as they were this past summer, and that includes making hurried decisions about going hybrid. He agrees that hybrid meetings are what we want, but for now we have to follow the CDC and Illinois guidelines.

Ray M. appreciates our concern and effort for broadening attendance means through hybrid meetings for accessibility. He reminded us, however, that A.A. cannot afford the negative publicity that would accompany us holding an in-person meeting that became a Covid-19 spreader event.

Christy B. reminded the group that although we do have an indoor mask mandate in place for individual over two years of age in Illinois, there are no other indoor meeting restrictions currently in place to preclude us from having an in-person meeting in December. She does not think we do not currently have the technology and equipment to have a hybrid meeting in December.

Kevin A. recommends that the Ad Hoc Return to Meetings committee should not wait any longer to gather facts about requirements for hybrid meetings from Area 19 and others to formulate a workable solution for us.

Chair Carmela conducted a poll that asked if the Area should have a virtual Winter Assembly in December 2021 per the guideline that if we start the quarter with a virtual Fall Committee Meeting in October, we end the quarter with a virtual Winter Assembly in December.

Poll Results: The majority of those present voted “Yes” to having a virtual Winter Assembly in December.

Meeting Closure with Open Mic

Open Mic:

Chris E. announced that District 21 is having a Service Orientation Workshop on October 19, 2021, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., presented by the Area Alternate Delegate Chris D. The meeting will be hybrid, and pizza will be served to those who attend in person.

Dawn B. announced that the 46th Anniversary Party will be held on October 9, 2021. The speaker will be our Past Delegate Rich H. The cost is \$25.00, and Dawn has tickets.

Renita D., D12 DCM, announced that on October 3, 2021, from noon to 5:00 p.m., Area 19 and Area 20 are having a hybrid Speaker-A-Thon. Soul food will be served to those attending in person.

Adjournment

Erik L. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rob M. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Winter Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on December 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Northern Illinois Area 20 Secretary,

Christy B.

CL

2021 Fall Assembly Motion from the Conference Advisory Committee Motion to impose a deadline for hosting the Spring Assembly Conference

Motion:

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

Background:

The Spring Assembly Conference (SAC) is a weekend long event that requires the host committee to “Secure a location for the Conference and make all necessary arrangements with the facility staff”. “Experience shows that successful conferences finalize contracts at least one year in advance.” This has been an increasingly difficult situation and if not secured within this reasonable amount of time, the pricing for hotel selection is significantly impacted.

The number of people suggested per our guidelines for planning this conference is thirty-six including chairs and alternates with additional members needed for each committee. In the past, two or more districts have partnered to provide the work force needed and even then, fell short in many years. If there are not enough members committed to take on this responsibility and allow for the inclusion of both seasoned and inexperienced participants, it may be difficult for the true spiritual nature of this “Area sponsored conference” to be met. This is evidenced by the cancellation of two of the past three years conferences when no one stepped up to host.

Our guidelines suggest and are written with the expectation that “bids for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conferences are awarded approximately one and one-half years preceding the event” A set cutoff date could help us focus on the current voice of the fellowship when the bidding process deadline has passed.

References:

- http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/pdf/guide/2018/Planning_Procedures_2018.pdf
- <http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-201901.pdf>

Follow Up Actions required:

- Update the Area 20 Planning Procedures
- Update the Northern Illinois Area 20 Service Manual

Respectively submitted, Conference Advisory Committee

- Erik L., Area Alternate Chair
- Susan H., Area Grapevine Chair
- Dawn B., Area Treasurer
- Kevin A., Area Bridging the Gap (BTG) Chair
- Carol H., Area Registrar

FALL ASSEMBLY FINAL DRAFT