

## Northern Illinois Area 20 2021 Summer Assembly Minutes



June 26, 2021

Online Audio/Video Meeting

### Meeting Opening

Area Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, 2021. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela welcomed attendees and made announcements.

### Total Attendees

Eighty-four (84) people registered for the assembly.

### New Attendees

David T., D10 GSR	Robin S., D22 District Committee Chair
Georgene R., D11 Alt GSR	Jeremy L., D10 District Committee Chair
Jane H., D11 GSR	Ana Z., D23 GSR
Debbra G., D40 Group Member	Janet P., D70 GSR
Jeffrey K., D70 Alt District Committee Chair	Judy C., D70 GSR
Leann N., D70 District Committee Chair	Rebecca D., D70 District Committee Chair
Sandra H., D70 GSR	Tony J., D70 DCM

### Anniversaries

Chris E. – 4/27, 2 years	Renita D. – 5/12, 6 years	Christy B. – 3/23, 35 years
Jeff L. – 4/3, 22 years	Jill C. – 5/2, 6 years	Rob M. - 4/27, 33 years
Mark H. – 3/19, 19 years	Earl N. – 3/16, 17 years	Tracy K. - 5/24, 19 years
Chris D. – 4/8, 31 years	Kelly B. – 6/16, 11 years	Rich H. - 4/17, 33 years
Sandy C. – 4/7, 7 years	Karen D. – 6/1, 42 years	

### *Celebrating 283 years of sobriety!*

Chair Carmela read the categories of assembly voting members from the NIA Service Manual because we will have elections and voting on motions later in the day.

### Approval of 2021 Spring Assembly Minutes

Kevin A. made the motion to approve the March 13, 2021, Spring Assembly minutes and Chris E. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Meeting Business

#### Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the Summer Assembly. I have a lot to share with you regarding the 71st General Service Conference. I hope that you invite me to your district meetings.

I have some information regarding the **General Manager at GSO**. Here is some background on Bob W. for those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting him.

**Bob W.** served as a Panel 52, 2002-2003, delegate from Massachusetts (I'm not sure if he's from Area 30 or 31.) He served as Trustee-at-Large/US from 2013-2017. Since mid-2019, Bob has served in a couple of advisory/consulting roles at GSO, and as acting CFO. His professional background is in auto, home and business insurance.

**Linda Chezem** (nonalcoholic), of Plainfield, Indiana has been selected as the new Chairperson of A.A.'s General Service Board replacing outgoing board chair Michele Grinberg. Trained as a lawyer, Linda spent 22 years serving as a judge, beginning as the first female Circuit Court judge in Indiana followed by a decade on the Indiana Court of Appeals. She is a past Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee.

The due date to send agenda items for the 72nd GSC is **September 15, 2021**. This is a three-year trial.

The original version of the "**AA preamble**" as it was first introduced to AA in the June 1947, **Grapevine**. Written by the then editor to describe AA to the Grapevine's non-AA readers, it has become a part of AA literature. It came to be called the "AA Preamble" because it is so often read at the opening of AA meetings.

At the 71st General Service Conference there was an agenda item to change the preamble. This passed as a floor motion. It now reads as follows:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of **people** who share their experience, strength and hope..."

Area 20 voted no to this change and so did I.

I sent out e-mails regarding vacancies, but I will mention them again as follows:

- Two Class A Trustee Vacancies following the 2022 General Service Conference (e-mailed to Area on 6/2/2021).
- A.A.W.S. has started its search for a non-trustee director following the 2022 General Service Conference. (e-mailed to Area on 6/2/2021).
- The AA Grapevine Corporate Board will have a vacancy for the position of non-trustee Director following the 2022 General Service Conference (e-mailed to Area 6/2/2021).

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Marilyn F. Area 20 – Panel 70 Delegate

My total expenses for 2021 to date: \$73.70

### **Delegate's Report on the General Service Conference – Marilyn F.**

(Documents with additional information are posted on the **Delegate's Page** on the NIA 20 website.)

1. The theme was "AA in a Time of Change"
2. There were 132 voting members at the GSC. These voting members were doing the business of A.A. necessary to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic.
3. 110 final Agenda Items with a total of 1487 pages of background material were reviewed.
4. The GSC voted to send 47 committee recommendations and two floor motions to the General Service Board as Conference Advisory Actions.
5. The GSC delegates were silent, respectful, orderly and kind. I saw dedication and smiling faces, and I was humbled by the experience.

6. I was on the Treatment & Accessibilities Committee.
7. There were 7 times zones represented. On the last day of the GSC, we started at 11 a.m. CDT and finished at 1:00 a.m. CDT the following morning (14 hours!).
8. “Around The Picnic Table,” a slide show prepared by the General Service Board Treasurer included the following information—and much more about A.A.’s finances. It is posted on the Delegate’s Page on the NIA20 website.
  - 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.26 million set another record, up 15.80% from \$8.86 million in 2019
  - Cost of Services - \$10.81 million, down 14.9% from \$12.70 million in 2019
  - Self-Support - covered 94.9% of cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019
  - AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.58 million, down 29.70% from \$9.36 million in 2019, used to cover \$550K shortfall between 7th Tradition Contributions and Cost of Services
  - Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 4.5% in 2020. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine increased 7.7%. La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 36.6% in 2020 after several years of growth.
9. The 2022 General Service Conference will be held April 24 to 30, 2022, in Brooklyn, New York.

#### Highlights of Conference Advisory Actions Sent to the General Service Board

Note: See Delegate’s Page for full list of Conference Advisory Actions.

10. Corrections Committee – The words “inmate” and “offender” will be replaced by “person in custody” in A.A.W.S. literature.
11. Grapevine and La Viña – The AA Grapevine Board will implement an Instagram account and a report on the Instagram account will be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.
12. Literature
  - A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, will be developed.
  - Revise wording in The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions on pages 66 and 117 that may be offensive to some people in 2021. (Exact wording is in Conference Advisory Actions document.)
  - A Fourth Edition of the Spanish language book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership.
  - A draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), will be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.
    - Marilyn commented that although NIA 20 had voted no on this agenda item at the 2021 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, she voted yes at the GSC after hearing compelling arguments for the publication of this book.
13. Policy and Admissions
  - The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, will be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report sent each year of the trial to the Policy and Admissions Committee.

- Marilyn commented that this advisory action is what caused the GSC agenda items submission deadline to be moved up to September 15 from December 15, starting in 2021.
  - The U.S./Canada General Service Structure will recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."
  - The General Service Board will form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.
14. Public Information – Podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public will be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office.
15. Report and Charter
- The compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) will be discontinued.
  - Revise paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service Purpose, so it reads:  
  
*"The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the **Twelve Concepts** [added text] of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous."*
16. Treatment and Accessibilities – Approve and post on G.S.O.'s A.A. website three audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces. These interviews were developed by the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.
17. Trustees – Recommended the election of the General Service Board Trustees, the General Service Board Officers, The A.A. World Services Corporation Directors, and the Grapevine Corporation Directors following presentation of the slates of candidates at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any.

Marilyn ended her report by sharing a few thoughts on her experience, concluding that "It was a thrilling experience!"

**Discussion:**

Mike H. – Let's have a round of applause for Marilyn who was not able to go in-person to the GSC in either of her two years of service. Thank you, Marilyn!

Christy B. – Was there anything said about the 2025 International Conference?

