

2021 Spring Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1, 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.

Total Attendees:

At the meeting opening, 35 attendees were signed into the Zoom meeting.

New Attendees

Gregorio, D65

Georgene R., D11, 2021 Big Book Conference Co-Chair

Mike M., D21 Alternate DCM (newly elected)

Anniversaries

Rob M. – 4/27, 33 years

Christy B. – 3/23, 35 years

Chris E. – 4/27, 2 years

Rich H., D11 – 4/17, 33 years

Jeff K. – 3/27, 13 years

Earl N. – 3/16, 17 years

Chris D. – 4/8, 31 years

164 Years of Sobriety Celebrated!

Approval of 2021 Winter Committee Meeting Minutes

Cheryl V. made the motion to approve the January 9, 2021 Winter Committee Meeting minutes and Earl N. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting Business

Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Welcome to Everyone. I hope that you are all staying well.

Since the Spring Assembly I have attended the 71st General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. We had a packed schedule for eight days and we finished the work. I will give a full report at the Summer Assembly on June 26, 2021.

SOME NEWS FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE:

Greg T. left the position of General Manager effective February 1, 2021 and Stephanie L., Senior Director of Administration and Strategy will serve as Interim General Manager effective immediately. No one has permanently filled that position yet.

The Big Book and "Twelve and Twelve" in American Sign Language are live on the A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel!

AA Grapevine's Corporate Board is seeking candidates for the positions of Publisher of the AA Grapevine, Inc. and Non-trustee Director. Candidates should be A.A. members preferably with 10 or more years of continuous sobriety. Interested members may forward their professional and A.A. service résumés, along with any questions regarding the position, to mirzam@aa.org by June 16, 2021.

There will be an upcoming opening for a non-trustee director position in 2022 for A.A. World Services, Inc. Non-trustee directors are A.A. members selected for business or professional experience that relates to the activities of the corporation. Per the A.A.W.S. bylaws, a non-trustee director can serve up to four successive one-year terms. Full details will be made available through aa.org, the Meeting Guide app news alert feature and in a letter to Conference members and the Fellowship later in the year.

Following the 2022 General Service Conference there will be openings for two Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, replacing Hon. Christine Carpenter, of Columbia, Missouri and Nancy McCarthy, of St. Louis, Missouri. Please submit your candidate's business or professional résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee (nominating@aa.org), by July 23rd, 2021.

The GSO has continued functioning on an entirely remote basis. A tentative date for returning to the workplace has been moved back from March to April or May (post-Conference) at the earliest and will incorporate a voluntary modified schedule.

I haven't received much to report on due to the Conference, so more will be revealed.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn F. – Area 20 Delegate

My total expenses for 2021 to date: Printing for the 71st GSC - \$73.70
Adobe Pro 2020 for 2 computers for multiple years - \$477.06

Marilyn added to her written report by saying that GSO has announced a 5-month test of reduced shipping costs for A.A. Literature from May 17 to October 18, 2021.

The most recent communication she had about GSO reopening was that it was happening in April; however, since April has passed, it may now reopen in May. She gave a brief overview of her experience during the GSC and said there were 110 final agenda items; 47 committee recommendations to the floor for action out of 89 items considered by the various committees; and 6 floor motions made. At the conclusion of the GSC, the delegates had voted to send 49 advisory actions to the General Service Board. She will present additional details at the Summer Assembly after she gets the final GSC report for delegates.

Discussion:

A member encouraged support of the reduced shipping fees at GSO. She spent \$10 to ship one \$10 Reflections book to an AA friend, so reduced shipping fees would be very good.

A member asked why the total advisory actions count was 49 when only 47 items were recommended by committees to the floor for action. The two additional advisory actions were from floor motions made. Another member asked if Marilyn could send out the spreadsheet with the results. Marilyn will check if she is allowed to share the spreadsheet with the membership. She will send it out if she gets permission to do so.

Chair Carmela reminded DCMs to ask Marilyn to come to their districts to give her report.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report – Dawn B.

NIA Spring Committee Meeting – May 1, 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 NIA website for the full Balance Sheet for the period from January 1, 2021 through May 1, 2021.

Summary – 1/1/21 through 5/1/21

- Checking account balance: \$24,896.68
- Operating funds balance: \$21,194.59
- Restricted funds balance: \$3702.09 and consists of:
 - "Pink Can" \$2,852.95
 - "Green Can" \$849.14
- 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 May 1, 2021.

Summary – 1/1/21 through 5/1/21

- Total Contributions: \$13,993.12
- Total Expenses: \$6,684.09
- Net Operating Income: \$7,309.03, which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2021.

