

2021 Fall Committee Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2021

Online Audio/Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela made the meeting announcements.

New Attendees

Sarah B., Panel 72 DCM D21

George P., Panel 72 Area Alternate Corrections Chair

Anniversaries

Georgene R. – 9/19, 2 years

Kevin A. – 9/28, 21 years

Pat M. – 10/14, 39 years

Scott T. – 9/20, 8 years

70 Years of Sobriety Celebrated!

Approval of 2021 Summer Committee Meeting Minutes

Kevin A. made the motion to approve the August 14, 2021, Spring Committee Meeting minutes and Jeff L. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Welcome All,

Thank you for being here today.

By now I have given many 71st General Service Conference reports to district via ZOOM and in person.

The 71st General Service Conference Final Reports have been delivered to me. I have started distributing them to the districts. I am available to attend your district to give my report.

Not all districts received the 70th GSC Final Conference Reports so I really hope to accomplish that this year along with the 71st GSC Final Conference Reports. I have been believing that we would meet in person so I could deliver them, however that hasn't happened.

On October 10, 2021, I attended a virtual breakfast with the East Central Region Delegates and our Trustee, Cathi C. We discussed what is going on in our areas. It seems like not all of the Area Positions are being filled at the elections. It was mentioned that the new A.A. Service Manual might be helpful in helping people be involved in service.

2021 Budget Reforecast: For the year 2021, there is a reforecast of the budget. This budget includes \$1,490,572 in additional revenue and \$760,048 in additional operating expenses. Total operating revenue is projected to be \$17,084,572, an increase of 10% from the original budget. Total operating expense is projected to be \$16,416,862, an increase of 5% from the original budget. The committee discussed in detail the reductions and additions proposed in the re-forecasted budget. They also discussed being prudent with expenses and sending a message to the Fellowship about the importance in replenishing the Reserve Fund.

The East Central Regional Forum (flyers included) will be held on November 19-21, 2021, virtually. There will be a virtual literature fair, presentations and workshops so I do hope that you plan on attending and supporting our region. If you have never attended a Forum before, you will be surprised how good they are.

- Registration is free. That's right — FREE!
- Registration opens: October 25, 2021
- Registration will be available the same day as the event.
- You can register online at www.aa.org.
- Starting October 25, 2021, click on the "Regional Forums Information" on the main webpage, scroll down to the Schedule, and click on the "Registration is open" link.
- All registration information is confidential and will not be used for anything except communicating about the event and sending the digital Final Report

There are volunteer opportunities for the Technical team. Please contact me and I will give your information to the appropriate person. I will be moderating a panel and I am looking for volunteers to be on that panel. It's great service work for anyone willing to step up. [Marilyn made additional comments here to encourage attendees to volunteer to be on her panel at the forum.]

The "A.A. Service Manual" with the Twelve Concepts has been newly redesigned, revised and updated and really looks wonderful. It is so user friendly and hopefully will encourage people to get active in service work. I have seen it and it looks great. This manual is projected to be available to download as a pdf from aa.org on November 4, 2021, and the printed copy is projected to be available on November 17, 2021. (Print English: 50,000 copies, Spanish: 8,000 copies at \$4.00 each)

The Publishing department proceeded with a small-run manufacturing of audiobook CD sets of the abridged and unabridged versions of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in English, French and Spanish, as presented, with revisions to units being ordered as appropriate.

A.A.W.S. announced the September 27, 2021, launch of the new Corrections Correspondence System (C.C.S.). Corrections Correspondence is one of the most rewarding and rarely mentioned forms of Twelfth Step work that extends the hand of A.A. to members inside correctional facilities. As you may know, many correctional facilities suspended in-person A.A. meetings due to health and safety guidelines related to Covid-19.

I have attached a flyer for the 25th National A.A. Archives Workshop, September 22-25, 2022, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

My total expenses for 2021 to date: \$241.30

Attachments mentioned in the Delegate's Report are posted on the NIA website.

After reading her report, Marilyn emphasized that the new “A.A. Service Manual” will soon be available to download or buy from GSO, and she thinks it may help attract new people to service. She has a “Service is the Secret” button and she believes that is so true!