Marilyn F. – It will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Sue H. – Who were you committee pals? Was there any discussion of changes to "Higher Power" at the GSC?

Marilyn F. – I was on the Treatment and Accessibilities committee. A man named Bill from New Mexico was the committee chair. Members of my committee were very nice and thorough when discussing our agenda items. We had four agenda items this year, and we kept ourselves busy. We had a mail woman named Char from Wisconsin who helped us communicate with other delegates by email. There was no discussion of changes to "Higher Power" this year.

Sue M. – How did you vote on the Preamble change?

Marilyn F. – Of the 128 delegates who voted, 90 voted yes and 38 voted no. I voted no per our area's group conscience on this agenda item.

Joey B. – Who is the new East Central Regional Trustee?

Marilyn F. – Kathy C. from Indiana

Rich H. – I don't like the approval of the GSC advisory action to change the wording in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* from "lustful enough to rape", etc. because it's not our job to change Bill W.'s writing. It is our job to make sure that the policies and procedures in place are follow through with. We will not have another assembly before the deadline to submit 2022 GSC agenda items on September 15, 2021, if we want to ask to have this advisory action reviewed and possibly reversed at the 2022 GSC.

Rob M. – What in the video made you change your vote on *Alcoholics Anonymous* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) plain and simple language version?

Marilyn F. – It was an audio recording, not a video. They said they did not want to change the message, but wanted to make it more accessible to uneducated people, and make it easier to read for anyone who wants what we have. I will send a link to the audio recording to the area roster.

Carol H. – I listened to the audio about the plain and simple language Big Book agenda item, and it was very persuasive. I also wanted to let you know that I have the contact information for Kathy C., our new East Central Regional Trustee, on the updated area committee roster that will be sent to the area committee soon.

Marilyn F. – Thank you to our Registrar Carol H. and Alt Registrar Rob M. for submitting an agenda item to the GSC to add registration of online groups at GSO. This request along with others on this issue got this item on the agenda and approved by the GSC as an advisory action to be sent to the GSB.

Chris D. – The equitable distribution of workload on the agenda is the reason for the need for earlier Agenda Items submission, correct? Also, did the motion on the Preamble come out of committee or floor action?

Marilyn F. – Yes, the move up of the deadline for GSC agenda items resulted from the approval of the distribution of workload agenda item. The motion on the Preamble did not come out of the Grapevine committee. A delegate, who thought it was important for us to discuss this issue this year, brought it to the delegates as a floor motion.

Kelly B. – Marilyn, I appreciated your discussion of why you changed your vote on the plain and simple Big Book agenda item because of the right of decision you have as a delegate. You said that 2020 expenses were covered 94% by self-support contributions, but services were down so GSO had fewer expenses. But we have heard a lot this year that GSO needs more money. Were suggestions made at the GSC about financial support for GSO?

Marilyn F. – Not at the conference. It is true that in 2020 services were down resulting in fewer expenses from a combination of circumstances. There were no in-person conferences, literature sales were down, so shipping costs were down, and some other expenses were down. Contributions were up, covering 94% of these reduced expenses; however, to make it 100%, GSO would have needed to receive \$7.34 from each A.A. member.

Marilyn went on to say that Greg T., Past General Manager, sent out two letters in 2020 about GSO using the prudent reserve to cover cash-on-hand shortfalls for expenses when contributions were down due to Covid-19. Currently the reserve has a balance that would cover 7 months of expenses instead of the usual 9 months. They would like to build the balance back up to a 9-month reserve in case they need it.

Kelly L. – You mentioned that not having the International Convention where new subscriptions for Grapevine / La Viña have been high in the past is one reason why Grapevine and La Viña didn't achieve the projected income for 2020. It's not only because subscriptions are way down due to the cancellation of the International Convention, is it?

Marilyn F. – There are multiple reasons for actual income being lower than the projected income. The projected income was based on a “regular” year for Grapevine / La Viña. I suggest you look at the details in the “Around the Picnic Table” slides posted on the website.

Rich H. – Several years ago, the Grapevine board considered changing “men and women” in the Preamble with “persons” and the 2021 GSC Grapevine committee declined to send it to the GSC floor for a vote. Why did it become a floor motion?

Marilyn F. – There was a strong sense at the GSC that it needed to be voted on by all the delegates.

### **2022 Illinois State Conference Report – Charles H., DCM 42**

The conference will be held August 12 through the 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, Illinois. Rooms will be \$99 per night, based on a guarantee of 100 rooms booked (50 Friday night / 50 Saturday night). Conference registration will be \$25, and the banquet will be \$45 because food costs are up. We need volunteers on committees. The next planning meeting is on June 30 on Zoom. Contact Charles for the link. ([runchuckrun12@gmail.com](mailto:runchuckrun12@gmail.com)).

The bid proposal for the 2022 State Conference from Districts 10 and 42 is attached to the minutes.

#### **Discussion:**

Rich H. brought up that we did not formally vote for Districts 10 and 42 to host the 2022 State Convention and made a motion for the Assembly to accept the bid as proposed. Earl N. seconded the motion.

Total votes = 63

Vote in favor of accepting the bid as proposed = 63 (100%)

The motion passed unanimously.

Allen J. suggested that the committee ask the hotel to change the requirement for 100 hotel room to be a running total for the weekend, for example: 25 on Friday and 75 on Saturday would still total 100 rooms to fulfill the booking requirement.

### **Treasurer’s Report – Dawn B.**

This report is posted on the NIA website.

#### **Balance Sheet**

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See the NIA website for the full Balance Sheet for the period from January 1, 2021 through June 26, 2021.

Checking account balance: \$23,103.74

- Operating funds balance: \$19,961.16
- Restricted funds balance: \$3,142.58 and consists of:
  - “Pink Can” \$2,293.44
  - “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 June 26, 2021.

- Total Contributions: \$18,401.71
- Total Expenses: \$9,326.11
- Net Operating Income: \$9,075.60 which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2021.

### **Miscellaneous**

- We have begun to have PayPal donations come through. The address for PayPal is on the NIA website. It is: [treasurer@aa-nia.org](mailto: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.
- I attended district meetings at districts 21 and 64 this past month. It was wonderful to be able to share information with them, and hear their thoughts. DCMs and Treasurers, please invite me to your District meeting.
- The taxes are filed.
- The not-for-profit status is renewed.
- The ½ year insurance is paid.
- The 2022 State Conference seed money check has been written.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn B., NIA Treasurer – Panel 70 [treasurer@aa-nia.org](mailto:treasurer@aa-nia.org)

Dawn added that summer slows down contributions and PayPal donations are coming in slowly.

### **Discussion:**

Chris E. – Are we a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is the form 990 available?

Dawn B. – yes and yes

### **Alternate Treasurer's Report – Allen J.**

The May and June 2021 thank-you letters are getting worked on and Allen will get them out soon. He indicates if it is a group, district or personal donation. He also added the 501(c)(3) statement at the bottom of the letters for tax purposes.

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

### **Discussion:**

Barbara H. – Are donations tax deductible?

Allen J. – Yes, but always ask your accountant.

Dennis R. – What is the limit of an individual donation?

Allen J. – There is a one-time per year limit of \$5,000.00 to GSO. Earl N. confirmed this and said the information is posted on the A.A. website.

Robert S. – There is not a limit with the Area, but you might be telling the IRS you are in A.A.