Miscellaneous

- The Treasurer's workshop on April 24th went very well. A lot of ideas were exchanged, and we plan to have one over the Summer.
- We have begun to have 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.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dawn added to her written report by stating that contributions have slowed down in the past month. She received a check from an anonymous grant and will check with GSO on how to handle it. She has also received a contribution from a club and has returned it. She asked DCMs to remind clubs in their districts that A.A. can't accept contributions from clubs.

Discussion:

A member asked what club the contribution was from. Dawn declined to answer the question.

A member asked if Dawn had compared Area finances from pre-pandemic months last year to pandemic months this year. Dawn has no firm numbers on this, but confirmed that we have income exceeding expenses this year for a positive cash flow.

Former Area Treasurer Carol H. offered to assist Dawn with figuring out how to handle the anonymous grant.

Alternate Treasurer – Allen J.

Allen presented information on the 2021 area contributions. The summary report breaks down contributions from districts, groups, individuals (posted anonymously), pink can and green can. He is going to talk to Webmaster Earl about posting the contributions report to the website more often than eight times a year, so groups and districts can have updated contributions information to check more frequently.

Contributions Summary – 1/1/21 to 4/16/21

Date deposited	(All)
Row Labels	
Sum of Contributions amount	
(blank)	
Green Can contribution	\$207.24
Pink Can contribution	\$835.36
Group contribution	\$11,646.86
District contribution	\$1,847.45
Personal contribution	\$527.85
Grand Total	\$15,064.76

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 2021 Spring Committee Meeting.

Discussion:

A member asked if Allen and Dawn were in balance before posting the contributions statement. Allen said they were in balance and also reported that the thank-you letters had been sent for these contributions.

Alternate Delegate – Chris D.

Welcome to the 2021 Spring Committee Meeting!!

Once again in what's become all too familiar, we find ourselves meeting virtually for our Area Committee meeting, but hopefully we'll all be able to meet in person soon!!

First off, I know I speak for the entire Area when I send out heartfelt thanks to Marilyn for her participation at the General Service Conference last week. I'm sure you'll hear it many times today, but we all appreciate your hard work and sacrifice!! (WooHoo)... Thanks also to everyone in the Area who participated in the PGSC workshops that led up to the conference, particularly the Standing Committee Chairs (and alternates), scribes, workshop administrators as well as all who attended.

It's been a bit quiet since the PGSC workshops, though I continue to meet monthly with the other Area Officers to discuss Area business and plan for future events. Our next officer's meeting is next week (5/5/21). I was invited to attend an initial meeting for the planning of the 2022 Illinois State Conference (last evening), and I thank them for their service and look forward to being able to help out, as necessary.

I'm also a member of the Area Ad-Hoc committee on document retention and file sharing which our Area Alternate Secretary chairs, and although I missed the last meeting a couple days ago, I look forward to being able to help on that committee and help come up with a solution to an issue that's been plaguing the Area for a while now.

I'll also be attending the next meeting of the U.S. Alternate Delegates (later today) and will fill you in more on those activities in my next report.

(For the DCM's) – Remember, today's primary responsibility is for us to inform YOU, so you can return to your districts to inform your GSRs who in turn inform their groups and collect their group conscience. When the process works, those GSRs return at our next assembly (in 8 weeks) and inform US by their votes. Remember to ask questions (especially in regard to the motions) today so you can return to your districts as fully informed as possible. Additionally, I'll be scheduling a DCM meeting before June 1 so we can meet as a group once again prior to your June district meetings. And then, we hope to see you all (and your GSRs) at the Assembly on 6/26/21.

And, as I've stated in prior reports, I remain available to assist (or conduct) Service Orientation workshops for Districts or Groups. These are considered Area sponsored events and as such the Area would cover any associated costs.

2020 Reimbursement Requests – I have no reimbursement requests since my last report.

Respectfully submitted - Chris D. – P70/A20 – Alternate Delegate

Chair – Carmela R.

Wow, Spring of 2021 already – what a rotation it has been so far! I'm really looking forward to getting back together when the time is right – we're working on it!

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – monthly.
- Adjusting our 2021 Calendar as needed.
- Working to attract servants to both elected and appointed open positions.
- Managing our Zoom accounts as needed. I recently closed the two additional accounts that we needed to facilitate our PreGSC Workshop breakouts. Until it becomes clear that we need more, one account has been serving us well enough.
- Joining District meetings to share experience, strength, and hope and NIA 20 updates. Thank you Districts 43 and 64 for the recent invitations – it's always fun!