Discussion:

Chris E., D21 DCM, asked what the 5% increase in expenses from last year included. Marilyn wasn’t sure what items increased the expenses and will get back to him on that. He also asked what her panel topic is. Marilyn said it was on keeping the newcomer and people who are on the fence involved and interested in A.A. She will put the title in the chat when she finds her email.

Karen D., D73 DCM, asked how to get more information on the Corrections Correspondence System. Marilyn said she sent the information to each district’s Corrections chair. She will send it out to everyone on the Area Committee roster after this committee meeting.

Treasurer’s Report – Dawn B.

NIA Fall Committee Meeting – October 16, 2021

Balance Sheet

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See the report for the period from January 1, 2021, through October 13, 2021, posted on the NIA website:

- Checking account balance: \$40,069.92
- Operating funds balance: \$34,399.02
- Restricted funds balance: \$5,670.90 and consists of:
 - “Pink Can” \$1,755.76
 - “Green Can” \$915.14
 - 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 report for the period from January 1, 2021, through October 13, 2021, posted on the NIA website:

- Total Contributions: \$36,140.80
- Total Expenses: \$12,760.54
- Net Operating Income: \$23,380.26, 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.

- 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.
- The Treasurer's workshop on September 30th was well attended.
- The Finance Committee has met and agreed upon a 2022 PPB.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Discussion:

Chris D. asked about the green can funds. He thought it was \$0.00 on the Assets page of the Balance Sheet. Dawn showed him that it was \$915.14.

Christy B. asked if the Profit and Loss sheet listing of -\$313.26 in PPB category B19-20 2020 – IL State Conference Hosting is NIA's portion of the profit from the 2020 State Conference. Dawn confirmed that it is.

Alternate Treasurer – Allen J.

Allen explained that his contributions amounts don't match to the Treasurer's report because he got some contributions after the cutoff date for the Treasurer's report. He asked that he be sent a contribution form (posted on the NIA website) for a group bank transfer contribution so he can get the group number to properly assign the contribution.

Contributions Summary – 1/1/21 to 10/4/21

Date deposited	(All)
Row Labels	Sum of Contributions amount
(blank)	
Green Can contribution	\$207.24
Pink Can contribution	\$1,903.86
Group contribution	\$26,581.31
District contribution	\$3,803.45
Personal contribution	\$1,209.27
Grand Total	\$33,705.13

The Alternate Treasurer's Report containing the 2021 Contributions Statement is posted on the NIA website on the NIA Agendas, Cover Letters, Motions and Reports page for the Fall Committee Meeting.

Discussion:

Dawn said that contributions using Chase Bill Pay have no ID on the check, so please fill out the contribution form or send an email about the contribution to Dawn and Allen when using Chase Bill Pay (or other online bank bill payment services) to make contributions.

Allen will continue to use the current Contributions post office box in Streamwood during his 2022-2023 term as Treasurer: **NIA, Ltd., P.O. Box 808, Streamwood, IL 60107.**

Rob M. said he knows PayPal takes a fee from contributions made on their website. Do we report the full contribution, or the amount left after PayPal takes their cut and are those payments recorded? Allen said he reports the net amount contributed after PayPal takes their fee out. Dawn confirmed that each PayPal payment is recorded separately in QuickBooks.

Marilyn made a comment not related to the Treasurer's Report that her potential topics for the ECRF are "Singleness of Purpose" or "Keeping the Newcomer and Those on the Fence" and she is considering them into one topic for her panel. Rob M. has already volunteered to be on the panel.

Finance Committee Report – Karen F., Chair

Karen said her report today consists of present the 2022 proposed Primary Purpose Budget (PPB), which is scheduled to be discussed later today under new business.

Officers' Reports

Alternate Delegate – Chris D.

First off, thanks to all (especially the new DCM's) for attending our Fall Committee meeting. This meeting is at its core the Area's opportunity to both hear from and inform the Area's DCM's so that they are armed with the most recent information to be able to inform their Districts. To that end, I've changed the format of my report for this meeting.

GSO contributions- Since my last report I've received the most recent contribution summary from Marilyn which details Area 20's District contributions to GSO. All of the individual District information was sent out to the DCM's yesterday and the overall summary is attached to this report.