Jane – If you make memorial contribution for a friend or family member, it wouldn't indicate A.A. membership to the IRS.

### **Approval of 2021 Summer Assembly Treasurer's Report**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Robert S. and seconded by Chris E. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

This ad hoc committee is made up of members of the CAC with support from the Technology Committee. It was set up to track state/local guidelines for large group meetings, as well as meeting facility guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since our last assembly a lot has changed quickly in the guidelines. I have been in communication with Lord of Life Lutheran Church in LaFox and we are fully able to meet there in person with no restrictions for the Fall Assembly. With that information and following state/national guidelines, the ad hoc committee has agreed that at this time we are ready to go back to an in-person Fall Assembly.

Chair Carmela asked to have a short discussion of returning to in-person meetings to get a sense of the assembly. Do we as an area body want to go back to an in-person meeting in September?

#### **Discussion:**

Robert S. made a motion that we start meeting in person at our Fall Assembly. Chris E. seconded the motion.

Carmela asked for clarification. Robert said the intent of the motion is that beginning at the Fall Assembly we return to in-person meetings as the regulations permit it.

Erik L. asked if it was necessary to have a motion to go back meeting in person as we did regularly before the pandemic. He said as an assembly we have always met in person; that's what we do.

Carmela is inclined to hear the motion through, but she's concerned and would like to hear what the assembly has to say about this.

Amy asked if the church guidelines included the CDC guidelines for unvaccinated persons to wear masks. Erik replied that the facility is not requiring masks, and it is not the role of the ad hoc committee to get into interpreting CDC guidelines.

Karen F. asked what "meeting in person" means because there had been discussion about the possibility of conducting hybrid meetings at the last officers meeting. She wanted to discuss it if we are talking about hybrid meetings, because we need to know how to do it and how much it will cost. Carmela said that we have not decided yet to go hybrid. This is something that would require additional discussion and acceptance by the assembly.

Kelly L. agreed with Erik that no motion is needed to go back to in-person meetings, but we do need discussion of hybrid meetings. She didn't remember what the original recommendation was. Rob M. recollected that the recommendation was to go to online meetings until it was safe to resume in-person meetings, so no motion is needed to do it.

Carmela asked about the original ad hoc committee recommendations for meetings during the pandemic. Erik L. said the recommendation of the CAC was that once we went to online meetings, we would continue online meetings for the following three months for planning purposes. If restrictions on in-person meetings were lifted at the time of one of our scheduled meetings, we would return to in-person for the next meeting. Carmela said that based on the recommendations, we don't need a motion to return to the in-person meetings we were having before the restrictions. If we want to do something different, such as hybrid meetings, then we would need discussion and a motion.

Eva C. said that because we live such a distance away in my district, some of us have an interest in hybrid meetings. We don't have a lot of support in our district for the area because of the travel time. I would like us



to consider hybrid meetings for those of us who live a distance away and for those with disabilities, so more people can participate.

Mike H. agreed with Eva C. that we ought to consider hybrid meetings now that we are familiar with conducting online meeting.

Carol H. would like to ask Robert if he would accept a friendly motion to add the word “hybrid” to his motion. She said some of us have gotten used to online meetings in the past year, and some need it due to illness or other reasons. She doesn’t consider online meetings as something we only did because of the pandemic as some do. The timeline and cost for doing it in September should not be a factor. We haven’t spent any money on assemblies and committee meetings in a year and a half, and we have the technology to set it up.

Carmela indicated that she had already rejected Robert’s motion, so adding an amendment was not an option.

Carol then made a new motion that we have our area assemblies hybrid going forward. The motion was seconded by Mike H.

Carmela asked alternate delegate Chris D. for a procedural check on the motions brought.

Chris D. said that:

- A. He recalls the emails from last spring about the restrictions and the subsequent executive decision the officers made to go online due to the pandemic restrictions. We then continued to define our online meeting procedures as time went on. Since it was an administrative decision made because of the circumstances, he personally thinks we do not need a motion to go back to the in-person meetings we had before the restrictions were in place.
- B. If there is going to be a floor motion to say that future in-person assemblies should include a hybrid component, it is up to chair to accept that motion. We can vote to decline to consider the motion, and go through the procedural process on it. His opinion is that if we are going to have this motion, it should have sufficient background attached to it and be more thought out rather than spur-of-the moment. With the next assembly being elections and trying to put everything together for that, he suggested that if we think going hybrid is something we want to do, we collectively consider putting off the decision for a couple of months and bring it to the Fall Assembly with sufficient background. Anything we do to continue to carry the message to more alcoholics is a good thing. But any knee-jerk reaction we do now may result in unforeseen problems.

Carol H. doesn’t think this is a knee-jerk reaction. She said the ad hoc committee discussed hybrid meetings at length. This is our reality today. This motion is for an action that has been considered by the committee and is ready for a vote. She asked the Chair if she is going to reject it.

Chris E. said *Roberts Rules of Order* says the Chair cannot reject a motion that has been made and seconded. She can ask for a vote to refuse to consider the motion, but she cannot reject it. Two-thirds of the body can vote to decline to discuss.

Chris D. asked us to not be strict parliamentarians. Just because the Chair says something about a motion does not necessary mean it has been accepted. Our procedure has been that floor motions are to be submitted in writing prior to the beginning of the assembly, and that has not been done. It would be better to write up the motion and go forward.

Carmela said that she would like to go forward with this discussion and let this play out, but her preference would be to bring a motion for hybrid meetings in writing to a future assembly.

Earl N. discussed some of the technical requirements for hybrid meetings. He agrees with Eva that hybrid meetings would help people who live far away or who for health reasons or disabilities cannot or do not want to come in person.

Kelly L. interrupted him to bring a point of order that we have two motions under consideration, and discussion is going on while many of us do not know what we are discussing. She asked Carmela to clarify what motions are still on the floor and what we are discussing.

Carmela said that the ad hoc committee report was given and as a response to that report, a motion was made to go back to in-person meetings, which we now know is not a motion. She then took the perspective that we need to step back from the motion and have discussion first. On the second motion made about going hybrid, she took the same perspective. If we want to consider this second motion, we should follow our procedures for presenting motions, and we have not, so she cannot accept it as a motion. This means there are no motions on the floor at this time. Because of the nature of this discussion, she wanted to hear some of the input from people on it to get a sense of what we do next. This is about the area staying true to what it has said to the fellowship about what we will do when we have big decisions to make. While we have had discussed going hybrid and that it seems easy to do, the motion needs to go through the proper procedures of being presented at the committee meeting, discussed, and put on the assembly agenda for approval or rejection.

Rob M. suggested that since we are not accepting this motion today, and we now agree that we will not go hybrid in September to fully accommodate everyone, we should have a virtual meeting in September.

Carmela suggested that instead of changing the meeting from in-person to virtual, that we deal with accessibilities issues on a case-by-case basis. She would like to meet in person because that is how we normally meet, and the restrictions have been removed.

Rich H. asked what we are doing in September because he is confused. He is concerned that a full in-person meeting in September is a knee-jerk reaction, and some people through need and choice will not attend an in-person meeting in September. However, it is a very important meeting because of the elections that will take place.

Mark H. said we always ask what we can do to increase participation in area meetings. It seems to him natural that when we go back to in-person meetings we continue the virtual component to keep participation up.

Kim T. is in favor of having hybrid meetings, but she reminded us that the pandemic is not over, and we need to remember to be kind to one another.