What's coming up:

- Officer meeting and Summer Assembly meeting prep – next Officer's meeting is 5/5, 2021.
- Continued focus on key areas:
 - Open appointed positions we will need to fill to support upcoming and recent assembly actions, especially Report and Charter
 - Technology committee – need to build Zoom support + back to meeting support
 - Active committees – using our Zoom account(s) to meet + build area calendar
- Support increased engagement and participation
 - Prepare Assembly feedback summary for committee to view in advance of June 26th meeting.
 - Continue to offer surveys after events.

Expenses to date: \$631.70.

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

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

Alternate Chair – Erik L.

Erik met with the Conference Advisory Committee. Later today, the committee will present two motions for discussion prior to presenting them for a vote at the Summer Assembly. He participated in the 2021 Big Book Conference committee meetings and the kick-off for the 2022 Illinois State Conference planning committee. He will give a presentation at the District 61 business meeting this week.

Registrar – Carol H.

Carol thanked Webmaster Earl N. and Alternate Registrar Rob M. for fixing her Area email issues. She was not receiving emails sent to registrar@aa-nia.org for about a week.

Fellowship Connection, the new membership database at GSO, is not maintaining all the information we need for the Area, so she and Rob are looking to collect it separately. She has been talking to other areas about how to do this. GSO is having a sharing session about Fellowship Connection for area registrars soon. They do want to help the areas. Carol is also a member of the ad hoc committee on returning to meetings and is on the technical committee for the 2021 Big Book Conference. She will be sending an updated Area Committee Roster out soon.

Note: Remember all registration and information change forms can be found on the aa-nia.org website. <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. ***All communication of changes and updates should be sent to the registrar@aa-nia.org mailbox or mailed to Area Registrar, PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524.***

Discussion:

Chair Carmela thanked attendees for filling in the information about their districts and service positions in the districts on the meeting registration form. It helps the registrar update our Area fellowship database.

Delegate Marilyn asked Carol how many areas contacted her after Marilyn sent her request to fellow delegates asking them to have their registrars contact Carol about these database issues. Carol said she doesn't know yet. She is waiting until the update to her spreadsheet of area registrars is finished, so they haven't sent out anything to the other areas yet. She has heard in conference breakouts that best practices for databases are very different in different areas.

Chris E., D21 DCM, said that there is no information on inactive groups in Fellowship Connection. He has worked with Carol on gathering this information through other means. Carol thanked him for the work he has done on updating membership information.

Alternate Registrar – Rob M.

Rob reported that he attended the ad hoc committee on file sharing and archiving this week. He has also been working with the 2021 Big Book technology committee. He also is assembling a list of registrars in other areas to send requests for information about databases they use to capture Area information in addition to Fellowship Connection.

Secretary – Christy B.

Christy confirmed that she has not sent out the 2021 Spring Assembly minutes yet. She said that the current Alternate Secretary Karen F. will not be moving up to become Secretary for the Panel 72 term of service and asked for people to bring this service opportunity to their districts prior to the 2021 Fall Assembly elections.

Alternate Secretary – Karen F.

Karen was not present at the meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committee on Returning to In-Person Meetings – Erik L., Area Alternate Chair

Erik reported that he has been following the status of the state's Covid restrictions and is hoping that we can meet in person for the Fall Assembly in September. Lord of Life Church in LaFox where we have held many in-person meetings in the past, is still limiting inside services or meetings to 50 people or less. If that is still their limit in September, we will not be able to meet there because we would be over their capacity limit. We also want to make sure that Lord of Life Church or any other place we may meet will have A/V capabilities for a virtual presentation of the meeting (hybrid meeting). We are in a "wait and see" mode right now.

Ad Hoc Committee on File Sharing and Archiving – Christy B., Area Secretary

The File Sharing and Archiving Ad Hoc Committee met on April 29, 2021. Committee members are Chris DeGrane, Rob Mefford, Cheryl Vassau, Jeff Kauffman, Earl Nicholas, and me. Our discussion focused on what we want to store and share electronically. We do not yet have a mission statement, but we know it starts with determining "what files we want to share and archive electronically" in order to get to "how we want to share and archive."

We agreed that secure electronic storage of Area archives, some of which are not anonymity protected, is an important part of the "what" element. We agreed that we want an electronic version of archived material to be available for research by A.A. members, such as when a host committee is preparing for a conference, or a service committee wants information on past actions by the committee. I personally want the recordings of assemblies and committee meetings to be available to supplement the meeting minutes when a question arises about past actions of the Assembly.

File sharing for committee work is also important. The NIA website, where we share anonymity protected information, is not included in our discussion, nor is the GSO online registration process.

We have general agreement that we will be considering one of the several well-known and supported services such as Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive, or Dropbox for electronic storage and sharing when we get to the "how". File security and cost effectiveness will be considerations in the "how" discussions.