Recent/Upcoming Meetings:

Illinois State Policy Committee – I attended the recent Illinois State Policy meeting where we heard final reports from the Illinois State Conference. Action items from that meeting include locating the official "banner" (Area 19?) plus an item to research a recent ISC decision to accept payment from the State of Illinois for the conferences' ASL translation services. It seems there is a state funded program whereby the State will pay for ASL services, and I've been asked to see whether that violates any of our traditions, and report back to the Illinois State Policy committee, which I will serve on with Rob for the next two years.

Southwest Regional Forum – I attended the SWRF last weekend where I heard reports from several GSO and GSB members as well as many SW Regional Delegates. I also "saw" Cathi C. (our current East Central Regional Trustee) as she was preparing to host our own forum in November.

District 21 Service Orientation Workshop – I will be facilitating a GSR/SOW next Tuesday, October 19th in Palatine at 7 P.M. I will be attending in person, but the workshop will also be hosted via Zoom. Please contact Chris E. (DCM D21) for the link if you would like to attend and perhaps see if this is something you would like to have conducted for your district.

Big Book Conference – October 30, at 9 A.M. District 11

East Central Regional Forum – November 19-21. Hosted by GSO

DCM Communication—Recent email threads you may find of interest:

- From D80. Meeting guide updates. How they happen and how they're updated when your district does not have an established website. What is the Area's position on assisting districts to host websites?
- Requests for insurance waivers from facilities for individual meetings. Please contact me or Steve C (DCM D70) if you have information or prior experiences with this issue.
- District Inventories – D11 has now published the notes from their recent District inventory. Please contact Kate or Pat in D11 for details on how this was conducted.

Also, we have a motion today to discuss that will seek the Assembly's approval to allow video conferencing during Area assemblies, committee meetings and at the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, thus creating "Hybrid Meetings." I look forward to your comments on the idea.

On a final note, I would like to thank the Area for the confidence it has placed in me to serve as the next Delegate for Area 20 for Panel 72. I am deeply humbled and overcome with gratitude at the opportunity to serve.

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

Discussion:

Chris E. corrected the time of the District 21 service orientation workshop. It starts at 6:30 p.m. and that is when the pizza will be available. He also said their district has experience with groups having to get liability insurance for their meetings.

Rich H. said that since A.A. is fully self-supporting, we wouldn't use the state funds for ASL interpreters. Cheryl V. said if the state does it for other non-profit organizations, it would be okay for us to use the funding. Chris D. said there would be more to come on this potential for assistance from the state. Rich would like more information as to how this relates to our traditions, and if we go forward with it, how it is accounted for in our PPR. Chris D. will reach out to him.

Karen D. said two groups in her district have two IDs each on the contributions report, and she is having problems with sending emails to the Registrar. Chris D. said he will follow up to make sure she has the Registrar's and Alt Registrar's correct emails, and her problem gets communicated to them. Alt Registrar Rob M. posted his correct email address in the Zoom chat.

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.

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – carries on monthly. Next meeting is set for 11/3.
- Continue to support requests for our NIA20 Zoom account – by districts and various committees, to set up and help produce their events, as needed.
- Fall Assembly meeting prep will be underway to prepare preliminary agenda within a week following today's event.

What's coming up:

- Focus on key areas:
 - 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 conferences
- Participation
 - 2021 Big Book Conference opening remarks
- Start to transition
 - As our Panel 72 Trusted Servants are elected, it's time to begin to pass along our experiences from Panel 70 to 72. Our Chair-elect, Rob M and I will meet in the coming weeks to do that very thing!

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.

Erik has been working with the Big Book Conference planning committee. The ad hoc committee on going back to in-person meetings met in early November. He is glad that Rob M. will be the Panel 72 Area Chair, in part because Rob is so technically adept, and he thanked Carmela for her guidance as Area Chair in steering us through Area meetings on Zoom (Woohoo!). He is looking forward to transitioning the Alt Chair position to Dawn B. and giving her the Area items he has stored in his garage. He attended the Financial Committee meeting held last night.

Registrar – Carol H.

Not present

Alternate Registrar – Rob M.