Robert S. agreed with Rich that the Fall Assembly is the most important one we have every two years because it is where we elect our delegate to represent us at the GSC. That makes attendance very important. He likes the idea of having a hybrid meeting, but he doesn't think we can pull it off that soon. He had experience with the hybrid DuPage Open this year where they had a professional doing their technology, and they barely pulled it off. He thinks we should either have the Fall Assembly all online or all in person. Beyond that, doing hybrid, certainly, but since it seems likely we will lose people if we do it all in person in September, he highly recommends all online.

Dawn B. said that if we do decide today to do a hybrid meeting for the Fall Assembly, we need nail down what equipment we will need and what the cost will be, because if it is over \$500, we are not going to be able to do it. We also need to decide if we will always use Lord of Life Church for assemblies. If we do, then we know it fits into Lord of Life and we will know the costs. If we make that motion, we will need to know if it will be over \$500 so the costs can be included in the motion.

Kevin H. likes all in-person meetings because like many folks he is technically challenged, and in-person meetings are better for him.

Kevin A., a member of the CAC, agrees with Earl that we have the equipment and can set up for a hybrid meeting for the Fall Assembly. It may be a little difficult to do the voting, but it will be good to try it to see what we need to do for the future.

Carmela summarized the discussion and set up a poll to get a sense of the assembly's opinion of having an in-person, hybrid, or virtual Fall Assembly in September. This will help us to move forward one step at a time and give the ad hoc committee some help with moving forward.

Poll Question: Which format would you like us to pursue for the September Fall Assembly?

Meet in person = 10 (14%)

Hybrid meeting = 36 (50%)

Virtual meeting = 26 (36%)

Total votes = 72

Carmela said it appeared some non-voting members voted, but using the honor system, we will accept all votes on this poll since it is not for approving a motion.

Kevin A. suggested that the officers meet at the Lord of Life for the Fall Assembly and conduct a virtual meeting from there because it is an election, but have a laptop in there to see what can be done moving forward. Carmela said it was an interesting idea for helping us do a little background work to see what needs to be done in the future for hybrid meetings. We do still have some financial and technical considerations to work through. The poll indicates that all virtual or hybrid are forerunners for the Fall Assembly.

Erik L. said it's great to get a sense of the assembly, and it's pretty clear there is an overwhelming sense that some virtual component is wanted in future meetings. The ad hoc committee has done their job of saying that we are ready to go back in person; now it is up to the assembly to go forward. He recommended that we are virtual for the Fall Assembly and then we have opportunity to think about how we put a hybrid meeting together efficiently. And as others have said, although we can meet in person, he doesn't think it is prudent to do it at the Fall Assembly because of the election.

Chris E. agreed that since it is the election meeting it should either be all online or all virtual. He suggested using the two upcoming committee meetings to work on getting hybrid up and running for the Winter Assembly.

Kelly L. said that she agrees with Erik on having a virtual meeting in the fall. We do need to have a motion to have hybrid meetings in the future since it is different from what we have done in the past and the costs need to be included in the motion. She asked Erik if his recommendation to go virtual had gone through his committee.

Erik said it was his own personal opinion. Since it's an advisory committee, this is really up to the assembly. But given that we can go back in person, it would be good to have a floor motion today, if Carmela will accept it, that we have a virtual Fall Assembly.

Carmela admitted she is hesitant to pursue a motion to have a hybrid meeting in September because we have not done that before and there are probably some wrinkles that need to be smoothed out.

Rob M. was in favor of having a virtual Fall Assembly and having the motion to have hybrid meetings go through the regular procedures of presentation and discussion at the Summer Committee Meeting and approval or rejection at the Fall Assembly.

Barbara H. as a GSR is comfortable with having a virtual meeting in September.

Chair Carmela asked for a show-of-hands vote on having an online Fall Assembly. Her opinion, given all the discussion, is that the way forward is to have a virtual meeting in September and move forward with the motion for future meetings to be hybrid.

The majority voted in favor of holding the Fall Assembly online.

**The 2021 Fall Assembly will be a virtual meeting.**

Chair Carmela referred the subject of future hybrid area meetings back to the CAC / Ad Hoc Committee on Returning to In-person Meetings for further action on getting these hybrid meetings up and running.

Susan H. doesn't think the ad hoc committee should be the ones to bring the motion. It may be better to have it come from a district or even the Accessibilities Committee.

Steve C. asked if this requires a change to the guidelines. Carmela confirmed that it does and that is the purpose of the motion to be prepared.

Robert S. asked that whoever puts together the motion includes Webmaster Earl N. and the Technology Committee when preparing the motion because technology and equipment is involved. Rob M. added that the Equipment Committee should also be involved.

Chair Carmela asked to have a motion to change the area guidelines to start having hybrid meetings brought to the Summer Committee Meeting in August for discussion, with a vote on the motion at the Fall Assembly. The motion should include a funding request for the associated costs for technical equipment and services.

**2021 Illinois State Conference Report – Dick B., Area 21 ISC Program Chair**

The theme is "A.A. In a Time of Change", with a secondary theme of "Unity." It is a 2-day conference on August 27 and 28, 2021. The conference will be virtual because we were unsure if in-person gatherings would be allowed at the time we had to make the decision.

Participants include the new East Central Regional Trustee Kathy C., GSO staff member Steve, and Katie H. from NIA, an appointed GSB committee member who has worked on A.A. literature for young people.

The entertainment Saturday at lunch will be the game "Jeopardy" with past delegates and trustees as contestants. Friday night the entertainment will be skits, and Saturday night will be a talent show. July 31, 2021 is the cutoff for applying to participate in the entertainment if anyone wants to present a skit or be in the talent show.

There will be an Archives show with A.A. history highlights.

Dick is working with Marilyn F., NIA 20 delegate on the conference. They are looking for help from technical people. To volunteer or ask questions, contact: [ilcub21@yahoo.com](mailto:ilcub21@yahoo.com) (Dick's email) or <https://area21aa.org/conference/>

**2021 Big Book Conference Report – Rich H. and Georgene R., Co-Chairs, District 11**

Rich read his portion of the report and added that they do not have printed flyers done yet, but they will be out ASAP. The date is Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Georgene read her portion of the report. Their report is attached to these minutes.

The 2021 Big Book Conference website is <http://www.aa-nia.org/bigbookconference/>

**A lunch break followed by committee breakouts occurred from 12:35 to 2:00 p.m.**

## Ongoing and New Business

Chair Carmela gave instructions for elections to be conducted for open Service Committee positions. These positions are for the period ending in six months on December 31, 2021. The assembly decided use simple majority vote elections for these positions.

### Open Positions Elections – Service Committees

#### Accessibilities Committee Area Chair

Mike H. stood for the position. He gave his qualifications which included serving as a GSR and DCM in Chicago Area 19, and as DCM and alternate Bridging the Gap chair in NIA District 12.

Votes in favor of Mike H. = 51 (100%)

Mike H. was elected to the position of Accessibilities Committee Area Chair.

#### Accessibilities Committee Area Chair – Alternate

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

#### Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate

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

#### Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate

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

#### BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate

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

#### Grapevine Committee Area Chair – Alternate

Ted S. stood for the position. He gave his qualifications which included serving as a GSR and doing Zoom meetings technical service work. He is currently Grapevine Chair for District 10. A comment was made about doing double service work. Ted said he had an alternate chair at the district level, and with the help of his alternate, thought it would not be a problem.