We will be meeting again before the Summer Assembly and I will report again at the assembly. Please send me an email at secretary@aa-nia.org if you have comments or suggestions for our committee.

Ongoing Business

Open Elected Positions Review

Chair Carmela said that elections for the open positions listed below will be held at the Summer Assembly. The duties and responsibilities for these positions are listed in the Area Service Manual.

- Accessibilities Committee Area Chair
- Accessibilities Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Grapevine Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Public Information (PI) Committee Area Chair

2021 Big Book Conference Report – Rich H. & Georgene R., Co-Chairs, District 11 (October 30, 2021)

Our Committee is very proud to be representing District 11 as the Host Committee for the 2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference, which is Saturday, October 30th.

Last weekend I sent an e-mail to the DCMs and Alt. DCMs of Area 20 updating them of the status of our Committee. I will be doing this again prior to each of our Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings. I have heard back from a couple of them, thanking us, and letting us know that our flyers are being distributed. If you are a DCM or Alt. DCM and did not get an e-mail from me, please let me know at richh925@msn.com. We are late comers in accepting the hosting responsibilities, and I believe we have moved fast and far since our first meeting on January 23rd of this year.

We currently have two save the date flyers that have all our current information. The flyers are identical other than one of them has a lot of beautiful color which would best be used in an E-Version, and the other one is black and white which is more printer friendly. Thank you to DCM and Alt. Program Chair Kate who has built for us all our flyers to start with and build upon.

Thank you to Area 20 Alt. Chair and Conference Liaison Erik, who talked to Rachael, who is available for Spanish-Language Translation on October 30th. We hope to have our Main Speakers translated into Spanish, and our Spanish-Language Panels translated into English.

We spent a lot of time at our last Committee Meeting talking about the Pros and Cons of Closed Captioning versus live ASL Translations. With us leaning toward ASL translation with the opportunity to request this on our final flyer. Then we closed with the Responsibility Statement, which told us how important it is follow through on this. I talked to Megan, who has done ASL Translations for many of our Conferences and is available for ASL Translation on October 30th. We have not contracted with either yet. AMOT Audio will be recording this event.

Thank you again to Erik and to Area 20 Treasurer Dawn and most recent Past Treasurer Carol for their communications and they will be communicating with our Big Book Committee Treasurers the best and easiest way to accept contributions.

We have a Timeline and are currently using today's Spring Committee Meeting, and the June 26th Summer Assembly as benchmarks for certain goals.

Georgene, our Alt. Chair and I will also be reporting at all Committee Meetings and Assemblies up until the Big Book Conference. And Georgene has been reporting at our District 11 Meetings. We would also be available to talk at your District Meetings as we get closer to the Big Book Conference.

We started out at a time when a live Conference didn't seem possible, and we are continuing to move forward with a virtual conference. Taking advantage of Zoom Technology to bring you a Program that embraces AA's history, and that 18-month period from 1938 to 1939 that our Big Book came to life. Our morning speaker is Kathleen C.H. from Dallas Texas. She does a great presentation on the early history of women in AA. Our afternoon speaker is William S. from Fairfield Connecticut. He is an author, and he and we agree not to promote his book. He does a great presentation detailing the efforts in that period that the Big Book was written. Both time slots will allow some time for Questions and Answers.

Our Panels in between will be from stories from the back of the Big Book that can be found in each of the four editions. The Districts that will be on those Panels are yet to be determined. But our Program Committee is looking at past programs and hopes to ask Districts that possibly haven't been asked to participate as many times as other Districts in recent years. We will be looking to Southern Wisconsin, Area 75 to fill one of those Panel time slots to follow our Conference Procedures. There will be two Spanish-Language Big Book Panels, and our Program

Committee is in communication with our Spanish-Language Districts, encouraging them to pick stories from the three editions of our Spanish-Language Big Book. We do not have the stories or the panelists currently.

We have our own Technology Committee, and plan on being "Self-Supporting", with this Committee performing all our Virtual Conference needs. Our Literature Chair is bringing Grapevine as part of that Committee and will be working with our Technology Committee to highlight our literature and Grapevine during the day. Our PI Committee has contacted surrounding Areas, GSO to get procedure to list our event in BOX 459, and by now possibly our Concepts Editor for deadlines and procedure to get our flyer in Concepts Newsletter. Our Registration Committee is eager to get to work and is creating a mailing list to get registrations out there and will also be communicating with the Technology Committee to expand on what they can do. Our Treasurers are both signed on to the Area Big Book Conference Bank Account and have looked at past year's financial statements, and like all the committees, looking how to effectively be involved with this virtual conference. And I know from past experience the importance of having a good secretary, and we are blessed to have the two best, putting our work into written words. Thank you to this entire Committee.