Rob had nothing to report other than that he is continuing to work on open registration issues. Registrar Carol had computer issues that slowed work down. Rob will work with Earl on getting the Alt Registrar email link working on the NIA website. He has been working with the tech team of the Big Book Conference planning committee and has greatly enjoyed it. He thanked Carmela for agreeing to meet with him to get him up to speed on the position of Area chair.

Secretary – Christy B.

Christy said the Fall Assembly minutes will be coming out soon. She thanked Carmela and everyone else who helped get us through the transition to Zoom meetings and their continued efforts to make these Zoom meeting run smoothly, especially the current Area officers. She is looking forward to being Alternate Registrar and working with Chris E. as he transitions from District 21 DCM to Area Registrar.

Alternate Secretary – Karen F.

Karen said the NIA website Alt Secretary's email link does not work. The Alt Secretary needs that to be working to receive changes from the DCMs for the District Meetings List. Rob M. will work on it with Webmaster Earl.

Conference Reports

2021 Big Book Conference Committee – Rich H. and Georgene R.

Rich gave a shout out to Erik L. and Rob M. who have been participating in the Big Book Conference planning.

Hello Area 20

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

Today we are two weeks away from our Area 20 Big Book Conference Hosted by District 11. I sent an update to our DCMs and Alt. DCMs two weeks ago.

Our current registration is 126, mostly from Area 20 and the surrounding areas in Illinois and Wisconsin. We also have received registrations from the East Central Region, around the country, and one from Canada. Registration has gone up by about 30 in each of the last two weeks. 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 make a contribution.

Our Treasury started with \$2500.00 Seed Money from Area 20. Current Donations total \$170.62. \$64.52 came from within our Big Book Conference Committee, much of that was us testing the links on our flyer. \$106.10 came from outside of our Committee. We have a current expense of \$11.44 in PayPal fees, with a current balance of \$2,659.18. We will have future expenses for Spanish Language Interpreter, Sign Language Interpreter, printing, and possible Zoom expenses.

We have Beautiful Color Flyers 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. We had our final committee meeting last Saturday. We had to add one more meeting to complete our work. We will meet next Saturday, October 23, to do a Zoom walkthrough. 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 7th contributions 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" in the middle of our flyer, 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. You can also contact us with the phone numbers on the flyer or click on the email address on the lower right-hand corner, and six of our Committee members will receive that email with quick response. You can also 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 Program is now in development, and you will easily be able to move from Panel to Panel on your own using breakout rooms as we did at our last Assembly.

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. I understand that the Spanish recordings will be on the new section of their website and also will be 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. We will then have two sets of panels. 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.

To our knowledge, there are currently no bids for the 2022 Big Book Conference. There is still time to talk to your districts and put in a bid at the Winter Assembly.

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

Discussion:

Christy B. said that her women A.A. friends are excited about hearing the talk "A History of Women in Early A.A." Rich replied that men A.A.s are excited, too, and both speakers will be excellent.

2022 East Central Regional and Illinois State Conference Committee – Mary R., Committee Member

Mary said the 2022 State Conference planning committee is meeting for the first time in person on October 23, 2021, at St. Gilbert's Church in Grayslake. Fellowship will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the committee meeting will start at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following the meeting. She invited anyone interested in being part of planning the conference to come meet the committee and sign up as a volunteer. Delegate Marilyn and Alt Delegate Chris D. have been helping the committee, and Rich H. will announce it at the Big Book Conference. The planning committee will be meeting each month, alternating between District 10 and District 42 meeting locations. They have prepared a Save the Date flyer and it will be posted to the NIA website soon.

Panel 72 Open Positions (2022-2023)

Carmela announced that the Area has six open Service Committee Chair positions and nine open Service Committee Alternate Chair positions for Panel 72 starting on January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. The open positions are listed in today's agenda. Elections for these open positions will be held at the Winter Assembly on December 11, 2021.

Ongoing Business

Bids for 2022 Big Book Conference

No bids were presented. Carmela asked the DCMs to talk to their districts about hosting this one-day conference.

Bids for 2023 Spring Assembly Conference

No bids were presented. Carmela said the Conference Advisory Committee and Erik L. can help with preparing a bid, and other resources are available as well.