Votes in favor of Ted S. = 47 (98%)

Votes opposed to Ted S. = 1 (2%)

Total votes = 48

Ted S. was elected to the position of Grapevine Committee Area Chair - Alternate.

#### Public Information (PI) Area Chair

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

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

### Motion 1:

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that the Area 20 assembly body elect a Host Committee Chair and Co-Chair 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.

Erik L., Alt Area Chair and chair of the Conference Advisory Committee, read the motion and gave introductory comments. The purpose of this motion is to have leadership in place by a certain date to have adequate

planning time prior to the conference if no district steps up to host. It does not replace the current area procedure of having a district present a bid to host the conference. NIA 20 is responsible for hosting the state conference once every three years, and we cannot cancel this conference if no district volunteers to host like we have done in the past with the NIA 20 Spring Conference.

Questions:

Robert S. asked if this means the committee is not necessarily district based. Erik replied that this is correct; the committee does not have to be district based.

Mark H. asked if the committee bringing the motion could accept a friendly amendment to revise the wording to read:

“The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that the Area 20 assembly body, **if no district stands to host**, elect a Host Committee Chair and Co-Chair . . .”

This friendly amendment was accepted by the committee.

In response to a question from Barbara H., Erik confirmed that this motion doesn’t change the process for bid acceptance if bids are received. It mostly sets a time limit for committee formation.

Discussion:

Kelly B. said her group commented that this is a lot of responsibility to put on two individuals and suggested that the CAC run the conference if no district bids.

Rob M. is in favor of the motion. A similar procedure occurs when a district takes on a conference. The chair and co-chair assemble a committee with individuals taking on assigned responsibilities.

Barbara H. is in favor of the motion. The advantage of this motion is that it makes sure someone gets something going at the appropriate time.

Dawn B. said it came up in her breakout to add a rotation by district for the chair and co-chair in the spirit of rotation, e.g., if the chair came from District 22, for the next three years, the chair could not be from District 22.

Carmela R. said to do what Dawn is suggesting could possibly require a change in the area’s guidelines.

Kelly L. said the guidelines for the state convention are made and revised at the state level. Dawn’s suggestion would potentially require creating new area guidelines for hosting the conference.

Chris E. supports this motion.

In response to Kelly L.’s comment, Carol H. said that the background for the motion talks about the additional responsibility of the CAC and the area, but not how to run the state conference, so new area guidance for running the state conference is not necessary.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended.

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that the Area 20 assembly body, **if no district stands to host**, elect a Host Committee Chair and Co-Chair 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.

Votes in favor of the motion = 44 (94%)

Votes opposed to the motion = 3 (6%)

Total votes = 47

The motion was approved with a majority of greater than two-thirds of the vote at 94%.

Minority Opinion:

Rich H. opposes the motion because it is not complete; it doesn't form a committee for the conference. The committee should have come up with a procedure to form the complete committee. We don't need the committee until 2023. He also mentioned having the CAC act as backup host committee.

One person wished to change their vote based on this minority opinion.

Erik L. said that most members on the CAC already have full-time area positions and Rich H. replied that the members of the CAC should be selected from people who don't already have full-time area service commitments. It doesn't make sense for the CAC to be the backup conference committee.

Chris D. called for clarification on a point of order. Was there a second to the motion for members to change their vote based on the minority opinion? He said we should vote on reconsidering the motion based on the minority opinion before additional discussion of the motion. Chair Carmela said we were beyond that point in the process, and she wishes to continue discussion before voting rather than cutting off the discussion.

To address Erik's comment on the CAC, Marian K. said that CAC members could be drawn from people who had served on conference committees before rather than being mostly area officers and DCMs of area committee chairs.

Amy L. said she also wanted to change her vote on the amended motion.

Mark H. suggested that people volunteer to serve on the committee if no district bids prior to the chair/co-chair election so nominees are already on board.

Barbara H. said these were all good comments, but they are not on point regarding the motion. The motion is only about having a mechanism in place to get someone on board to start the planning process for the state conference 18 months ahead of the conference date.

Chris E. made a motion to table the motion and Mike H. seconded it. Chair Carmela ruled the motion to table out of order because an approved motion cannot be tabled.

Holly G. commented that anyone who volunteered to be elected to the chair or co-chair position would have a district affiliation to draw committee volunteers from as well as from throughout the area.

Kevin A. said the ad hoc committee's concept was to draw host committee members from the whole area instead of from a district only.

Rob M. said it was up to the committee chair to get volunteers, and the chair was not bound to get them from their own district.

Robert S. supported the motion, saying that we have had the experience of having to strong arm districts in the past to get conference hosts. This gives us a solution to getting going on time.

Because at least one person wished to change their vote based on the minority opinion, a second vote was taken on amended Motion 1.

Votes in favor of the motion = 35 (81%)

Votes opposed to the motion = 8 (19%)

Total votes = 43

The motion stood as approved with a majority of greater than two-thirds of the vote in favor (81%).

## Motion 2

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.

Alt Area Chair Erik L. read the motion and stated that it is very similar to Motion 1.

### Questions and Comments:

Robert S. asked for acceptance of a friendly amendment to Motion 2 similar to the amendment to Motion 1.

“The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee moves that a Spring Conference Chair and Co-Chair be elected, ***if no district stands to host***, by the Area Assembly.”

Kelly B. commented that if we haven’t had districts bid recently, maybe it is the voice of the area not to have Spring Conferences, even though the recent area inventory indicated we did want to have it. What if one person is enthusiastic, but no one gets behind them to form the committee?

Barbara H. said it is incorrect that we haven’t had a Spring Conference in three years. We did have a Spring Conference planned for 2020, but the pandemic closed it down.

Tom G., co-chair of the 2020 Spring Conference, said this idea of electing a chair and co-chair was the best idea the area has had in a long time.

Carol H. confirmed that we did have a 2020 Spring Conference planned. She reiterated that the motion is only about getting a chair and possibly co-chair to get things started with or without a district bid. It is not intended to replace the district bid process.

Erik L. said this was a tougher motion to bring because of not having a Spring Conference every year recently. He added that the Spring Conference is included in the NIA 20 service manual as an approved annual area function, so this motion is a way to help ensure that we have the Spring Conference each year.

Mike M. said everyone was excited at the beginning of the planning for the 2020 Spring Conference, but he was the only one still interested at the end when registration for the conference was low due to fears about Covid-19. It was very difficult for Tom G., the committee chair, to contemplate having to cancel the conference; however, the Illinois governor’s decision to shut down the state made that decision unnecessary.

Allen J. asked how it will work if we elect a chair and co-chair, but no bid is submitted. We will have no opportunity to approve the bid.

Chris D. suggested amending language in the motion to accept a bid from “interested parties.”

Robert S. said Chris D.’s suggestion didn’t make sense because if no district bids, there will not be any bid. In this case, how can there be bids before the election?

Christy B. agreed with Robert that asking for bids before the election of a chair and co-chair is putting the cart before the horse.

Carol H. also agreed with Robert. Her suggestion was to elect the chair and co-chair, and with the help of the CAC, they will put together the bid. The Ad Hoc Committee will not accept Chris D. proposed amendment.

Carmela R. said the intention was to get people elected, then start the bid process and have the area accept the bid.



Kelly L. made a motion to send the motion back to committee for revisions, to be voted on at the Fall Assembly. Robert S. seconded the motion.