Our goal is to have all this information and a final Program and Flyer for the Summer Assembly on June 26th.

Rich and Georgene

2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference – Hosted by District 11

Discussion:

Kate D., D11 DCM said one Spanish language panel has been selected.

Rob M. said a website for the conference will be up and running soon at <http://www.aa-nia.org/bigbookconference/>. Earl has the Big Book Conference posted on the Events page of the website along with the "Save the Date" flyer.

2022 Illinois State Conference Report – Erik L., Alt Area Chair

Districts 10 and 42 are hosting the Illinois State Conference (ISC). It will be held one of the first three weekends in August 2022. In 2022, the annual East Central Regional Conference will be held concurrently with the ISC, so the planning will include both conferences. The ISC committee will have a full report at the Summer Assembly in June.

New Business for Summer Assembly

Discussion of Motions

Motion from the Conference Advisory Committee – Spring Assembly Conference – Erik L., CAC Chair

Erik introduced the motion, saying it resulted from discussions in the CAC about how to continue to have Spring Assembly Conferences when no districts were bidding to host them. For the last three of four years we have not had a Spring Conference, but the results of the most recent Area Inventory indicated that people in the Area want them to continue.

Motion 1: The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee moves that a Spring Conference Chair and Co-Chair be elected by the Area Assembly. The election would take place at the Fall Assembly 18 months prior to the Conference. (Note that the first election would take place at the Fall Assembly 2021 for the 2023 Spring Conference). If there is no one elected by the Winter Assembly, the area will forego the upcoming Spring Assembly Conference.

The CAC recommends that the Area should take a more active role in establishing the Host Committee. Of course, a District could still essentially serve as a Host Committee by having one of their District members stand for Spring Conference Chair and then forming the Host Committee with District participants. By having an elected Chair, the Area would assume greater responsibility for ensuring the Host Committee is formed on time. Additionally, there would be a better opportunity for retaining and passing on the experience from one Host Committee to the next. The CAC Committee would continue to provide a supporting role when needed in site selection, budgeting, contract negotiation, etc.

The above action will include:

- A review and update of the current Spring Assembly Conference guidelines by the Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Report and Charter Committee to be completed for presentation at the Fall Committee meeting with a motion for vote at the 2021 Winter Assembly.
- That support would include:
 - The CAC will provide a review and discussion of the current guidelines for the Spring Assembly Conference. The purpose of the discussion is to answer questions and provide shared experience.
 - The CAC will provide the criteria for hotel selection and a list of hotels that have been vetted to meet that criteria from various locations throughout the area based on current guidelines.
- Once the Host Committee Chairperson has been elected at the Fall Assembly, they will begin to form a Spring Assembly Conference with initial focus to fill the positions of Co-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Chairperson, and Program Chairperson. This selection could begin at the same Fall Assembly and should be brought up at every area meeting until all positions have been filled.
- The CAC, with the help of the Area Archivist and previous Host Committee Chairpersons, will provide the historical data from the past years with all the financial and final reports available.
- Once the above positions have been filled, the hotel selection and budget process should be completed with the assistance of the CAC. The contract for the hotel and proposed budget based on that contract should be approved after a thorough review by both the CAC and at least two of the Area Officers.

The Area Officers will oversee the process to ensure that the Conference Advisory Committee and Host Committee Chairperson report at each Committee Meeting and Assembly the progress to include assistance needed and help provided by the following:

- Financial responsibility - Finance Committee and Operating Committee
- Guidelines for hotel selection - Report and Charter Committee, Conference Advisory Committee and NIA Service Manual Custodian
- Technology for electronic storage of documentation - Archivist and Technology Committee
- Program planning and implementation:
 - Answering Service Chair and Alternate
 - Archives Chair and Alternate
 - Bridging the Gap Chair and Alternate
 - Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair and Alternate
 - Corrections Chair and Alternate
 - Grapevine Chair and Alternate
 - Literature Chair and Alternate
 - Public Information Chair and Alternate
 - Accessibilities Chair and Alternate
 - Treatment Facilities Chair and Alternate
 - Equipment needs - Electronic Equipment Committee

Follow Up Actions Required

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

Respectfully submitted,

NIA 20 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

Questions:

Chris E. asked if the approval of the guideline changes could be moved up to the Fall Assembly to coincide with the election if the motion passes. Erik explained that what the host committee does will not be changing, so that will require no guideline changes. What changes is having the election, which requires an update to the guidelines.

A member asked how this proposed motion differs from what we do now. Erik replied that this motion provides for accountability and Area involvement because of the election of a chair and co-chair. The chair/co-chair do not have to draw only from their district, but can assemble the conference planning committee from people throughout the Area, which takes the burden off a specific district to provide all the volunteers.

A member asked what would happen if a district wanted to host. Erik replied that if that happened, then the people the district wanted to be conference committee chair and co-chair would stand to be elected to chair the committee. This is a motion to fill the gap if no district bids to host.

A member asked if the people elected had to be voting members of the committee and if they were rotating positions. Erik said there would be an election every year, so they would be rotating. The motion doesn't include any statement that the people elected have to be voting members of the committee.

A member asked if the wording of the motion still put the responsibility on a district. Erik said not necessarily. As he previously stated, the chair and co-chair can select committee members from any or all districts in the Area.

A member asked if it was incumbent on the elected chair and co-chair to find a district, venue, etc. Erik replied that the primary duties of the elected chair and co-chair were to form a committee to do those things. The main purpose of the motion is to "draw a line in the sand." If no chair and co-chair are elected by the end of the Winter Assembly a year prior to the scheduled Spring Conference (December 2021 for 2023 Spring Conference), then there will be no Spring Conference in 2023.

A member asked if candidates could stand for the positions or had to be nominated by someone. Erik said both standing for the position and nomination by another person were acceptable, as long as the person nominated was willing to serve if elected. Another member gave an example that if someone from District 11 was elected chair and someone from District 23 was elected co-chair, they could select the best people to fill the other committee positions regardless of district affiliation.

Discussion:

A member commented that he thought the motion was a good idea based on the recent trend at the Area of not having Spring Conferences because no districts bid to host them.

Another member also said he was in favor of the motion. No one else had a comment and the discussion ended.

Motion from the Conference Advisory Committee – Illinois State Conference – Erik L., CAC Chair

Erik L. read the motion and said the rationale for the CAC making this motion is very similar to those for Motion 1.

Motion 2: The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that the Area 20 assembly body elect a Host Committee Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for the Illinois State Conference Host Committee at the Winter Assembly starting with the 2025 conference. The election will be every 3 years starting at the Winter Assembly, 2023.

The CAC recommends that the Area should take a more active role in establishing the Host Committee. Of course, a District could still essentially serve as a Host Committee by having one of their District members stand for ISC Chair and then forming the Host Committee with District participants. By having an elected Chair, the Area would assume greater responsibility for ensuring the Host Committee is formed on time. Additionally, there would be a better opportunity for retaining and passing on the experience from one Host Committee to the next.

The above action will include:

- A review of the current Illinois State Conference guidelines at the Fall Assembly and Fall Committee meeting to elicit interest and establish support for the election of the Host Committee Chairperson at the Winter Assembly.
- That support would include:
 - The CAC will provide a review and discussion of the current guidelines for the Illinois State Conference. The purpose of the discussion is to answer questions and provide shared experience.
 - The CAC will provide the criteria for hotel selection and a list of hotels that have been vetted to meet that criteria from various locations throughout the area based on current guidelines.
- Once the Host Committee Chairperson has been elected at the Winter Assembly, they will begin to form a State Conference Committee with initial focus to fill the positions of Co-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Chairperson, and Program Chairperson. This selection could begin at the same Winter Assembly and should be brought up at every area meeting until all positions have been filled.
- The CAC, with the help of the Area Archivist and previous Host Committee Chairpersons, will provide the historical data from the past years with all the financial and final reports available.
- Once the above positions have been filled, the hotel selection and budget process should be completed with the assistance of the CAC. The contract for the hotel and proposed budget based on that contract should be approved after a thorough review by both the CAC and at least two of the Area Officers.

Background

- Every 3 years, Area 20 is responsible for hosting the Illinois State Conference. The other two years are hosted by Area 19 (Cook County), and Area 21 (Southern Illinois).
- Currently, we wait for a District to volunteer to form a Host Committee to plan and coordinate the ISC.
- Ideally, a Host committee should be formed so that site selection, budgeting, etc. can begin 18 months prior to the event.

Follow Up Actions Required

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

Respectfully submitted,

NIA 20 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

Questions:

A member asked if Motion 2 could be reworded similar to Motion 1 to clarify its intent. Erik agreed to do that and said he would send the revised Motion 2 to the DCMs once the revisions were completed.

There were no other questions or discussion on this motion.

DCM Reports

D10, Michael L. / Mary R.	Not present
D11, Kate D. / Pat M.	Kate – We are working diligently on the 2021 Big Book Conference planning.
D12, Renata D. / Francella K.	Renata – We need one more person to fill a district position. Things are going super. Francella – I am listening and learning, and encouraging others to get involved in service work.
D20, Rafael V. / No Alt	Not present
D21, Chris E. / Mike M.	Chris E. – Mike is the new alternate DCM, just elected a few weeks ago. We have pushed to fill the last remaining open positions at the district. We now have an alternate webmaster, alternate DCM, and archivist. At each monthly district meeting we have had an Area person as a guest to give a presentation. We have welcomed Chair Carmela, Karen D., D73 DCM, and PI alternate chair Ed M. recently. The DCM exchange between our district and District 73 was a very good experience. I went to the District 73 meeting and Karen came to ours. Our effort to make corrections and updates to district information at GSO continues. There were some difficulties with one set of changes sent directly to GSO at Registrar Carol's suggestion. There are always challenges with new systems. We are working to get information about Spanish language meetings in our district from Area 20 to post on our website. We have an opportunity to add a group that meets in Inverness to our district, and we are exploring how to add Inverness to our district. Mike M. – I have been working on updating information on inactive groups meeting in churches in the district. It is difficult to connect with them. I have been getting a lot of answering machines and no call backs, but I will keep trying.

D22, Joe B. / Dave F.	Joe B. – We are still meeting virtually. We did meet in person for a few months last summer, but the ups and downs of the pandemic have created difficulties. Our webmaster has been very good at updating meeting information. We have filled and refilled district positions and still have some open. The LSSI treatment center is allowing us in-person visits on a limited basis. The BTG chair is on fire. Delegate Marilyn will be at the district meeting in June to give her report on the GSC. We are hoping to start meeting in person again to get more participation. Dave and I are looking forward to the district elections in the fall and doing some recruiting. Virtual recruiting is a challenge; attendance on virtual district meetings has dropped off.
D23, Scott T. / Dave T.	<p>Scott – Most meetings are open. The meetings at the EDI club have hybrid capabilities and it is working successfully. District meetings average 10 to 15 people. The main emphasis in the district meetings is GSRs reporting on how each meeting is doing and what help they need. The answering service has increased our cost by 60%. This is hard because contributions are down. The treasurer got ideas for a more economical answering service at the Area Treasurers workshop. We are bringing PayPal contributions back to the district.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Joe B., D22 DCM said he was having the same problems with his answering service costs. Scott and Joe will discuss this offline.</p>
D28, Johnna I. / No Alt	Not present
D40, Gordon R. / No Alt	Not present
D41, Tom M. / Walt K.	Tom – Our district meetings are being held via Zoom. The most recent one had the best attendance so far for the Zoom meetings. The DuPage jail is allowing people back in. Our website is up to date with Zoom meetings. Some meetings are hybrids now, and some in-person meetings are starting back. We still have some district positions open. Our next district meeting is May 20.
D42, Jim A. / Charles H.	Not present
D43, John O. / Bill N.	<p>John – Our website is the glue that holds things together. It is updated frequently to stay current. Our district meetings have a monthly theme and are well attended. A recent theme was “We are not a glum lot.” The May meeting theme is “Spring into action.” We have 104 active meetings per week. Our PI/CPC committee was placing A.A. ads in local papers four times a year; they are now doing it every month. BTG has designed a flyer for jails and treatment facilities. People from our district participated in the Pre-General Service Conference workshop.</p> <p>Bill N., the new Alt DCM, said that district workshops are good and getting better each month.</p>
D51, Michael S. / No Alt	Not present
D52, Heather S. / No Alt	Not present

D61, Natalie G. / Rita O.	Natalie – I want to thank Erik Long for sharing at our district meeting about the role of the GSR. We are having a few churches opening up to meetings. The Batavia 12 Step Club is having a membership drive June 5th. District 61 is going to have the District Picnic August 7th. We have some empty committee positions. The CPC/PI chair did carry the message to St Charle North Health Classes and received good feedback.
D62, Betsy W. / No Alt	Not present
D64, Gary P. / No Alt	Gary – Our district meetings are social-distanced, in-person at this time. Most A.A. meetings are live, but some are still on Zoom. Some of these meetings will not be returning to in-person when the pandemic restrictions end. Of 26 weekly meetings, 21 are at the Alano club. The hospitals and churches may never have us back.
D65, Alt DCM Javier H.	Javier – we are meeting every two weeks, and we have three active committees: Corrections, PI and Treatment. We have four GSRs out of eight groups. We are meeting in person.
D70, Steve C. / No Alt	Steve C. – The district has been busy since the Rockford Intergroup Office shut down. Individuals have set up an answering service and an ad hoc committee is working on a set of guidelines for the answering service to be approved by the district. The Alt DCM will be responsible for printing and distributing our meeting schedule and newsletter. The district meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month, have been well attended.
D71, Eric B. / No Alt	Not present
D72, Sue M. / No Alt	Sue – We currently have hybrid district meetings and will keep this going to accommodate the Galena groups. Galena is back to in-person meetings. Groups are starting to plan events. One group is having an open speaker night, and another is planning a games night. We are working on expanding our website, adding links and information for groups, as well as getting group information to the Area Registrar. We are considering featuring one group in the district on the website each quarter, giving a history and overview of the group for people in the district to become familiar with different groups.
D73, Karen D. / Harry E.	Karen – I want to thank Chris E., D21 DCM, for joining our most recent district meeting. It was good for GSRs to hear how it works in other districts. We have 53 meetings in the district listed in our meeting schedule. Of these, 9 groups that account for 18 meetings are still not meeting. Those that have started back up have small attendance that may be a result of Covid. Some meetings are on Zoom and some have just been lost to the fellowship. Instead of meeting lists, we have printed up Meeting Guide cards so people can use the app, but it doesn't work on the flip phones that some folks have.

D73, Karen D. / Harry E. (continued)	<p>We have two correctional facilities and four jails in the district. We have had no news of meeting startups for either correctional facility. One of the four jails has started allowing us back in.</p> <p>The district has a prudent reserve that they had to start using in April to meet district expenses. They share an answering service with two other districts. The district is trying to give support to groups for rent and other expenses necessary to keep carrying the message. They are unable at this time to send any surplus funds to Area or GSO.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Past Delegate Rich H. told Karen it is okay to take care of service at home first, then consider the Area and GSO.</p>
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	<p>Ed – We added a new group recently. All meetings are in-person, the groups are supporting the district, and the district is supporting the Area and GSO. We will have a picnic with free raffle tickets to thank the groups for their support. Some folks are attending virtual meetings from the U.S. and other countries that are giving them a different perspective on A.A. and that is good.</p>

Committee Reports

Note: Committee reports were not on the agenda for today, but committee chairs who wished to report on current activities or make announcements were given time to do so.

Archives – Jeff K., Chair

Jeff is working on revising the Archives Committee page on the NIA 20 website. He will be working with Webmaster Earl after he gets feedback from the full committee on what they want to have on the Archives page.

Concepts – Robert S., Editor

Chair Carmela reported for Editor Robert S. that the deadline for stories and other material for the next issue of The Concepts newsletter is Saturday May 15, 2021. Kris S. has told Carmela she can no longer serve in the position of Co-Editor. If anyone is interested in being appointed to serve in this position, they should contact Carmela.

Literature – Kimberly T., Chair

Kim said her committee was doing good work making sure groups have newcomer packets and literature.

Public Information – Ed M., Alt Chair

Ed said he had put out an invitation to the district PI chairs to attend today's meeting. He will continue to keep the PI effort moving forward.

Website Administrator - Earl N.

Earl reported that last week five Area email accounts (Webmaster, both Registrars and both Treasurers) were not functioning, but are now fixed. The down time appears to have been from April 23 through April 29. If you

sent emails to those accounts during that time, please resend them now. Earl gave kudos to Carmela for accessing the website to post her own reports and the meeting agendas. Area committee chairs can get access to the website to update their committee pages if they want. Earl will assist with updates as needed.

Discussion:

Past Delegate Rich H. said he sent additional information from the 2018 Area Inventory to Earl for posting, and Earl indicated that he will be posting it.

Alt Registrar Rob M. said the link for contacting the Alt Registrar is missing from the website. Earl will fix that.

Bridging the Gap – Kevin A., Chair

Kevin announced an event for BTG to be held on May 15, 2021 starting at 11 a.m. CDT. The event with flyer with Zoom information is posted on the NIA 20 website Events calendar. He is looking for ideas on how to contact facilities during the pandemic.

Discussion:

A member asked when the national BTG workshop was being held this year. Kevin did not know the answer, but Webmaster Earl knew from adding it to the Events calendar that the 30th Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend will be held on September 10-12, 2021 in Rock Island, Illinois.

Meeting Closure

Open Mic:

Carol H. put links to two flyers in the Zoom Chat:

- the Madison Wisconsin Area Intergroup Spring Conference workshop to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021, in the morning
- the BTG workshop, being held on Saturday, May 15, 2021, in the afternoon.

Erik L. announced that Katie W. from Norman, Oklahoma will be the speaker at the Foxhall Group in Naperville on Sunday, May 2, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is currently being held virtually on Zoom.

Georgene R. announced that Mark E., the soon to be former East Central Regional Delegate, will be the speaker at the Three Legacies 5th Sunday open meeting on May 30, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is currently being held virtually on Zoom.

Adjournment

Erik L. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris E. seconded it. Area Chair Carmela R. adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m., and the A.A. responsibility statement was recited.

The Summer Committee Meeting will be held on August 14, 2021. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held virtually.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy B.

Northern Illinois Area 20 Secretary