New Business

Discussion of Motion from the Alternate Delegate to Include Video Conferencing at NIA Events

Motion

Move to include video conferencing capabilities at NIA Assemblies, Committee Meetings and the Pre-General Service [Conference] Workshop.

Alternate Delegate Chris D. read the motion and background material.

Discussion:

Rob M. said that the Covid-19 pandemic started in 2019, not 2020.

Earl N., Technology Committee chair, said in addition to the expenses listed, an Area-supplied laptop is needed for the Area Webmaster going forward. He is strongly in support of the motion.

Carmela R., supported by Dawn B., said that the \$3,000 projected cost is for start-up expenses.

Chris E. pointed out a typographical error: "Pre-General Service Workshop" should read "Pre-General Service Conference Workshop." He asked if hybrid meetings include the committee meetings leading up to the assemblies. Chris replied that committee meetings are included.

Cheryl V. suggested a check of the Area Service Manual for each type of meeting going hybrid and adding to the motion an update to the guidelines that the host committee's venue for each assembly or meeting has WiFi capability. In reply, Rob M. said he is recommending that the Area purchase a WiFi hot-spot service before the Winter Assembly, so a venue's WiFi capability will not be important.

Karen F. asked if the \$3,000 upfront cost was ongoing. She suggested adding an ongoing administrative cost projection for hybrid meetings to the motion.

Sue M. asked what Area committee would take on the responsibility for hybrid meetings—Technology committee, newly formed committee, or meeting host committee. She suggested we add the responsible committee or persons to the motion.

Rich H. concurred with Karen F. that a list of items covered by the \$3,000 startup cost, and a separate ongoing administrative costs projection with a list of items included, such as the WiFi service subscription should be added to the motion.

Joe B. reminded the Area Committee that the electronic equipment the Area currently has is limited. He understands that the costs included in the motion are approximate. He said he is not very tech-savvy, so won't be of much help in setting up hybrid meetings. He said that to be transparent, after four years of service on the Electronic Equipment committee, he is planning to step down from that position.

Steve C. asked for clarification if we are voting on the motion today at the committee meeting, as well as at the Winter Assembly in December and if the motion requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

Carmela replied that we are only discussing it today, and it will be voted on at the Winter Assembly. Since it includes changes to the Area guideline, it will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Steve C. stated further that he would like to include a suggestion that when people are on the on-line component of hybrid meetings, they turn on the video, so people can see them commenting.

Erik L. suggested that we continue to monitor CDC and State guidelines and evaluate “had to” for the pandemic versus “want to” for accessibility when deciding to use hybrid meetings going forward. He doesn’t want to do it for convenience of individuals only; it could have a big impact on the Area going forward.

Scott T. said that \$3,000 startup funding may not cover the costs and it may be better to add more funds to the motion before it is approved than after.

Rob M. responded to Erik’s comment by saying that as incoming Area Chair, he plans to continue to make it exciting and enjoyable for people to attend in-person, so use of on-line attendance during hybrid meetings is a “has to” instead of an “easy to.”

Marilyn F. spoke to Erik’s and Rob’s comments by saying that at the most recent Delegate’s breakfast, one delegate made the comment that in their area, “if you are going to stand for a position, you must show up in person.” That rule puts participating on-line into a “has to because of accessibility issues” category for those in office.

Chris D. reminded the Committee that the Primary Purpose budgeting principle is that we put in the budget what we think it will cost, but we will pay for whatever it costs because we are paying to do the approved activity—it is activity driven.

Earl N. agrees we need upgraded equipment and a hot spot service. He likes the motion because it allows people on the outskirts of the Area to participate without having to travel several hours, or stay overnight to attend in person, which sometimes isn’t feasible.

Jeff L. asked if this would require each PGSCW preparatory committee meeting to have a laptop for hybrid sessions.

Allen J. said we will have to go slowly to implement hybrid meetings. He suggested having officers attend the Winter Committee meeting in person with all others participating on-line. We should not do it on the fly like we had to do to go virtual when the pandemic shutdown began.

Christy B. asked if this motion required all assemblies, committee meetings and the PGSCW to be hybrid. Is it an option to have some meetings such as the PGSCW preparatory committee meetings online only?