Discussion on Sending the Motion Back to Committee:

Kelly B. is in favor of sending the motion back to committee. If no district has bid by the Fall Assembly, someone will put together a bid for the Winter Assembly, and we can have approval of the bid and election of the chair and co-chair at the same time.

Rich H. agreed that the motion should be sent back to committee so the committee can rewrite it based on everything they heard today.

Allen J. suggested a procedure that whoever is elected at the assembly will put together a bid for approval at the next area committee meeting. In the case under discussion, it would be the Winter Committee Meeting.

Robert S. suggested electing a standing committee for the Spring Conference every two years. This would not be a committee to put it on, but a steering committee.

Mike M. said corruption in bidding is common. Carmela R. replied that we have area guidelines for the bidding process to prevent this.

Carol H. said the motion has been given a lot of thought. The guiding principle is here; the three amendments resulted from trying to include requests for changes to it.

Erik L. said the CAC can address the comments and bring it back for approval at the Fall Assembly. There is no hurry to approve it because we have no Spring Conference scheduled for 2022.

Chris E. called the question to vote on returning the motion to committee and David T. seconded it.

Votes in favor of calling the question = 41 (100%)  
Votes opposed to calling the question = 0 (0%)  
Total votes = 41

The motion to call the question passed.

A vote was taken on the motion to return Motion 2 to committee for revision and resubmission to the assembly.

Votes in favor of returning the motion to committee = 30 (77%)  
Votes opposed to returning the motion to committee = 9 (23%)  
Total votes = 39

The motion to return the motion to committee was approved.

Minority Opinion:

Renita D. said this motion was similar to Motion 1, so there was no need to return it to committee.

Eva C. would like to have the vote on the motion today, so we don't have to hear the same comments again.

Kelly L. and Robert S. put forth a point of order that no minority opinion is asked for on motions to return a motion to committee, so no additional voting is in order, and the motion will be returned to the committee.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management – Christy B., Area Secretary**

We have met twice since the May Committee Meeting and have had really good discussions. We are looking at it as a two-pronged initiative. One prong is finding a cloud storage space for our area archives material such

that when someone wants to access the archives, they can do it from home online, rather than having to submit a request to the archivist for documents. This online storage would have security features since some of the documents are not anonymity protected. Archivist Cheryl V. and area Archives chair Jeff K. are on the committee and have been a great help in the discussion of the online archives. It is the committee's opinion that we should set up the cloud-based electronic archives soon. We have determined that our archives are too large for the amount of storage allowed in the free access option for most of the cloud services available, so we are looking into the cost for an account with upgraded storage space with Microsoft One Drive or Google Drive.

The second prong is file sharing for area officers and area committee chairs. This may or may not use the same cloud program as archives. In this file sharing, the officer and area committees would have a folder managed by the committee chair where documents could be shared and worked on by multiple persons. This could be especially helpful for conference committees. Cheryl suggested that at the end of each Panel, the contents of the folders could be downloaded to the Archives to preserve the committee work for future reference.

Some of the issues we are still exploring are:

- costs, especially investigating possible cost discounts for non-profit organizations
- who is responsible for the overall online storage and for each folder
- C. folder/file integrity and security.

We are working on all of this actively to get the Area into the 21<sup>st</sup> century electronically. Once we have the details worked out, we will bring a complete report back to the Assembly with recommendations for moving forward.

Yours in Service,  
Christy B.

NIA 20 Secretary and Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management Chair

## **Officers' Reports and Area Committee Reports**

Chair Carmela said we were already past the scheduled assembly adjournment time now. She asked if area officers and committee chairs would agree to send their reports to the Area Secretary for inclusion in the appendix to the minutes, and to the Webmaster for posting on the NIA website rather than having presentations now, and all agreed.

## **Meeting Closure with Open Mic**

### **Open Mic:**

Tom B. announced that Frank Massey who was active in District 12, eastern Lake County, passed away last week. He was actively involved in area and district service doing much work with jail meetings and the drug courts.

### **Adjournment**

Robert S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Lisa S. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Fall Assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on September 18, 2021. Elections for Panel 72 officers and area committee chairs will be held at the Fall Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christy B.*

Northern Illinois Area 20 Secretary

## **NIA 20 2021 SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

**Note:** These are the reports submitted in writing to the Secretary or posted to the NIA website for the 2021 Summer Assembly. The Delegate's Report and Treasurer's report have been included in the text of the minutes.

1. 2021 Big Book Conference Committee Report to the Summer Assembly
2. 2022 Illinois State Conference Bid Proposal to the Area
3. Alternate Delegate's Report
4. Area Chair's Report
5. Alternate Area Chair's Report
6. Area Archives Committee Report
7. Area Corrections Committee Report
8. Area Treatment Committee Report

# **2021 BIG BOOK CONFERENCE REPORT TO 2021 AREA 20 SUMMER ASSEMBLY**

Hello Area 20

## Chair Report – Rich H.

I sent an update to our DCMs and Alt. DCMs this past week, and plan on doing so prior to all our Area 20 Assemblies and Committee Meetings.

I attended a Sub-committee meeting this Thursday night. Originally intended as Technology and Registration with Treasury and Programs also attending. It was fun for me to watch technologically talented people work together to bring some important work together. There were 8 in attendance and the largest portion of the meeting was brainstorming the best way to set up Registration. They also talked about contributions with Pay Pal, Credit or Debit and QR Code. An e-mail address to contact the Committee, and how everything will be available through the Bog Book Conference Website which can be accessed through the Area 20 Website or directly at <http://www.aa-nia.org/bigbookconference/>. They also defined some work that our PI Committee and I have to do.

I had received an e-mail from our Alt. Delegate asking if we had any plans to include a panel or panelist from Area 87 in Montreal in the program because as I might be aware we've had a Big Book Conference relationship with this Area. We are not doing so this year and I hope we don't continue with this practice in the future. It is difficult enough to decide which of our 26 Districts not to include, along with including a Panel from the nearest Delegate Area to the Host District, which is a great practice. If we were to extend past Procedures for Planning, I would suggest Area 20 forming relationships with other Areas of the East Central Region.

I was unable to attend our last Big Book Conference Planning Meeting. Our Alt. Chairperson Georgene facilitated that meeting. She did a fantastic job Chairing her first Committee Meeting and I'm thrilled to represent such a great Committee working together to bring this Conference to completion.

## Co-Chair Report – Georgene R.

We had our most recent Big Book Conference Committee Meeting this past Saturday June 19.

We had hoped to have a Final Flyer to you for today's Assembly, but we still have a couple blank spots and some other important work to do. We do have a Spanish Translation of our current save the date flyer, we will get our current flyers, including that Spanish Translation and this report to our Area Secretary today for distribution. When we have Final Flyers and completed work we will immediately get all information to the DCMs and Area 20 Secretary Christy for distribution and post on our Big Book Conference Website. If any DCM needs information prior to your District Meeting or would like Rich and myself to attend your District

Meeting, please contact us. Our contact info is on our Flyers and can be found on our Big Book Conference Website.