Rich H. said this subject needs more consideration, for such items as hybrid elections at an assembly. Should you be present in-person to stand, etc.?

Kevin A. agreed there are different things to consider. It is an ongoing process, but we shouldn’t be afraid of it.

Rob M. suggested we change the wording of the motion to “ability to have hybrid” instead of making it a mandate.

Carmela R. and Chris D. together suggested a change to the motion to add the word “capabilities” under Activity in the table, i.e., “Include video conferencing capabilities at NIA events.”

Carmela then asked the officers’ group to meet to take into consideration the suggestions and recommendations made during this discussion and come back with an amended motion.

Chris D. said he will schedule an officers’ meeting within two weeks of today to make revisions, and will send the revised motion to the Area Committee for discussion in districts before the vote at the assembly.

Proposed Primary Purpose Register Review

Area Treasurer Dawn B. presented the proposed Primary Purpose Register (PPR) giving explanations of differences in proposed primary purpose budget (PPB) amounts versus 2021 PPB proposed/expended amounts.

She also talked about the one primary purpose motion (PPM) M074: Literature for Treatment that is listed because \$1,000 of unused 2021 funding remains in this item. Carmela recommended that Lisa S., the outgoing Treatment chair and the incoming Treatment chair, once one is elected, be contacted about this funding before it is eliminated from the PPR.

Discussion:

Allen J. clarified that PPR item B11: Illinois State Conference, Area Committee Participation is budgeted at \$4,000 for 2022 because it is being held in Area 20, and attendance of all Area 20 Officers and Alternates, Administrative Committees members, and Service Committee Chairs and Alternates is recommended per the Area guidelines, and expense reimbursement is available to those who attend.

A member asked where she could find the proposed PPR. Dawn said it will be posted on the Area website.

A member asked for confirmation that there is no funding for the East Central Regional Forum because it is only held every two years with the next one is in 2023. Dawn confirmed that is correct.

Allen J. recommended that the DCMs discuss the proposed 2022 PPR with GSRs. Dawn said she can come to district meetings occurring before the Winter Assembly to discuss the proposed PPR. John O., District 43 DCM, agrees that the DCMs should communicate with the GSRs about this and encourage them to attend the Winter Assembly for the approval vote.

Proposed 2022 Area Events Calendar Review

Area Chair Carmela R. presented the proposed 2022 Area Events Calendar.

Discussion:

Chris E., D21 DCM, asked if the assembly and committee meeting dates could be moved to later in the month because his district meeting occurs right after the most recent one, and they aren't able to discuss items before the following meeting.

Christy B. replied that the second Saturday of the month is the traditional meeting day for these Area events in Area 20, and Carmela agreed. Chris D. said that scheduling later in the month tends to interfere with other events such as Mother's Day in May.

Incoming Area Chair Rob M. said he would work diligently to get out the agendas earlier for each event, so districts have time to discuss items.

Rich H. and Chris D. asked about the date for the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop (PGSCW). After some discussion, April 9, 2022, was set as the date.

Chair Carmela will include a revised 2022 Area Events Calendar showing the changes made today in her Winter Assembly packet.

Dave T., incoming DCM for District 23 volunteered his district to host the Winter Committee meeting on January 8, 2022. A member asked what the host committee would do if the meeting were only on Zoom, and Chair Carmela replied that they would have no responsibilities in that case.

DCM Reports

D10, Michael L. / Mary R.	Mary had to leave early, but she said earlier in the 2022 State Conference committee report that her district was busy working on the State Conference.
D11, Kate D. / Pat M.	Kate – The Big Book Conference is two weeks away on October 30, so we are working on the planning with Rich H., Georgene R and Pat M. running it. The conference will start with fellowship at 8:30 a.m. They are still holding their district meetings on Zoom.
D12, Renata D. / Francella K.	<p>Renata – We had a couple of motions about how much money to send to Area and GSO and after the motions were passed, sent out donations to the Area and GSO. We are planning to increase our prudent reserve. We are planning our Christmas party and have had several donations from groups for presents for the children. We have elections coming up in November.</p> <p>Francella added that she has been listening and learning. She said they had an awesome Speaker-thon this year and have contributed to the Christmas party. She thanked everyone at the Area for their time and effort in service.</p>
D20, Rafael V. / No Alt	Not present
D21, Chris E. / Mike M.	<p>Chris E. – I put in the chat about the service orientation workshop with Chris D. coming up in three days. The workshop is hybrid and there will be pizza. It is open to anyone in the Area who is new to service or wants to learn more. We have had hybrid district meetings for the past two months and should be well prepared for the hybrid workshop. We have district elections in November. He is grateful to Sarah B. for stepping up to be the new DCM.</p> <p>Chris D. added that Delegate Marilyn and Area Chair Carmela will also be presenting at the workshop.</p>
D22, Joe B. / Dave F.	Joe – We had elections at our district meeting on October 3, which was very small, and filled six positions. Dave F. was elected DCM and we have an alternate DCM. We have other people willing to stand for open positions at the November meeting to fill four or five more positions. Joe will continue to provide support at the district level.
D23, Scott T. / Dave T.	Scott – We have hybrid district meetings the second Monday of each month. With hybrid meetings, participation has increased. Hybrid meetings have also helped keep people connected at group meetings. In-person attendance at meetings has increased recently. The answering service committee is the most active committee currently and will have a report at the district meeting next month. Dave T. is the incoming DCM and 80% of the open positions were filled at the election this month. Many positions were filled with people new to service. Scott will be the district PI chair.
D28, Johnna I. / No Alt	Johnna – We are having Zoom district meetings. We have had better participation on Zoom. The district is sponsoring an open speaker meeting on the third Saturday of each month. Our elections will be held at next month's district meeting. We have Zoom, hybrid and in-person meetings in the district and see no particular trend toward any one being better attended.

D40, Gordon R. / No Alt	Jeff L. reported that his district has members helping with the monthly Area-wide Grapevine workshops. Elections will be held at the district meeting on October 29. Their Christmas party will be held in person this year on December 19.
D41, Tom M. / Walt K.	Not present
D42, Jim A. / Charles H.	Not present
D43, John O. / Bill N.	<p>John – We would like to give a shout out to the district Archives committee. They have made significant progress with their efforts to digitize all our Dist. 43 materials. Over 4500 files have now been digitized. Our Group History Project that has been submitted to New York includes over 120 Group Histories. Our latest project is to collect “Longtimer’s” audio interviews for transcription to include in our records. We have completed 72 continuous months of Groupnews articles in our “Grapevine” monthly Newsletter.</p> <p>Our website continues to be the glue that holds everything together. All information is posted in a timely manner. Correct exchange of information is crucial to helping us Carry the Message.</p> <p>Dist. 43 continues to have and support a total of 104 meetings per week. Most are now coming back person to person with Zoom still a viable option. All subject to change of course.</p> <p>Elections were held last Sunday. Of the 32 positions up for election, 18 were filled, and we will get the rest of them at the next district meeting.</p> <p>We are participating in the Big Book Conference and will be presenting a panel there. We are looking forward to that event.</p> <p>We are reaching out to our GSRs and committee chairs via regular DCM reports and texts. Area information is passed along to further help our people understand.</p> <p>I would like to thank Chris D. for the discussion of answering services at our last DCM breakout. I gained a lot of information from that and went back to our district with it. As a result, our district will be significantly lowering our answering service costs.</p> <p>We would like to thank all of our leaders at the Area level for their support.</p>
D51, Michael S. / No Alt	Not present
D52, Heather S. / No Alt	Not present
D61, Natalie G. / Rita O.	<p>Natalie – We sent a contribution to GSO within the past two month. Our district meeting is the last Friday of the month. Elections will be held at this month’s meeting on October 29. We have a lot of open positions. I announce every month that there are many opportunities for service at the district and area levels. The current alternate DCM has not been very active in the last couple of years and probably will not run for DCM. Our PI committee visited some high schools in the district via Zoom this year and presented to freshmen health classes on alcoholism and what A.A. is all about. It is a good event to give exposure to what recovery can be like. There are lots of great questions and responses from the students. We have both Zoom and in-person meetings currently.</p>

D62, Betsy W. / No Alt	Not present.
D64, Gary P. / No Alt	Gary – Many meetings previously held at churches and major hospitals have closed down. About two-thirds of our meetings are now held at the Fox Valley Alano Club now, so it is very important to the district, as are other fellowships. Some churches will not be letting us back in, and we expect to be away from the hospitals for a long time. Most meetings are in person, a few are on Zoom. The district used to place a weekly ad in the local newspaper and with changes to the newspaper's format that is no longer feasible. I am looking for ideas from other districts on how to get the word out as a replacement for these ads. Some in my district have suggested putting posters up in Aurora buses. Others think this is promotion, not attraction.
D65, Alt DCM Javier H.	No present
D70, Steve C. / No Alt	Steve – We have been having in-person district meetings with hybrid added at the last one. We had 30 attend the election meeting this month. We filled all the committee chairs except one, and two alternate positions have also been filled. GSR participation at district meetings has been very good. I would like to thank the Area trusted servants who have been of assistance to our district and answered my questions. I would also like to congratulate the incoming Area trusted servants. I will continue as DCM for the next two years because I served only a partial term this year.
D71, Eric B. / No Alt	Not present
D72, Sue M. / No Alt	<p>Sue – We are having hybrid district meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Alano Club in Freeport. We have had about the same participation for the past six to eight months. We had our district picnic last month. Attendance was lower than the previous year, but still good. We had a roundtable discussion at the picnic that went well with people sharing their recent A.A. experiences. Everyone seemed to really enjoy that. We are having a get-together next Saturday for those participating in a panel we are presenting at the Big Book Conference.</p> <p>We have elections next Wednesday. Considering that we have no alternates for any of the positions, and not many people who are saying they will step up, I guess I will just say it's in God's hands.</p>
D73, Karen D. / Harry E.	<p>Karen – We had elections last night. Out of the 22 positions, 12 were filled and the DCM and alternate DCM were not filled. I was asked to stay on for the next two years. I am turning it over to God whether I think I can handle it and do a good job for another two years. We usually have our district meeting the third Friday of the month, but are considering changing it in November because it is the weekend of the ECRF and SoberFest. We have been doing hybrid district meetings the last three months. We have been getting more people attending because we are in person and some people do not have Zoom and internet service.</p> <p>The Fall Roundup in Loveland will be held this year the Thursday before Thanksgiving at 6:30 p.m. with some changes in format from previous years. If you want to, bring a dish to pass or a dessert.</p>

D73, Karen D. / Harry E. (continued)	We now have a mobile app card with the instructions for downloading the Meeting Guide to hand out. We have had several comments back that the mobile app has helped people to find meetings. We also created a paper meeting schedule for those without cell phones, or those with cell phones that don't have apps capabilities. Our webmaster has the meetings list posted on the website and keeps it up to date. I appreciate the help I get from NIA. At this time, I am just trying to keep our district going.
D79, Hector I. / Jamie R.	Not present
D80, Bill B. / No Alt	Not present
D90, Randall C. / No Alt	Not present
D91, Ed M. / No Alt	Ed – We have some similarities with other districts in the western part of the Area based on what they are saying. We will have new trusted servants in January in the district, and many of them will be new to service. We have 12 groups in the district, and they are all meeting in person. I plan to update groups as I go about the district. We are having a Halloween party in appreciation of our groups' support. I probably will be stepping down from district service and will encourage the new DCM to stay in contact with the Area, especially as we go to hybrid for Area meetings. We are surviving and I think people feel good about the whole situation.

Meeting Closure

Open Mic:

Kate D. announced that Don W. of Portage, Michigan, a past delegate and ECR trustee, will be the speaker at the Three Legacies 5th Sunday open meeting on October 31, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is currently being held virtually on Zoom.

Sue M. is happy that District 73 is having their Fall Roundup and plans to come.

Dawn D. said she is attending the National Corrections Conference in New Orleans on November 12-14, 2021, and she invited others to attend. You can attend virtually or in person.

Adjournment

Sue M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Erik L. seconded it. Area Chair Carmela R. adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m., and the A.A. responsibility statement was recited.

The Winter Committee Meeting will be held on January 8, 2022. Information will be forthcoming about the format of the meeting (Zoom, hybrid or in person).

Respectfully submitted,

Christy B.

Northern Illinois Area 20 Secretary