Our Committees have been working to find their role in our Virtual Conference. And working together to bring this project together. This group of individuals has been fun and easy to work with. As our Program Committee winds down, the Technology Committee, of Carol, Rob, and Mike are stepping forward to what looks like a busy summer, not only meeting as a sub-committee, but working with Treasurers with a plan for contributions. With Registration to have a means to register for the Conference in a similar fashion we do for our Assemblies. And Registration will be looking to a means of distribution of registration form, and probably doing so with the PI Committee. And please note, not on Social Media. Technology also to work with Literature/Grapevine Committee for a means to showcase AA Approved Literature and Grapevine at key moments of the Conference. Technology also to work with the Program Committee to communicate with our Main Speakers, to make sure any power point or other info is posted for you at our Virtual Conference during the Main Speakers presentations. The Technology gave a great report and presentation at our last meeting. Detailing the needs they have from our Committee, and how they plan to use the Big Book Conference Website for Registration, Flyer, contributions via PayPal and QR Code. They showed us what the Registration link could look like, how and when they plan on posting Power Point Presentations for Literature and for Grapevine. These presentations will also be available on the Big Book Conference Website. And how they plan presentations for our two main Speakers.

Upon the completion of this year's Conference, we hope to have a list of suggested updates for the "Procedures for Planning the Big Book Conference."

Hoping all of you are off to a start of a fun summer.

THANK YOU,  
Rich and Georgene

2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference

## **2022 STATE CONFERENCE PROPOSAL**

Respectfully Submitted by  
**DISTRICT 10 and 42**

This bid is presented on behalf of District 10 and District 42 in accordance with the Illinois State Conference Structure, Procedures and Planning Digest revised September 2020.

### **THE HOSTING DISTRICTS**

Districts 10 and 42 has voted unanimously at recent GSR meetings to support this bid. Individuals involved in prior conferences have stepped forward to express a willingness to serve on the planning committee for this conference.

### **DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL**

#### **PROPOSED DATES**

August 12 – 14, 2022

#### **PROPOSED LOCATION**

Sheraton Naperville/ Lisle  
3000 Warrenville Road  
Lisle IL 60532

#### **ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS**

\$99.00 for Traditional King KXTD

##### **Guestroom Minimum**

**100**

8/12 50

8/13 50

#### **REGISTRATION FEES**

Banquet	\$45.00
Total Conference & Banquet	\$70.00
Conference only	\$25.00
Conference only - Alateen	\$15.00

To achieve a breakeven budget, the registration fee is based on attendance of 600 (\$15000) and banquet attendance of 250. (\$10000)

### **THE PROPOSED FACILITY**

The proponents of this bid have initiated discussion with the Sheridan of Lisle, site of the 2019 Spring Conference and 2009 IL State Conference hosted by Area 19. The facility is located off Interstate 88 on Warrenville Road, and is easily accessible via Interstates 80, I-90, 294 and 355. O'Hare International Airport and Midway are 35 minutes away.

This bid is based on a written proposal from the Senior Sales Manager at the Sheridan. It is expected that a satisfactory contract can be entered into with the facility. Should the planning committee be unable to secure such a contract, it reserves the option of initiating discussions with alternate facilities.

Meeting room cost is \$1,000. If the 50-room block per night is not met, the hotel will charge the Conference for the un-booked rooms (50 rooms per night minus actual rooms booked times conference room rate). The conference room rate will remain available through the Conference arrival date.

In the event that rooms become 100% booked, the Hyatt will honor the room rate and apply any registrations to the minimum room count.

The hotel will provide coffee at the rate of \$29.00 per gallon. The Fellowship can provide coffee, soft drinks and dry snacks in the Hospitality Room. The overall coffee expense for the Conference is, therefore, to an extent manageable.

**The F&B minimum is \$10,000.** If minimum is met, meeting rental for conference space will be waived. We discussed adding two or three more rooms and space is available. Future consideration may be for the Spanish Districts and interpretation, possibility adding extra panels, and anything else that may come up. Hotel is flexible and space shown would, most likely, be available because it is right in the middle of the space, we had originally decided we would need.

#### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The proponents of this bid understand that the conference is intended to be a self-supporting event. The planning committee will keep accurate records of all necessary expenses, be prudent in its spending and turn over proceeds per the conference guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael L. and Charles H.

# Northern Illinois Area 20

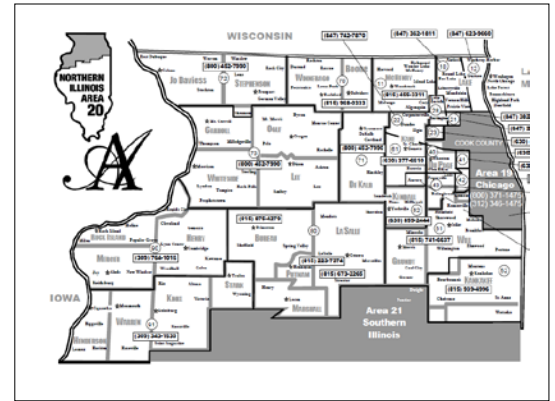
Unity - Service - Recovery

June 26, 2021

## **2021 NIA-20 Summer Assembly**

### **Alternate Delegate Report –**

#### **Welcome to the 2021 Summer Assembly!!**



First off, thanks to all for attending our Summer Assembly (this time virtually though who knows what's in store in the future)! I mentioned it at the Committee meeting in April but once again want to thank Marilyn for her service at the General Service Conference as well as for her report to the Assembly this morning. I know I speak for everyone when I express our gratitude on behalf of the entire Area. WooHoo!!

The officers have continued to meet monthly discussing a variety of matters of concern to the Area's continued service including what future events will look like and whether we can be in person. Thanks to the Conference Advisory Committee and the Ad-Hoc Committee for their work on this issue as well as their report this morning. Speaking of Ad-Hoc Committees, I have continued to be part of the Ad-Hoc Committee on document retention and storage and judging from Christy's report this morning I'm sure you'll agree we've been making progress on the issue. I also attended the most recent meeting of the Illinois State Conf. Policy Committee.

Additionally, I've met with the DCM's (as a committee) on two separate occasions earlier this month to discuss upcoming motions for today's Assembly as well as other Area business, all in an effort to ensure we're well informed and able to carry our Area's message to the GSR's and through them to the groups to get their input. I'd like to thank Eric for his attendance at one of those meetings where he thoroughly reviewed the background material for today's motions.

In other news, I was honored to be asked to chair the national meeting of NAAD (North American Alternate Delegates) on June 1. That meeting is currently in a cycle where each (of the 8) Regions chairs the meeting every month, and June was the East Central Region's turn to chair. Almost all of the East Central Region's Alternate Delegates collaborated together on a presentation entitled "Things a Delegate should Be – Have – Do – Know & Read". Each Alternate (from the ECR) queried their Delegate for their input, coalited the results, and presented the information as an hour long presentation at the national meeting.

A special bond happens when two alcoholics talk one another and that bond is exponentially enhanced when 14 of us do the same. This can happen at a meeting, or in a district planning for a conference, or in an Area as a committee (like today), or in this, case when 14 people who didn't know each other very well learned they knew each other just fine indeed!! I've attached a PDF copy of the presentation in case you want to take a look.

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

Respectfully submitted and grateful to be of service –

Chris D. – A20/P70 – Alternate Delegate



## Report of the Area Chair

June 2, 2021

NIA 20 Summer Assembly

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Panel 70 Area Committee,

I have had the privilege of meeting with many of your districts of late and please, keep that coming. I have also been part of meeting with and hopefully attracting folks to open slots (still) on our Report and Charter, Operating and Technology committees. We also have many open positions on our current panel of servants that we hope to fill to serve for the next 6 months. As we open more and more across the state, the balance of this year needs our attention and active service. Please encourage your fellows to consider serving now. Also, keep in mind that we have an Election Assembly coming in the fall – a great time for everyone here to start to think about where they are being called to serve next.

Some additional things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – monthly.
- Adjusting our 2021 Calendar as needed.
- Joining District meetings to share experience, strength, and hope and NIA 20 updates.
- Learn from other Areas as they navigate the changes to doing business in the same ways that we are. Many have gone before us so we can learn from their experience.

What's coming up:

- Officer meeting and Summer Committee meeting prep – next Officer's meeting is July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Continued focus on key areas:
  - Open appointed positions we will need 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
  - Continue to offer surveys after events.
- District support
  - I have been asked to facilitate a district inventory coming up this summer – how exciting! Reach out to me anytime I can help facilitate a discussion that you wish to have with your group or District – sometimes that objective party from outside the immediate committee is the way to go! Thank you to District 11 for asking me – I'm thrilled to participate and learn with you.

**Expenses to date: \$631.70 (no change here at all yet)**

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](mailto:chairperson@aa-nia.org)

## Report of the Area Chair



Report – Summer Assembly      June 26, 2021

Hello Area 20:

Since our Spring Assembly:

Attended BBC '21 Planning Committee Meetings. This year's event should be great as the host committee, chaired by Rich H., is off to a great start.

Attended meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on "Return to Meeting In-Person." Look forward to meeting in person in September!

Attended a meeting of the Conference Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee. The CAC will be presenting 2 motions today whereby we recommend that Area 20 take a more active role in the hosting and planning of the Spring Conference and the Illinois State Conference in the year's that Area 20 hosts. The purpose of the motions is to have a consistent way to assure that we have a timely plan in place to support these events and lessen the responsibility of an individual district having to facilitate these area events.

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

Best regards and see you Saturday!

Erik Long  
Alt. Area Chair  
630-809-7789

## Archives Committee Report – June 2021

This NIA20 Archives Committee Report is prepared in advance of our Area's Summer Assembly to be held virtually on June 26, 2021. Since the last NIA20 Archives Committee Report submitted in March 2021:

- Website Archives Service Page. Archives committee chair (Jeff K) has been working to prepare a presentation for the full committee on options and suggestions to set up a Archives Service Committee webpage on the Area 20 website that is comprehensive and helpful. This presentation and discussion will be part of the committee breakout session at the Summer Assembly.
- Districts. There has been no recent request for assistance or input from any of the Area's District archives committees on specific projects or workshops. We hope to have District updates regarding their ongoing archives activities, including those covered in prior NIA20 Archives Committee Reports. To recap some of those District archives activities of interest: Districts 28 & 90 have been working to set up their archives collections and are dealing with inventory, classification, and retention policies; District 64 has been converting cassette audiotapes to digital audio; and District 43 has been doing a comprehensive document scanning project to make PDFs of its paper inventory.
- 71<sup>st</sup> GSC Agenda. The Archives committee met virtually March 21, 2021 to discuss the two (2) Archives Items on the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC Final Agenda. The meeting focused mostly on the Archives agenda item re a *proposed book on AA history*. A written report on issues discussed and consensus views was prepared by the Committee chair and sent March 25 to our Area Delegate, and the chair then reported on same at the Area's Pre-GSC Workshop held virtually on March 27, 2021.
- 2021 Illinois State Conference. The Archives committee has been contacted by the Program chair for the 2021 State Conference hosted by Southern Illinois Area 21 and District 19. This year's Conference is being planned to be held virtually August 27-28. We have been asked to assist with input re an Archives panel and ideas for a digital or virtual archives room like that used at last year's virtual state conference hosted by Chicago Area 19. As of June 18, 2021, we have nothing more specific to report but hopefully we will have more to report very soon.
- Area 20 Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management. The Area Archivist and the Archives Committee chair have been involved (among others) to assist with the Area "Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management" that is chaired by the NIA20 Secretary. This committee has met virtually 3 times over the past 2 months. One item under discussion involves how (or whether) to set up internet/website/cloud-based access to Area Archives materials. The ad hoc committee's work continues and to date is not ready to make any recommendations.
- Archives Committee Remains Committed to carry out its service responsibilities by:
  - Assisting and supporting the Area Archivist as needed
  - Having more frequent Area-wide archives committee meetings/communication
  - Hosting Area-wide archives-related "long-timer" panels" or similar workshops

- Continuing to be a go-to resource for district/local archives committees
- Archives Committee Chair Alternate position remains open. Please help!

IN CLOSING:

The Committee is looking forward to getting back together face-to-face soon! But as we emerge from the “15-months-and-still-counting” pandemic era, the Committee is grateful for having acquired new tools, experiences and appreciations that undoubtedly will provide unexpected benefits for Archives’ service work in the future.

Finally, and as always, Archives reminds everyone to consider AA Archives before you toss out any of that old AA stuff! Old flyers for long-ago AA-related events or workshops; AA meeting directories from days of yore – these and similar items may be useful for Archives. So please remember to get in touch with your local District or Area archives committee before deciding what goes to the recycle bin.

Gratefully submitted,

Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA20

June 18, 2021

A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing an orange jumpsuit, sitting and reading a book. In the background, another person in an orange jumpsuit is sitting on a bench, looking down. The setting appears to be a prison or jail.

## NIA SUMMER ASSEMBLY CORRECTIONS REPORT

While there is not a whole lot to report there is a bit of good news. Kane County Jail will open on June 28. DuPage Jail has been accepting volunteers for quite some time. I am unsure about the jail in McHenry.

As far as new volunteers I was unable to get a definitive answer from Bill Woods as to when Kane County would be offering training for those wishing to volunteer at the jail. So for now only those who have been cleared to volunteer per the last training will be allowed in. When I know more I will post that information on the web site.

With regard to Sheridan Prison I reached out to Chaplain McClimans and was told that they are awaiting next steps from Springfield. So we continue to wait to get back in to the prison system.

That's it for the moment.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott".

Scott McBain  
NIA 20 Corrections Chair

## **2021 NIA 20 Summer Assembly Area Treatment Chair Report**

On June 11, 2021, the State of Illinois moved to Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois framework, marking the full reopening of all industries and activities. This milestone in the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was reached following continued progress in vaccine administration in communities statewide.

This is welcome news but for the treatment community, not everything has returned to a "normal" or a pre-covid state. Masks are still required for everyone in health care settings and in congregate facilities, such as correctional facilities and homeless shelters. Many health care systems and treatment facilities continue to work with a virtual meeting schedule, with plans to expand volunteer capacity and reopen for in-person meetings in the near future. Although everyone is receiving the same or similar CDC guidance, the roll out of new policy and guidelines is different across each system. It would appear that "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly" is the approach to treatment facilities' reopening across Northern Illinois Area.

To that end, we have reached out to Treatment Committee Chairs across NIA 20 to ask where their respective treatment centers are on the reopening continuum and how can we be of service and assistance in that process. We have created an NIA 20 Treatment Center presentation and are prepared to offer area-wide workshops either virtually or in-person. We have continued to work with those treatment centers not associated or affiliated with a hospital healthcare system who have been utilizing in person volunteers since the state implemented Phase 4 without any mitigation measures at the end of January. Many of these residential inpatient treatment centers have continued allowing, encouraging, and actively seeking in person volunteers.

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

In love of service,

Lisa S.  
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.  
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair