

## Northern Illinois Area 20 2021 Winter Assembly Minutes



**December 11, 2021**  
**Online Audio/Video Meeting**

### Meeting Opening

Area Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela welcomed attendees and made announcements.

### Total Attendees

Registered attendees – 108  
Attendees logged into Zoom at 10:30 a.m. – 79

### New Attendees

Jeff B., D21 GSR	Robert H., D40 alt committee chair	Jacob R., D11 GSR
Cynthia B., D28 GSR	Clint K., D11 GSR	Jill S., D23 incoming Alt DCM
Eric C., D62 committee chair	Thomas K., D28 Alt GSR	Barb S., D28 committee chair
Keith C., D72 DCM	Desiree K., D90 Alt GSR	Patricia W., D73 committee chair
Kathleen C., D22 committee chair	Jason K., D23 Alt GSR	Angel, D28 GSR
Brandon C., D22 GSR	Harold M., group member	
Chris D., D43 committee chair	Matthew M., D22 Alt GSR	

### Anniversaries

George C. – 12/11, 41 years	Kevin A. – 9/28, 21 years
Susan H. – 11/16, 10 years	Gordon R. - 11/17, 9 years
Dave F. – 10/9, 7 years	Scott T. – 9/20, 8 years
Keith – 11/3, 29 years	Randy C. – 9/29, 7 years
Cheryl V. – 11/25, 35 years	Georgene R. – 9/19, 2 years
Patty – 11/16, 2 years	

### *Celebrating 171 years of sobriety!*

### Approval of 2021 Fall Assembly Minutes

Cheryl V. made the motion to approve the September 18, 2021, Fall Assembly minutes and Kate D. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Point of Order Discussion

Past Delegate Rich H. pointed out that the motion to be discussed and voted on this afternoon was being brought by the Area officers, and as a member of the Area officers, Chair Carmela should not preside over the discussion and voting on the motion to avoid conflict of interest. Carmela asked attending Past Delegates Cheryl V. and Larry S. if one of them would preside over the motion proceedings. Cheryl agreed to preside, and Rich H. accepted that delegation of authority.

## Meeting Business

### Delegate's Report – Marilyn F.

Welcome to our last assembly in 2021.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate for the past two years. It truly has been an honor and privilege and I am very grateful to you. I have missed seeing you in person, however, hopefully in the near future we will meet to face to face.

Effective immediately, please send contribution checks to:  
Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

On to business: From the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report:

The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' International Committee to withdraw from coordinating the 27<sup>th</sup> World Service Meeting (WSM) Theme: "A.A. in the Digital Age" currently scheduled to be held October 1 - 7, 2022 in Tokyo, Japan. Based on the continued unpredictability of the pandemic and financial concerns the General Service Board is unable to support a **physical destination/hybrid meeting**.

The Board approved a recommendation from the trustees' International Committee that the General Service Board propose to the 27<sup>th</sup> World Service Meeting (WSM) that the General Service Office U.S./Canada coordinate the 27<sup>th</sup> WSM (currently scheduled October 1-7, 2022, in Tokyo Japan) **to be held virtually only**, and financed by WSM delegate fees and the WSM Fund.

### Conference

The design, planning and implementation of the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process has overwhelmed the Conference assignment. Helpful guidance, dedicated service, innovative approaches, and lots of hard work are resulting in many short-term successes along the way while numerous related and additional aspects of the assignment's support of the Conference are impacted. **By September 15, the Conference desk received 178 proposed agenda items forms**, some on the same items, which were all processed and forwarded to the appropriate committee/board for the fourth quarter General Service Board weekend.

### Corrections

The new **Corrections Correspondence System (C.C.S.)** launched September 28, 2021. The new C.C.S. provides an expedient process whereby we can match volunteers and persons in custody automatically and manually, obtain statistics and reports, and generate personalized letters that can be sent via email to outside A.A. members and via postal mail to persons in custody. **Since the launch, 267 were paired that for a myriad of reasons had been sitting in the old system.**

**Progress on Google Ads for Professionals:** The staff secretary provided an update that work is underway between the C.P.C. and P.I. staff assignments crafting draft language to create one new campaign with multiple ad sets for the professional community. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.

### **Public Service Announcements (PSAs):**

**Progress report on two new PSAs and updates to audio PSAs:** The committee discussed the post-production efforts of the two 2021 Conference-approved PSAs. The committee secretary reported that the target distribution date and press release was November 2021. The committee looks forward to a progress report on the broadcast distribution and tracking of the two PSAs at the January 2022 meeting.

**Reserve Fund report:** As of September 30, 2021, the Reserve Fund balance net of Grapevine subscription liability is **\$12,806,277**, which represents **8.48 months** of G.S.O. and Grapevine expenses. (**Target is 9-12 months.**) The balance includes the \$250,000 the G.S.B. voted in July to transfer to the Reserve Fund. We are currently in a multi-year process of transferring the funds of the Reserve Fund from one bank to another. Since most of our funds are in CDARs; we are transferring the money as CDARs mature. (CDARS – The Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service is a for-profit service run by the Promontory Interfinancial Network.)

**G.S.O. financial results:** The committee reviewed the G.S.O. unaudited financial results for September 30, 2021. Gross literature sales year to date are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. September gross sales were \$746,519, the first time since June that monthly sales did not exceed \$1 million. Gross sales are averaging \$957,089 per month compared to a budget of \$950,000 per month. To meet the budget, monthly gross literature sales need to average \$928,732 over the last three months of the year.

Contributions year to date are \$7,416,647, which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$293,439 more than this time last year. Contributions are averaging over \$824,072 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month. Monthly contributions have declined from \$940,632 in July to \$762,965 in August to \$736,734 in September. To meet the budget, monthly contributions need to average \$861,118 over the last three months of the year.

Total operating expense for the period ending September 30, 2021, is \$11,543,559 which is 73% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$512,887 less than last year. 2021 includes depreciation while 2020 does not. If depreciation is added to 2020, total operating expense in 2021 is \$652,671 less than last year. Payroll and benefits year to date are \$6,978,975, which is 73% of the budget amount of \$9,518,557 and \$567,919 less than last year.

The combination of the above revenues and expenses resulted in G.S.O. reporting a preliminary surplus of \$1,448,089. This compares to a budgeted surplus of \$747,312 and a deficit of \$612,104 at this time last year.

The G.S.O. financial report was accepted by the committee.

**Progress report on preliminary G.S.O. 2022 Budget:** The 2022 budget process followed the model of the 2021 reforecast process where senior managers were asked to develop budgets for their functional areas with the guidance and support of the finance team. For 2022, at the request of the C.F.O. and with support of finance, G.S.O. Staff supported the first phase of the iterative budgeting process by providing budget information related to Conference driven projects on their respective assignments. While G.S.O. Staff have played an increased role, primary responsibility for the development of the budgets lies with the General Manager who informed this first phase. The next and final step toward making the budget a true group conscience is to integrate the A.A.W.S. and G.S.B. Boards into the process.

The first iteration of the budget resulted in a deficit which must be closed. Toward this end, we are proposing special Board meetings devoted solely to the budget.

The board accepted the October Finance department report highlighting the following information as of September 30:

The CFO expressed concern that the monthly contributions have declined from \$940,632 in July to \$762,965 in August to \$736,734 in September. In order to meet the budget, it is hoped that monthly contributions might average \$861,118 over the last three months of the year.

Gross literature sales are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. Gross literature sales are averaging \$746,519 per month so far this year. September gross sales were \$746,519, and for the first time since June did not exceed \$1 million. Payroll and benefits are \$6,978,975, which is 73% of the budget amount of \$9,518,557 and \$567,919 less than last year.

Total operating expense is \$11,543,559 which is 73% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$512,887 less than last year. 2021 includes depreciation while 2020 does not. If depreciation is added to 2020, total operating expense in 2021 is \$652,671 less than last year.

Surplus for the first nine months of 2021 is \$1,448,089 compared to a budget surplus for the year of \$747,312 and a deficit of \$612,104 at this time last year. Adjusted to include depreciation, the 2020 deficit was \$751,888. The surplus is attributable primarily to greater than budgeted literature sales.

In keeping with the goal of transparency, the trustees and non-trustee directors will start to receive a monthly finance report.

The Finance Committee chair opened the meeting by handing the CFO a bequest of \$10,000 from a deceased long-time sober AA member who shared her home group for thirty years. "She loved AA and the AA service structure." The mindset of prudence is with the thought of these types of contributions and bequests and how every dollar is spent.

**Grapevine financial results:** For the period ending September 30, 2021. Average paid circulation of the Grapevine magazine was 65,975. This compared with a budget of 67,658 and 2020 actual of 68,982.

Total income for the first nine months of the year was \$1,500,920 which is \$402,655 more than budgeted and \$270,313 more than the \$1,230,607 achieved in 2020.

Total costs and expenses of the magazine for the first nine months were \$1,221,103, which were \$115,347 lower than budgeted and \$229,715 less than the \$1,450,817 in 2020.

After adding interest earned, there was a net income for the period ending September 30, 2021, of \$279,817 compared to a budgeted net loss of \$238,185.

The Grapevine financial report was accepted by the committee.

**La Vina results:** For the unaudited results for September 30, 2021, average paid subscriptions for La Vina were 6,392 compared to 5,675 budgeted and 7,500 in September 2020. Income from magazine sales was \$48,801 compared with a budget of \$19,647. After deducting the costs and expenses of \$308,821, a shortfall between revenue and expenses of \$260,021 resulted for this service activity. This compares with a budgeted shortfall of \$288,515 and a shortfall of \$269,648 for 2020. The shortfall for the La Vina service activity has been funded by a transfer from the General Fund of the G.S.B.

The La Vina financial report was accepted by the committee.

- Financially, **AA Grapevine is trending ahead of budget and ahead of prior year on sales of both subscriptions and literature.** Costs are under both budget and prior year.
- **La Vina is trending ahead of budget on subscriptions** and on budget for costs which are below the year prior.
- The AA message is certainly seeing growth in where and how it is carried. Additional outreach via Instagram and our new Podcast have generated fantastic traffic increases to both website and store. Website traffic increased by 20,000 new users since July and is holding at over 72,000 as of

September. Store traffic increased from 7,893 to 10,424, to 15,064 over July into August into September.

- 5,200 people have listened to the Podcast. The Instagram account for AA Grapevine has 4,752 follows as of today, and has had 110,000 impressions to date. La Vina's Instagram has just over 500 followers and is trending interestingly at about 10% of the English version which is comparable to what we see in print and online.
- Outreach through our partner Ingram has added \$122,283.88 YTD sales in physical and digital books.
- Prayer and Meditation is proving to be a popular success. We have sold 4,079 at our online store and 757 through Ingram.
- Thanks to the fantastic cooperation of the Corrections Desk and Grapevine Staff we are now receiving directly the list of inmates who have reached out for help from AA and can report that we are officially at a deficit of carry the message subscriptions. We received a list of over 2000 requests from the Corrections desk, and have only 1,200 English Carry the Message Grapevine Subscriptions and 401 La Vina subscriptions in the pool. **So please report out to those that contributed their subscriptions are making it to prisoners and the need for more is real.**

The **Publishing department** has returned to the workplace, settling into the new 8<sup>th</sup> Floor workspace, effective October 1, 2021

"Small Orders" (under \$25) total gross sales are \$85,744. Compared throughout years 2019-2021 small orders during the same timeframe from 2019-2020 was a 94% increase (\$35,319) in gross sales, 2020-2021 was an 18% increase (\$12,820) in gross sales. Small orders increased during the shipping pilot.

Orders placed by Intergroups and Central Offices, total gross sales are \$1,997,247. Compared throughout years 2019-2021 IGCOs' orders during the same timeframe from 2019-2020 there was a 14% decrease (\$203,478) in gross sales, 2020-2021 there was a 65% increase (\$784,731) in gross sales. IGCO orders increased during the shipping pilot.

The Publishing department noticed the increase in Big Book orders compared to the same timeframe. Combined sales for hardcover and soft cover Big Books 2019 - 2021 in English, French and Spanish. There has been a total decrease of 18% during 2019 - 2020, and an increase of 27% from 2020 - 2021.

Incredibly grateful to have served,

Marilyn F. Area 20 – Panel 70 Delegate

#### **Discussion:**

Past delegate Cheryl V. thanked Marilyn for going the extra mile during Covid and talked about the passing of the delegate's stamp to Chris D. for his signature as the new delegate. Marilyn thanked Chris D. for being a good alternate delegate. Chris D. said we can have the stamp ceremony when we are back in person.

A member asked about the Grapevine being under budget in her report. Marilyn's information doesn't match what the member heard at the East Central Regional Forum recently. Marilyn replied that her information is from the GSB's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting, so it is more current.

A member asked if the GSC final report is out yet. Marilyn replied that it is, and she has mailed out and hand delivered many of them. When we next meet in person, she will bring the ones that are not out yet. He asked if the information she reported today is in the GSC final report. She said the GSC report only contains the proceedings and reports from the GSC held in May 2021, and indicated that the information in today's report is from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting, and is current.

## **Treasurer's Report – Dawn B. (Report is available on the Area 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 December 9, 2021.

- Checking account balance: \$42,805.61
- Operating funds balance: \$36,535.00
- Restricted funds balance: \$6,270.61 and consists of:
  - "Pink Can" \$2,355.47
  - "Green Can" \$915.14
  - ECRC Seed Money: \$3,000.00
- Savings account balance: \$23,514.00 (Prudent Reserve)

### **Profit and Loss Statement**

The QuickBooks Profit and Loss Statement summarizes the revenues, costs and expenses incurred during a specified period. See the NIA website for the full Profit and Loss Statement for the period from January 1, 2021, through December 9, 2021.

- Total Contributions: \$41,618.00
- Total Expenses: \$16,101.76
- Net Operating Income: \$25,516.24 which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2021.

### **Miscellaneous**

- We have been having PayPal donations come through. The address for PayPal is on the NIA website. It is [treasurer@aa.nia.org](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.
- The PO Box has been renewed for 2022 and will remain the same.
- I am renewing the tax-free status for NIA with the State.
- I will introduce Allen shortly to our accountant, our insurance agent and our "Office Depot guy." We are beginning our Quick Books training on Monday.
- Thank you so much NIA for allowing me to serve. My fellow officers, the Area Committee, and everyone else I have served with have been a pleasure to work with, especially during this strange time in our history. Thank you to Carol for her patience and tolerance, teaching me in a time when we could not get together. Thank you to Allen for stepping up and being my alternate mid rotation.

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

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

Allen has been working on making corrections to the contributions spreadsheet and getting thank-you letters out. He asked that groups please stop using the Crystal Lake post office box address for contributions. That post office box will probably be closed within the next six months.

**Contributions Summary – 1/1/21 to 11/24/21**

Date deposited	(All)
Row Labels	Sum of Contributions amount
(blank)	
Green Can contribution	\$273.24
Pink Can contribution	\$3,033.31
Group contribution	\$33,911.80
District contribution	\$5,420.45
Personal contribution	\$2,409.35
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,048.15</b>

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 Winter Assembly.

**Discussion:**

An attendee asked what the best way to identify a group’s contribution was. Allen said to use the contribution form that is posted on the NIA website and include the group name, group ID number, and city/village name. He said to print the information instead of using cursive writing for better legibility.

**Approval of 2021 Winter Assembly Treasurer’s Report**

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Kevin A. and seconded by Jeff L. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

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

Erik reported that we can return to meetings in person at Lord of Life Church in LaFox now. The only restriction is the requirement to wear face masks in the building. He said the current plan for the Winter Committee Meeting in January is to have a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the church and Zoom online attendance. The Area officers will be meeting at the church on December 21 to do a test run of the hybrid meeting. There may be some kinks to get worked out. If you want to work on getting hybrid meetings up and running, you can join the Technology committee or ask any interested members of your district or group to join the committee. Other than adding the Zoom virtual component to go hybrid, the plan is to have the meeting be as near to a normal in-person meeting as possible.

**Discussion:**

Scott T., D23 DCM, asked what his district needs to do as the host of the Winter Committee Meeting. Erik said he and Dawn B. would talk to him offline about what’s needed. No technical support is required from the host district for the meeting.

David T., D23 Alt DCM, asked how the meeting can be hybrid if there is no funding for equipment to go hybrid. Chair Carmela replied that the officers’ group is doing the prep work to determine what equipment is needed, if any. Erik added that the motion to be considered later today addresses startup funding for equipment and services potentially required for hybrid meetings.

Past Delegate Kelly L. said that no motion is pending for having a hybrid Winter Committee, or hybrid meetings in general going forward; the last set of minutes included a motion that the Winter Committee Meeting would be virtual. She asked when a was motion made to make any meetings hybrid. It is her opinion that a motion is needed for make future Area meetings hybrid. Carmela replied that the motion today is to provide startup

funding for future hybrid meetings if we want to have them. Erik agreed with Carmela and said the December 21 meeting is to prepare for hybrid if the Area wants them.

Scott T. asked if the district hosting committee could attend the December 21 meeting at the church. Erik said they could.

Past Delegate Rich H. said he has heard conflicting statements about the Winter Committee meeting platform—virtual or hybrid. He said the last motion about type of attendance at the Winter Committee Meeting resulted in a vote to have a virtual Zoom meeting only, and now Erik is saying it will be a hybrid meeting. The GSRs have not had an opportunity to vote on this, and they need to vote on it to follow the Concepts guidelines that decisions should reside in the fellowship as a whole. Carmela responded that the vote on the motion today was to determine if we wanted to approve funding to prepare for hybrid meetings.

Rob M. said that today's motion is about approving startup funding to provide hybrid meetings if we want them. The missing piece is approval of hybrid meetings in general. He asked if we could discuss that today as a floor motion.

Erik said we were planning to meet in person in January, and the motion today is to approve funding for any needed equipment or services to add a virtual component to the meeting, making it hybrid.

Joe B., D22 DCM, said he doesn't recall whether we voted on having an in-person meeting. He said we do not need a vote to go back in person because that is how we always met before the Covid-19 pandemic public health restrictions halted in-person meetings. Chair Carmela agreed with Joe that Assembly approval is not needed to go back in person. The ad hoc committee's purpose has been to monitor the pandemic situation, to determine when it is safe from a health and regulation standpoint to go back in person. Joe's opinion is that we need to have a vote.

Allen J. read from the guidelines (page 26) that the Area Committee decides where and when the Area meeting are held. His opinion is that it does not need to be approved by the assembly, but perhaps the Area Committee should be asked to vote before we go back to in-person meetings.

Kelly L. said she understands that our usual meeting platform is to meet in person, and that is what we are going to do in January, to go back to the usual Area procedure of an in-person only meeting and a motion is not needed for that. Erik said that is technically correct. The ad hoc committee's work on gearing up for hybrid meetings is in anticipation of the Area wanting to provide hybrid meetings in the future.

Dawn B. said Carmela has taken a sense of the Assembly more than once during the past two years on whether or not we wanted to have hybrid.

Past Delegate Cheryl V. made a floor motion to be discussed by the Assembly this afternoon about future hybrid meetings. It will be submitted in writing to the Area Chair prior to its presentation to the Assembly.

#### **Floor Motion**

I move that the Area Assembly consider a floor motion to provide hybrid, in-person and virtual, all future Assemblies, Committee Meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

At Chair Carmela's request, Alt Delegate Chris D. explained that when the motion comes to the floor of the Assembly this afternoon, the Assembly will have the opportunity to vote to decline to consider the motion if they so choose.

George C. said he doesn't understand how it could be an issue if we decide to go hybrid because then those who prefer Zoom get it and those who want to meet in person get that, so everyone is satisfied.



Rob M. clarified that the Area Committee is composed of the Area officers, past delegates, DCMs and committee chairs, and the Assembly is composed of the Area Committee members and the GSRs. The Area guidelines give the responsibility of making “when and where” decisions about Area meetings, as Allen said. The motion today addresses how we fund adding the hybrid component going forward. His opinion is that we don’t need the floor motion.

Rich H. said the Area committee never voted to add a hybrid component to the in-person meetings, and since the GSRs are here today, it would be good to vote.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management and Archival Support**

The committee has reached a conclusion that what we need to do immediately, is to get Microsoft OneDrive cloud services up and running for the Area Archives. The Area Archivist will manage the electronic archives.

Online archives will allow an Area member to ask the Archivist for permission to access them, and once permission is given, to conduct their research online. This may also decrease some of the backbreaking work of archiving by storing documents electronically, some of which may no longer need to be stored as paper copies.

Microsoft includes OneDrive cloud services in their Office 365 subscription, and the Area has an Office 365 subscription that includes two (or more?) computers. I will be meeting with the treasurer, who has the information on our current subscription, to see if that version of OneDrive will suffice to use for the Archives. We will be working to keep the cost down, and if a better approach is to get OneDrive separately for the Archives, the current cost is about \$10 or \$15 dollars per month with a yearly subscription for online storage capacity that is adequate for current Area Archives. We will also be talking to Microsoft about cost savings that may be available to us as a nonprofit corporation.

We will work with the Archivist to create a one-page set of instructions for how to access and use the cloud-based archives. The plan is to make the instructions simple enough to be used by everyone, including the computer inept like me, who don’t have a lot of experience with cloud-based apps.

Thank you for allowing me to chair this committee. I am committed to putting the Area Archives online because it will help us move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And thank you all, especially the current officers, for getting us through the Covid-19 pandemic as well as we have done.

Christy B.  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Document Management

### **Conference Reports**

#### **2022 Illinois State Conference Report – Michael L., DCM D10 and Charles H., DCM D42**

Chair Carmela gave the report that committee co-chair Michael L. sent her. The co-chairs Michael and Charles could not be here because they are at the East Central Region Conference/Illinois State Conference (ECRC/ISC) Planning meeting today.

The conference will be held August 12 through 14, 2022 at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, Illinois.

The main point to convey about the ECRC/ISC is that flyers and registration forms were available at SoberFest and about 175 of them went out to folks.

The conference website is in the process of being rebuilt to support the 2022 event because the 2019 and 2016 behind-the-scenes website information is either no longer available or something has been lost and some reconstruction is needed. If anyone knows anything about how we can get closer to remedying that please

contact Michael. Carmela said she will reach out to Past Delegate Kelly L. to get help bridging the gap between the ECR and Michael because she seems to know the most about the ECR of anyone in our Area.

They are looking for some technical support and experience on their committee.

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

Rich and Georgene each read a portion of the report, which is their final report to the Area. The report is attached to the minutes.

## **Officers Reports**

### **Alternate Delegate – Chris D.**

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

First off, thanks to all for attending today's Assembly. It's been a busy time for me since the last Committee meeting in October with some of my activities detailed below.

First off thanks to D21 (Palatine), D22 (Elgin) and D65 (Spanish-Aurora) for the invitations to attend in person and speak about general service and Area business. I appreciated the opportunity to visit and look forward to many more such visits in the coming year.

On the Area calendar I attended the Big Book Conference in October and then both the Southwest and East Central Regional forums in November. Both of the weekend forums were great opportunities to hear more about the activities at GSO and within the General Service Board. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the final reports from either of the forums.

I also attended the last two (November & December) North American Alternate Delegates (NAAD) meetings, saying farewell to many first year (Panel 71) Alternate Delegates and continuing to forge great relationships with several Panel 70's, many who are rotating with me. Erik also attended the December meeting and introduced himself as the incoming Panel 72 Alternate Delegate.

Regarding my participation in the Area ad-hoc committee on document retention and storage, you will hear a final report later today detailing our work there.

The officers have continued to meet monthly (twice since the committee meeting) with the major focus being on how we can best carry the message to the entire fellowship as we begin 2022. Regarding that, we have a motion later today which if passed will authorize the Area to purchase equipment to make Hybrid meetings a reality in the very near future.

On a personal level I attended a Concepts retreat last weekend with several Area 20 members where we covered Concepts 7-8-9. I may have left a few things off but honestly the days are beginning to go by very quickly these days! I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone (especially the DCM's) for their support these last 2 years while I served as Alternate Delegate and would also like to personally thank Marilyn for her service during what will undoubtedly become a historic "Pandemic Panel". Going forward I look forward to serving as your Panel 72 Delegate and will always do my best to serve with the same distinction as those that came before me.

#### **2021 Reimbursement Requests:**

\$158.20 – Mileage and food for District visits and Service Orientation Workshop

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

**Chair – Carmela R.**

Panel 70 Area Committee,

It is unreal to know that today marks our last time together as the NIA 20 Panel 70 Committee. Most importantly, thank you for all the friendship, support, challenges, and rewards. In recent weeks, I have been largely working to bring some open items to a good place – encouraging our forward motion toward hybrid area events and the use of a centralized, cloud-based repository for area materials. Also, I have started to work with our Area Chair Elect, Rob M to transition this role. What a journey it has been, and I am grateful for this amazing experience of the last two years. Really, the last 18 in NIA 20. 😊

I continue to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – last Panel 70 meeting held on 12/8
- Support requests for our NIA20 Zoom account – by districts and various committees, to set up and help produce their events, as needed.
- Adjust 2022 NIA proposed calendar as more details become available.

What's coming up:

- Support transition to Panel 72 officers
- Board of Directors hand-offs and banking transitions

**Expenses to date: \$631.70**

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

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

I will continue to serve NIA20 in the coming weeks and months as I am able – I am passionate about helping us on the technology front. As my personal and professional parts of life undergo transitions, I will always be here with NIA20 in spirit.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has been a true honor and privilege to serve our area for the better part of the last 20 years – you have enriched and supported my life in recovery in so many ways and I am grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela R

Area Chair, [chairperson@aa-nia.org](mailto:chairperson@aa-nia.org)

Panel 70

**Alternate Chair – Erik L.**

Erik said it was his pleasure to serve as Alt Chair and help Carmela, who did an excellent job as Chair navigating through the Covid-19 situation these past two years. He reported that he served on the 2021 Big Book Conference planning committee. The conference was a big success with Rich H. and Georgene chairing the event. He attended part of the East Central Regional Conference and a recent alternate delegates national meeting at Chris D's invitation. Most of his work recently has been on the Ad Hoc Return to In Person Meetings Committee and the Conference Advisory Committee. He is looking forward to transitioning the Alt Chair position to Dawn B. and to working with Panel 72 Delegate Chris D.

**Registrar – Carol H.**

Carol was not present.

### **Alternate Registrar – Rob M.**

Rob reported that district rosters with registration updates continue to come in and Carol has entered them into the Fellowship Connection (FC) system. He has finally been approved for access to FC as the Alternate Registrar now that his term of service is almost over. He has been working with the Big Book Conference technology committee and both Ad Hoc committees. He has also been working to get his arms wrapped around his upcoming duties as Area Chair, and is looking forward to serving in that capacity.

### **Secretary – Christy B.**

Christy has been talking to incoming Secretary Kate D. and Alt Secretary Sue M., and they have been making plans to get together on Zoom to transition the positions. She said the Fall Committee meeting minutes will be sent out soon. She expressed her gratitude for how much she learned about the workings of the Area and A.A. service in general from being Area secretary. She is looking forward to serving as Alt Registrar.

### **Alternate Secretary – Karen F.**

Karen thanked Christy for her work as secretary. She said the Alternate Secretary email link on the Area website is not functioning and she is not getting email forwarded to her. She asked to have that fixed. Rob responded that he would work with Webmaster Earl on that issue.

**Committee breakout sessions followed by lunch occurred from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

## **Ongoing and New Business**

Chair Carmela reviewed voter eligibility and voting procedures for approval of the proposed 2022 Primary Purpose Register (PPR), the proposed 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar, the officers' group motion and the elections for Panel 72 Area service committee positions that are still open.

### **Approval of the 2022 Primary Purpose Register**

Area Treasurer Dawn B. presented the proposed 2022 PPR providing information on funding for each service activity category and explaining the Finance Committee's reasoning for increases or decreases in funding with respect to previous year 2021. The proposed 2022 PPR is attached to the minutes.

#### **Discussion:**

Chair Carmela said that the open Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) 074 was last used in 2019.

Cheryl V. suggested we leave that open until we get a new Treatment chair for Panel 72 because it is a Treatment committee motion, and the Covid pandemic restrictions rendered it inactive.

Rob M. suggested clearing the Treatment PPM 074 funding since it has not been used in two years, and let the new Treatment chair bring a new motion for 2022 funding. He asked for confirmation that the basis for some higher Primary Purpose Budget (PPB) costs in 2022 were due to more people going to events, such as the state conference that our Area is hosting, and hotel/food costs increases. Dawn replied that is correct.

Renita, D12 DCM, said they are taking Big Books donated in their district to treatment centers as they open up, and she would like to have Area supplied books. She was told to contact Lisa S., the current Treatment chair.

Cheryl V. explained that the purpose of the PPR is to estimate the expenditures expected for the coming year that are required by the Area guidelines to perform activities to carry the message of A.A. in the area. The expenditures are broken down into categories by activity. The Area can spend more or less to perform the activity, but even if the activity costs more than the anticipated expense, the Area will pay whatever it costs to get the activity completed. She gave an example of 2019, our last "normal" activity year. The proposed total

PPR expenditures for the year were \$78,000 (\$6,500/month), and the actual expenditures for the first 9 months were \$45,000 (\$5,000/month), so we spent less than we projected we would that year, and that was acceptable. It would also have been acceptable if approved activities for the year totaled more than \$78,000.

Francelia, D12 Alt DCM, asked if you can get funds for Big Books for treatment if you don't have a Treatment chair in your district. Carmela replied that anyone in the Area going into treatment centers can get Big Books from the Area by contacting the Area Treatment chair, currently Lisa S.

Vote to Approve the 2022 NIA 20 Primary Purpose Register (two-thirds majority required)

In favor of approving the 2022 NIA 20 PPR = 36 (100%)  
Opposed to approving the 2022 NIA 20 PPR = 0 (0%)  
Total votes = 36

**The 2022 NIA 20 Primary Purpose Register was approved unanimously.**

**Approval of the 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar**

Chair Carmela presented the proposed 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar. It is included as an attachment to the minutes. Carmela said a two-thirds (2/3) majority is required to accept the calendar.

**Discussion:**

Past Delegate Rich H. asked if the request for hosts and locations for the assemblies and Area committee meetings could be held until after the floor motion about the Area accepting a hybrid meeting format going forward is acted on later today. Carmela replied that since an in-person meeting is our customary meeting type, no motion is needed for having in-person meetings. The only motion needed is for hybrid; therefore, no delay in asking for hosts and locations is required.

Vote to Approve the 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar

In favor of approving the 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar = 53 (94%)  
Opposed to approving the 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar = 3 (6%)  
Total votes = 56

Chair Carmela asked if there was a minority opinion from anyone voting in opposition. There was none.

**The 2022 NIA 20 Events Calendar was approved with a majority greater than two-thirds (2/3).**

**Motion:**

The Area officers move to provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA Assemblies, Committee Meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

As decided earlier in the Assembly, Chair Carmela, who is a member of the Area officers' group, turned the chair duties over to Past Delegate Cheryl V. who reviewed the procedures for questions about and discussion of the motion.

Alternate Delegate Chris D. presented the motion and background material, a copy of which is attached to these minutes and posted on the NIA website.

**Questions:**

Kelly L. asked about how the 13 breakout rooms used at assemblies would be handled during hybrid meetings. Chris D. replied that we currently don't have details about how that would work.

Barbara asked how the officers group arrived at the \$5,000 total expenditure amount. Chris replied that it was based on guidance we received from other Areas that are conducting hybrid meetings.

Georgene asked what happens when we are back to full in-person meetings. Rob M. replied that the purpose of providing hybrid meetings after the pandemic restrictions are removed is to provide an ongoing opportunity to provide better access to anyone who wishes to attend Area meetings.

Peggy thought the original estimated expenditure was \$3,000, and now it is \$5,000. Her group discussed a \$3,000 expenditure. Chris D. explained that the motion presented at the Fall Committee Meeting for discussion was \$3,000, but it was subsequently revised to \$5,000 in the final motion for today's meeting. The revised motion was sent out to the Area Committee members, including DCMs, and was posted on the NIA website.

Alt Secretary Karen F. said the cost projections are also based on what equipment Lord of Life Church has that we can potentially use for hybrid meetings in the near future. So, this is a guesstimate of what it will take to get started.

Webmaster Earl N. asked if he is correct that this is the cost for equipment for the December 21 hybrid test at Lord of Life Church. Rob M. replied that we will be using personally owned equipment for that test. Earl understood that we are going to test hybrid at a substantially lower cost, and then purchase equipment prior to the Winter Committee Meeting. Rob went on to say that we potentially could buy some equipment prior to the Winter Committee Meeting hybrid test, but that meeting won't have breakout sessions, and those sessions may be where we need to use additional funding. That test will be conducted at the 2022 Spring Assembly.

Keith B. asked who will run the hybrid meetings, referring to the technical management. Cheryl V. and Rob M. answered that the Technology committee being formed will be responsible for running the meetings, and managing the equipment will be the responsibility of the Equipment committee.

Rich H. asked if it was premature to have a motion to fund equipment purchase if Lord of Life Church is willing to work with us and rent us equipment to put on the hybrid meetings. Chris D. said renting equipment from the church is not an option. Erik L. replied that Lord of Life may have equipment that they will let us use without cost. The officers' group has brought this motion to put a stake in the ground to move forward with hybrid and get a buy in from the Assembly. The motion is being brought to allow the capability to move forward by providing funding for necessary equipment.

Renita D., D12 DCM, asked if we would continue using Zoom or if we were looking at other platforms. Rob M. said we have had good experience with Zoom and have a contract in place, so we expect to continue to use Zoom.

Jeff K. asked about administrative costs for going hybrid. if these are in addition to regular Area ongoing administrative costs, would that require bringing a separate motion in addition to this one. Rob M. said we could have costs associated with maintenance contracts and warranties for any new equipment purchased. He doesn't think there will be any large ongoing administrative costs incurred, such as additional subscriptions. Cheryl V. noted that in the PPR we are funding activities, and the activity being funded by this motion is purchase of startup equipment for making hybrid Area meetings possible. Ongoing administrative costs, if any will be incurred, would be funded in the Area administrative Primary Purpose Budget (PPB) portion of the PPR and would require a separate motion. Jeff asked if these costs would be as high as \$2,000-\$3,000, and Rob replied he did not expect costs to be in the thousands of dollars range.

Steve C. asked if it was correct that if the motion doesn't pass, there will be no hybrid meeting in January 2022. Rob M. said that is correct.

Treasurer Dawn B., in response to Jeff K.'s question, said that \$3,000 had been added to the Area Administrative PPR category for ongoing membership subscriptions and similar items in 2022.

**Discussion:**

Dave F., D22 Alt DCM, is in favor in the motion because it could improve attendance, especially in winter when travel to Area meetings can be difficult.

GSR Kelly B. said her group decided to have her vote against the motion because it lacked clarification, did not discuss whether any alternatives had been considered, and it lacked details about the expenditures required.

Kelly L. commented that standing committee chairs would have to be in person if we had hybrid meetings and wanted to know if they knew that.

Webmaster Earl N. is strongly in favor of the motion. He gave the example of the success of the 2021 Big Book Conference at servicing 350 people at a cost of \$0.54 per person. Virtual and hybrid meetings have become an important means of reaching more people, especially the younger ones.

Christy B. said she is in favor of this motion even though we don't have a specific list of items we will purchase for \$5,000 or less. Given that the current Technology committee consists of Earl N. and Rob M. only, and Rob is moving on to the position of Area chair, the officers group brought this motion to get having hybrid meetings out of the "talk about it" zone into the "let's do it" zone. The Area expenditures for the last two pandemic years have been minimal, so the funds are available. We are not going into it blindly; we have had input from districts and other Areas about doing hybrid. The officers' group is conducting a test of our ability to conduct a hybrid meeting at Lord of Life Church a week before Christmas, and they are planning to have a hybrid Winter Committee Meeting to test hybrid live before the Spring Assembly. It's up to the Assembly today to decide if we have an okay to go forward or not, but it has her support.

John O. appreciates the efforts of the officers' group and he and many of the people in his district support it. He asked if we were debating the question of expenditures for hybrid meeting equipment, or whether we want to have hybrid meetings, which is a different issue; and reiterated that he supports this motion.

Ed M., D71 DCM, appreciates the efforts of the officers' group and said that District 91 would like to have hybrid Area meetings. He thinks it's important because of the additional accessibility hybrid meetings bring to the Area.

Susan H. supports the motion, but thinks the \$5,000 funding is low. She suggested that it be raised to \$10,000 and said the Area has saved a substantial amount of money recently, citing the reduced costs for publishing The Concepts newsletter electronically as an example.

Mike B. said in his group the discussion was about increasing attendance and providing a way for more people to do service work. The issue of spending the money didn't come up in the discussion.

Rich H. said his group wants the officers' group to provide a detailed description of expenses to be incurred after they have the meeting at the church this month and the motion be deferred to the Spring Assembly.

George C. supports the motion. A good system for full hybrid access is needed for accessibility reasons.

Rich H. asked what majority is needed to approve the motion. Chair Carmela replied it requires a two-thirds majority because it is a motion for Area expenditures.

Vote to Approve the Motion to provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA Meetings

In favor of approving the Motion = 49 (91%)  
Opposed to approving the Motion = 5 (9%)  
Total votes = 54

Chair Carmela asked if there was a minority opinion from anyone voting in opposition. There was none.

**The motion to provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA meetings was approved with a majority greater than two-thirds (2/3).**

**Conference Bids**

**Bid to Host the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference**

Current Alt DCMs Dave F. (D22) and David T. (D23) presented a bid to host the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference. Both Dave and David will be Panel 72 DCMs in their districts. They are in the process of forming their conference planning committee.

David T. said they have been in discussion with the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg about the conference. The presentation today is preliminary based on conversations with the hotel.

They are two possible weekends being considered for the conference. Their first choice is March 10-12, 2023; the second choice is March 3-5, 2023.

The hotel is requiring 200 room nights booked (100 Friday/100 Saturday) to provide complimentary use of the meeting rooms and ballroom for the event. The cost for a double room will be \$119/night. One meeting room will be comped for each 40 room nights booked, up to full complimentary use for 200 room nights. The total cost of the food and beverage will be \$10,000, a price increase of 18% from the 2018 conference food and beverage cost of \$8,000. This includes the banquet, box lunches on Saturday and the ice cream social on Friday night. The banquet cost will be \$45 based on attendance of 200, and coffee service will cost \$70/gallon. Coffee will be provided by the hotel before the speaker on Friday night, before the banquet on Saturday, and before the speaker on Sunday morning. Tea and coffee available in the hospitality room throughout the conference.

Dave F. said they were excited about being able to do this and people in their districts were also excited about participating. He asked if there were any questions.

**Discussion:**

Allen J. asked if the hotel was okay with a different split of the hotel room nights booked such as 75 rooms Friday/125 rooms Saturday for more flexibility, and Dave F. replied that they are, it has to be a 200-room minimum, but we can split it other than 100/100.

Rob M. asked if the cost per person is known. Dave F. replied that they will have a better idea of cost per person after they meet with the hotel.

Chris E. likes that Dave and David are coming in now as DCMs to be able to shepherd this conference throughout the entire process. He asked if both districts have voted to approve hosting the conference. Dave F. said the conference was discussed at the most recent District 22 GSR meeting with David T., Scott T., current District 23 DCM, and the incoming Alt DCM for District 23 in attendance. District 22 is in favor of hosting the conference. David T. said he has not yet had a chance to present it to District 23. Their next GSR meeting is on Monday. He said if they decline to host, in accordance with the motion recently passed at the Area about hosting the conference, he will co-chair the conference without the support of his district, but with the support of other A.A. members from District 23 that have come on board.



Barbara asked where Districts 22 and 23 were located. Dave F. said D22 includes Elgin, Gilberts, Carpentersville, Huntley and other nearby villages. David T. said D23 includes Hanover Park, Streamwood and Bartlett.

There being no further discussion about the Districts 22 and 23 bid, Chair Carmela asked if anyone else wished to bid on the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference. No one responded.

Vote to Accept the Bid from Districts 22 and 23 to Host the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference (simple majority)

In favor of accepting the bid = 100%

Opposed to accepting the bid = 0%

**The bid from Districts 22 and 23 to host the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference was approved unanimously.  
Bid to Host the 2022 Big Book Conference**

No bid to host the 2022 Big Book Conference has been presented. A member asked what the deadline is for submitted a bid. Carmela said the general guideline is that the bid is submitted at the Summer Assembly one year before the conference, and we are six months past that date now.

Carmela asked if the Assembly would allow the Area Committee to accept a bid on behalf of the Assembly if one was submitted at the 2022 Winter Committee Meeting in January. The Assembly voted by show of hands to allow this with 100% “yes” vote by those who voted. Carmela asked the DCMs to ask their districts about hosting.

**Open Positions Elections – Panel 72 Service Committees (2022-2023)**

Cheryl V. made a motion to elect Area committee chairs and alternates by a simple majority vote and Larry S. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Accessibilities Committee Chair - Alternate

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

Answering Service Committee Chair

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

Answering Service Committee Chair - Alternate

Open, but because Chair was not elected, no request for candidates was made.

Archives Committee Chair

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

Archives Committee Chair – Alternate

Open, but because Chair was not elected, no request for candidates was made.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Chair – Alternate

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

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Chair

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

CPC Committee Chair - Alternate

Open, but because Chair was not elected, no request for candidates was made.

Grapevine Committee Chair

Desiree K. from District 90 stood for the position. No one else stood or was nominated for the position. Desiree gave her qualifications that include a sobriety date of May 5, 2009, service in District 90 as a GSR and Intergroup Representative, and her current position of Grapevine Chair in the district. She has served in other

group, intergroup and district positions. She has always been passionate about the Grapevine and all the information it gives us, especially the newcomer. With a little guidance, she thinks she will be a good Area Grapevine chair.

**Desiree K. was unanimously elected to the position of Grapevine Committee Chair.**

Grapevine Committee Chair – Alternate

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

Literature Committee Chair

Scott T. stood for the position. No one else stood or was nominated for the position. Scott gave his qualifications that include service as District 23 Alt DCM, DCM and district CPC chair, as well as being a GSR for his group. His sobriety date is September 20, 2013. He has a sponsor and sponsors others. He was program co-chair for a previous Area Spring Assembly Conference. He would like to continue to do service work in the Area.

**Scott T. was elected unanimously to the position of Literature Committee Chair.**

Literature Committee Chair - Alternate

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

Treatment Committee Chair

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

Treatment Committee Chair - Alternate

Open, but because Chair was not elected, no request for candidates was made.

The 2022 Spring Assembly agenda will include elections for the remaining open service committee positions.

**Floor Motion made by Past Delegate Cheryl V.:**

I move that the Area Assembly consider a floor motion to provide hybrid, in-person and virtual, all future Assemblies, Committee Meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop as necessary and needed.

Cheryl V. read the motion and explained that she had accepted a friendly amendment to add “as necessary and needed” to the motion before submitting it in writing to the Chair this morning.

Larry S. moved to decline to consider the motion and Chris D. seconded the motion to decline to consider. The motion to decline to consider the floor motion requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Vote to Decline to Consider

Votes to decline to consider = 29 (64%)

Votes opposed to declining to consider = 16 (36%)

Total votes = 45

The motion to decline to consider the floor motion did not pass with a two-thirds majority; however, some attendees expressing confusion about the wording of the poll used to vote to decline to consider, as well as what the floor motion is meant to determine for the Area. Alt Chair Erik L. pointed out that we were one vote away from a different outcome, i.e., the motion to decline to consider passing, and with the confusing about the wording, it would be good to have a second vote. The wording of the poll was revised, and a second vote was taken.

Second Vote to Decline to Consider

Votes to decline to consider = 24 (51%)  
Votes opposed to declining to consider = 23 (49%)  
Total votes = 47

The motion to decline to consider the floor motion did not pass with a two-thirds majority; therefore, the floor motion will be considered.

**Discussion of the Floor Motion:**

Jeff K. asked if “in person and virtual” is Cheryl’s definition of “hybrid.” Cheryl said that is correct. He then asked if meetings will be in person only if the motion doesn’t pass. Cheryl said that in her opinion not passing the motion ties the hands of the Area chair to proceed with hybrid meetings.

Jerry M. asked if this motion refers only to the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop or to all Area events and who decides if hybrid is necessary and needed for an event. Cheryl said the motion refers to all events. It allows the chair to have meetings hybrid or not, depending on the need. If, for example, no one signs up for the virtual presentation of the meeting, then hybrid is not needed.

Steve asked what “as necessary and needed” mean. Cheryl said it covers the Area assemblies, committee meetings, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop. It allows the Area chair to make the decision to do it, or if they couldn’t do it in time, they didn’t have to do it. It’s the difference between “has to do” and “good suggestion to do.”

David T. asked if we don’t pass this motion, does it negate the motion we just passed about funding startup equipment for hybrid. Cheryl and Carmela both replied that it does not. This motion clarifies that motion.

Rob M. asked if this motion doesn’t pass, does that mean we go all in-person, without virtual. Cheryl said that was correct, however, since we already passed that motion to spend the money on it, that’s why we are discussing this motion.

Susan H. asked what “consider” means in the motion. It means we are now considering this motion to have hybrid meetings as a floor motion.

Larry S. said no action of the assembly is binding on the next assembly. He said his interpretation is that if we vote against this motion, e.g., we don’t want to have hybrid meetings, we negate the previously approved motion. This is true because these two motions are essentially the same, moving to have hybrid meetings in the future.

Earl N. dislikes the wording in this motion that says to have hybrid meetings at “all” meetings in the future as a mandate. We haven’t yet tested our ability to successfully produce hybrid meetings. We want to try it first. If we vote down this motion mandating hybrid meetings, we don’t negate this morning’s motion. Cheryl replied that adding “necessary and needed” makes it not a mandate, although it might not be the best wording. He also said that “necessary and needed” is redundant. “Necessary and practical” is better wording. Cheryl declined to accept this further friendly amendment.

Chris D. said with due respect that he thinks the wording in the motion is poor. He asked if Cheryl’s intent was to move to have the Area provide hybrid capabilities at all future Area meetings. If that is correct, could the motion be reworded to state that? He also commented on the necessity of the motion because this morning we decided we are going back to in-person meetings, and we approved a motion to fund equipment purchases to be able to have hybrid meetings.

Cheryl agreed with much of what Chris said and asked what the vote results were on the funding motion. Chris replied that it passed with over 90% of voters in favor. Cheryl said she offered this floor motion to get us off discussing a motion that hadn't been presented yet during the discussing of the funding motion. Given the comments and the 90% vote in favor of providing funding for hybrid meetings, Cheryl said she has decided to move to withdraw the floor motion.

Kelly L. said that now that the motion is on the floor it is the Area's motion, and Cheryl does not have the authority to withdraw it. After checking the Area guidance, Carmela said Cheryl does have the authority to withdraw the motion. Her motion does not require a second, and a simple majority vote is required to approve the motion to withdraw.

Vote to Approve the Motion to Withdraw the Floor Motion (simple majority vote)

Votes to approve withdrawal = 36 (94%)

Votes opposed to withdrawal = 2 (6%)

Total votes = 38

**The motion to withdraw the floor motion passed.**

**Discussion of Emerging Issue with Hybrid Meetings**

Desiree K., who was elected Area Grapevine committee chair earlier today, said she cannot attend meetings in person. She asked if that meant she could not be chair because Past Delegate Kelly L. had said committee chairs have to attend Area assemblies in person to lead the breakout session for their committees. Cheryl V. and Rob M. both said that there is nothing in the Area guidelines about "attendance in person." Additionally, she does not have to attend in person because that would be exclusive, not inclusive. Carmela added that she should reach out the Area Chair for a decision on an accommodation as stated in the Area guidance document.

Eva C. said she doesn't drive and having to attend in person excludes her from chairing a committee if the chair "must attend in person." She said she was considering standing for alternate Accessibilities chair, but if in-person attendance were required, she could not stand, because her accessibility issue is that she no longer drives.

Chris E. said the motion passed this morning has a suggestion for officers to attend in person, but has no requirement for in-person attendance by others. It states:

Area officers will still be encouraged to attend in person (when permitted) but participants (especially those with Accessibilities concerns) will have the option to attend "virtually."

Renita D., D12 DCM, said Zoom goes both ways—to the breakout room and from the breakout room—so in-person attendance by the committee chair is not necessary.

Chris D. thinks chairs should be required to attend in person with paper materials and enthusiasm to promote service work. He would not like to see that in-person passion and enthusiasm lost by allowing committee chairs to attend virtually.

Chair Carmela ended the discussion and said this is an issue that may require us to make more decisions in the future if hybrid meetings become our standard.

**Passing the Area Chair Gavel**

Chair virtually passed the gavel to incoming Panel 72 Area Chair Rob M. as has become customary at the final Assembly of the outgoing Area chair's term of service. Rob asked everyone to come off mute and thank

Carmela for the fantastic job she has done over the past two years. Applause and shouts of appreciation followed.

## **Committee Chair Reports**

Erik L. made a motion to forego the committee chair reports today due to the lateness of the hour and Al U. seconded the motion. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Written reports the secretary received from the Archives committee and Treatment committee are attached to the minutes.

## **Meeting Closure with Open Microphone**

### **Open Microphone:**

Webmaster Earl N. thanked Chris E. for inviting him to the most recent District 21 monthly meeting. It was a great experience with a hybrid meeting format. The 2021 State Conference/East Central Regional Conference needs web assistance with linking PayPal to the registration form. Earl is still looking for an alternate webmaster.

Chris E. thanked the officers and committee chairs on behalf of his district for continuing to bring the message to alcoholics in difficult circumstances in the past two years.

Incoming Area Chair Rob M. said he is looking for a Concepts newsletter editor, and will continue to fill appointed committee chair positions.

Renita D. said the District 12 Christmas party is tomorrow from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Additional details are posted on the district website.

David T., D23 Alt DCM, said he put his name and phone number in the Zoom Chat for anyone wanting to volunteer for the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference planning committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Dave F., conference co-chair, has also put his information in the Zoom Chat.

Chair Carmela reminded the officers that there will be a corporate board meeting after this assembly concludes.

Chris D. thanked Delegate Marilyn F. for her service. Rob M. also thanked Marilyn for her service; she has done an amazing job in very trying times.

## **Adjournment**

Erik L. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chris E. seconded it. Rob M., incoming Panel 72 Area Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Spring Assembly will be held on March 12, 2022. The location, format (in-person, hybrid or virtual), and host district, if meeting is in person, has not been decided.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christy B.*

Northern Illinois Area 20 Secretary

**NIA 20 2021 WINTER ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2021 Big Book Conference Committee Report to the Winter Assembly
2. Proposed 2022 Primary Purpose Register (PPR)
3. Proposed 2022 NIA 20 Calendar of Events
4. Officers' Group Motion for Startup Funding to Prepare for Hybrid Meetings
5. Area Archives Committee Report
6. Area Treatment Committee Report

# BIG BOOK CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT TO 2021 WINTER ASSEMBLY

Hello Area 20

On behalf of District 11, we thank Area 20 for this opportunity.

Area 20 Alternate Chairperson, Conference Liaison, Erik L., is in possession of our Big Book Conference Final Report Virtual Binder. That binder is one report short, which was received last night and will be installed into that binder shortly. Then Area 20 can decide the best way to proceed with that binder.

We had our first meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2021, which was organized and Chaired by our District 11 DCM Kate D. A sense of the meeting, no vote was taken, and we agreed to move forward as a Virtual Conference. We voted to have our 2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference, hosted by District 11 on October 30, 2021. Almost all positions that were to be filled through the year were filled at that meeting. Big Book Conference Planning guidelines were distributed to the Committee who were encouraged to read and understand their Committee Responsibilities. Everybody was encouraged to bring 3 possible Conference Themes to the next meeting. Program Committee was asked to bring how many panels, and panel topics and general event schedule to next meeting. All committees were asked to submit written reports to Secretary for meeting minutes and asked to take notes to help in submitting final reports.

We accepted our Save the Date Flyer soon after our first meeting. PI immediately sent to District 11 and Area 20 Webmasters.

At our February meeting we filled our final scheduled position, Alternate Treasurer, that we would need through the year. Program Committee filled our two Main Speaker slots, both Historians, one is an author and assured us he would not attempt to promote his book. We had six panels with the topics being from the stories in the back of all 4 Editions of our Big Book. Two of those panels will be Spanish Speaking, choosing 2 stories from all 3 Editions of Spanish Language Big Book. Those Spanish Speaking Panels were translated into English. Two main speakers were translated into Spanish. Through Third Legacy Procedure we selected our theme, "164 and Much More." Past Archivist Ray got us a very limited selection of Past Big Book Conference Flyers and Programs. It appears Final Big Book Conference Reports in the past were not always presented to Area 20 as outlined in "Procedures for Planning the Big Book Conference." Topic of discussion for our next meeting, does this Committee want to have a Private Facebook Group?

At our March meeting our Committee we voted not to have a Private Facebook Group. We reported at all Area 20 Assemblies and Committee Meetings. We reported to all District 11 GSR Meetings. We had a Timeline to keep us on track and giving us forward vision. We started

discussions as to who would fulfill our Zoom/Virtual Needs, Area 20, AMOT Audio, or our own Committee. Our Technical Committee was voted in at this time – Carol, Rob, and Mike. All our Committees have continued activity in planning and fitting in as a Virtual Conference.

In April we began sending updates to our Area 20 DCMs about a week prior to all our Area 20 Assemblies and Committee Meetings. Program Committee began to finalize how the Program will look and looking to update our flyer. Registration was waiting to see who will manage our Zoom Conference to put their up-to-date work into application. Literature/Grapevine Chair Todd is putting together two power point presentations to run during the day, especially during short breaks in the Virtual program.

In May we voted for our Technical Committee to manage our Zoom Conference needs. Mike called for a sub-committee meeting to best work with our committees and to effectively deliver our information and direct everybody to the Big Book Conference Website. We discussed the use of Closed Captioning versus Live Sign Language Interpretation. We voted to have Megan from Sober Hands Project do our Sign Language Interpretation at the Conference. Registration working on the best way to set up registration and deliver Zoom codes. PI Committee distributing our information.

A Spanish Version of our flyer was created. Our Technical Committee officially accepted responsibility to work with Registration and do Zoom Meeting set up. They have begun to have sub-committee meetings and presented some ideas on how all this will look. Final panel slots are being finalized.

In July it was confirmed that Megan M. will be our Sign Language Interpreter. Audio and Video will be recorded of Sign Language Interpreter. And Erik L. our Area 20 Alternate Chairperson and Conference Liaison confirmed that Rachel V. will be our Spanish Language Translator. Main Speakers will be translated into Spanish, and Spanish panels will be translated into English. PayPal has been linked to our bank account. PI is actively working outside of Area 20. Registration and Contribution links are active. We voted to move our typical 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday meetings in September and October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays to accommodate attendance at Fall Assembly and Fall Committee Meeting.

QR Codes have been designed and placed on our flyer for the purpose of registration and contributions.

September 12, at the invitation of District 22 DCM, Joe B., we attended District 22 GSR Meeting to report on the October 30 Big Book Conference. Literature/Grapevine Power Point Presentation is complete. We added an additional meeting in October to be sure we are prepared. Schedule for Conference seems complete. All committees are active and up to speed.



October 2, registrations coming in, and Area 20 and Big Book Conference Websites are up to date. All committees are active and reporting. Technical Committee set us up with a Zoom walk-through for October 23.

October 9, All speakers and panel moderators have been communicated with, and our information and flyers have been distributed widely. Registration has been set up to send Zoom Codes to all registrants prior to the conference.

October 23 Zoom walk through, final descriptions given, and responsibilities volunteered for, for day of Conference. All committees are ready for October 30 Conference.

October 30, Day of Big Book Conference was a SUCCESS. A couple of unforeseen difficulties were handled. Everybody had a good and informative day. Total number of registrations was 389 from District 11, Area 20, Illinois, United States, United Kingdom, and India. Day of event average was about 150. With a high during the day of 186. Average attendance in our two Spanish Speaking Panels, translated into English was about 35. With 4 people registered as requiring a Sign Language Interpreter.

I believe notes of thank you have been sent to our speakers, moderators and translators.

Received \$2,500.00 seed money from Area 20. We had Contributions of \$759.02, with expenses of \$949.51. With a cost to Area 20 of \$190.49. And \$2,309.51 of \$2,500.00 seed money to be returned to Area 20. Two items that were discussed that rotate from Committee to Committee are the bank account and the Big Book Conference Website. See Area 20 Alternate Chairperson/Conference Liaison.

I can't say enough about our volunteers from District 11 that worked diligently since the beginning of this year. We thought that we would struggle with a short calendar ahead to complete our task. But without the need to secure a venue for a live event, the schedule seemed perfect. Many thanks to our District 11 Committee Members, Committee Chairs Rich H. and Georgene R., Secretaries Kelly S. and Linda W., Treasurers Carrie W. and Clint K., Program Sue C. and Kate D., PI Rick W. and Mark R., Registration Dennis P. and Patricia M., Literature/Grapevine Todd K., Technical Mike M. And Carol H. Also, thanks to Technical Committee Volunteer, Area 20 Alt. Registrar Rob M. and Area 20 Alternate Chair/Conference Liaison Erik L. for completing our team.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT VOLUNTEERED AND ATTENDED

Rich H. and Georgene R.  
2021 Area 20 Big Book Conference  
Hosted by District 11

**Primary Purpose Basic**

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 9/30/2020	2020 Expected Amount		2021 Expected	2021 Through 10/3/21	2022 Expected Amount
B01	General Service Conference	The Area Committee is expected to participate in and report on the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental for pre-GSC workshop</li> </ul>	Delegate and Alternate Delegate	\$14.99	\$2,000.00	\$ -	\$165.00	241.3	\$2,200.00
B02	General Service Conference Contribution	The Area Committee is expected to make a contribution for the General Service Conference per the AA Service Manual, NIA Guidelines, and historical practice.	Year-end contribution to GSB for NIA participation in GSC	Delegate reports to the Treasurer the current expenses per the General Service Board	\$8,300.00	\$8,300		\$2,500.00		
B03	Area Assemblies	The Area Committee is expected to support hosting districts to host four assembly meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 267.94	\$ 4,000.00		\$2,000		
B04	Area Committee Meetings	The Area Committee is expected to host four committee meetings each year per the AA Service Manual, area guidelines, and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ 890.01	\$ 2,200.00		\$1,100		
B05	Service Orientation Workshops	The Area Committee is encouraged to host roughly eight Service Orientation workshops around NIA per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• Alternate Delegate	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00		\$800.00		
B06	Administrative Committee Meetings	Committees are encouraged to hold roughly ten meetings each year to perform their respective functions per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Conference calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance committee</li> <li>• Operating Committee</li> <li>• Report and Charter Committee</li> <li>• Conference Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Electronic Equipment Committee</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 250.00		\$125.00		
B07	Concepts Newsletter	The Concepts Editor is expected to produce the NIA Concepts Newsletter per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mailing services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts Editor</li> <li>• Concepts Co-Editor</li> </ul>	\$6,407.02	\$ 13,000.00		\$2,500.00		
									0	\$2,500.00
									\$199.82	\$2,000.00
									\$0.00	\$300.00
									518.96	\$1,000.00

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 9/30/2020	2020 Expected Amount		2021 Expected	2021 Through 10/3/21	2022 Expected Amount
B08	Area Committee participation in District Committee functions	When invited, Area trusted servants are expected to attend and participate in District service functions including District meetings, workshops, service events, etc., per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literature</li> <li>Mailing and supplies</li> <li>Printing or copying</li> <li>Mileage</li> <li>Spanish Interpreter</li> <li>Facility rental</li> </ul>	• This relates to expenses incurred when the District is hosting.	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00
B09	ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	Attend the East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodging</li> <li>Meals</li> <li>Mileage</li> <li>Registration</li> <li>Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegate</li> <li>Alternate Delegate</li> <li>NIA Chairperson</li> <li>Immediate Past Delegate</li> </ul>	\$ 1,586.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
B10	Area Operations	Area trusted servants are expected to operate NIA basic services per area guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mileage, postage, mailing services, NIA contribution envelopes, office supplies, post office and postage, printing or copying, insurance, Quick Books Online, coffee pots, annual reports, bank fees, Archives repository, GSR Handbooks, canceled check charges, website expenses, electronic equipment maintenance and upgrades</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$4,436.87	\$ 12,000.00		\$8,000.00	8,596.41	\$18,000.00
B11	Illinois State Conference, Area Committee participation	In years in which the IL State Conference is hosted by NIA, thirty-six trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years, the Delegate, Area Chairperson, and Archivist are expected to attend and participate. In non-hosting years service committee chairpersons who are requested by the NIA Delegate and the Conference planning committee are also expected to attend and participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodging</li> <li>Meals</li> <li>Mileage</li> <li>Registration</li> <li>Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegate every year.</li> <li>Group I, II and III when it is held in N.I.A. and in other years when Delegate requests participation for Area 19 or 21 State Conference Host Committees.</li> </ul>	\$ -		\$ -	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 9/30/2020	2020 Expected Amount		2021 Expected	2021 Through 10/3/21	2022 Expected Amount
B12	Spring Conference, Area Committee participation	Thirty-six Area trusted servants, as detailed in the Duties and Responsibilities document, are expected to attend and participate in the NIA Spring Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	• Groups I, II and III	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	
B13	Big Book Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the hosting district to host the Big Book Conference per the NIA Big Book Conference guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$2,500.00			\$3,000.00	\$756.20	\$3,000.00
B14	Spring Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the Spring Conference Committee to host the NIA Spring Conference per the NIA Spring Conference Guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$109.07			\$ -	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
B15	East Central Regional Forum	The Area Delegate and Alternate Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Forum (held every two years.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	• Area Delegate • Alternate Delegate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$0.00
B16	East Central Regional Conference	The Area Delegate and Alt. Delegate are expected to attend the East Central Regional Conference every year (held every year except those with International Conferences.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	• Area Delegate • Alternate Delegate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$0.00
B17	Service Committee Workshops	Area service committee chairpersons are expected to host workshops focused on carrying the A.A. message within the scope of one or more service committees. The workshops should be geographically distributed throughout NIA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Spanish Interpreter (if needed)</li> <li>• Facility rental</li> </ul>	• This relates to expenses incurred when the Area is hosting.	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$2,200.00	\$199.82	\$2,200.00
B18	Annual Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop	The Bridging the Gap (BTG) Committee Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson or their replacements, as appointed by the BTG Chairperson, shall attend the Annual BTG Weekend Workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> <li>• Mailing and supplies</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> </ul>	• BTG Chair • BTG Alternate Chair	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00

Activity Number*	Service activity	Expectations per Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Amount through 9/30/2020	2020 Expected Amount		2021 Expected	2021 Through 10/3/21	2022 Expected Amount
B19	IL State Conference, hosting	The Area Committee is expected to support the State Conference Committee to host the IL State Conference per our guidelines and historical practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Printing or copying</li> <li>• Name tags</li> <li>• Facility</li> <li>• Seed money</li> <li>• Hotel deposit</li> </ul>	Host Planning Committee	\$ -	\$ 750.00		\$ -	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
B20	National AA Technology Workshop	Either the Website Administrator or the Alternate is expected to attend the annual National AA Technology Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Administrator or</li> <li>• Alternate Website Administrator</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
B21	National AA Corrections Conference	The Corrections Chairperson and Alternate Corrections Chairperson shall attend the Annual Corrections Conference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lodging</li> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Mileage</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Banquet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrections Chair</li> <li>• Alternate Corrections Chair</li> </ul>	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Primary Purpose Basic Totals:</b>					<b>\$ 24,512.32</b>	<b>\$ 69,100.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 32,190.00</b>	<b>17362.51</b>	<b>\$58,400.00</b>
<b>Group I:</b>		<b>Group III:</b>			<b>Group II:</b>					
<b>Officers and Alternates</b>		<b>Administrative Committees</b>			<b>Service Committee Chairs and Alternates</b>					
• Delegate		• Operating			• Answering Services			• Corrections		
• Chairperson		• Finance			• Archives			• Grapevine		
• Treasurer		• Report and Charter			• Accessibilities			• Literature		
• Secretary		• Electronic Equipment			• Bridging the Gap			• Public Information		
• Registrar		• Conference Advisory			• Concepts Service Letter			• Webmaster		
					*Treatment					
					• Cooperation With The Professional Community					

**Primary Purpose Motion**

Activity Number*	Motion	Notes relating to Open (O) or Closed (C)	Amount through 09/30/2020	2020 Remaining Expected Expense	2021 Expected Expense*
M074	Literature for Treatments	O	\$ -	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00
Primary Purpose Motion Totals:					
Primary Purpose Registry and Motions Total:					

- The Primary Purpose Basic (PPB) covers expenses that occur every year. These include all costs for things like Area Assemblies and Committee meetings, printing of minutes and the newsletter Concepts, insurance, orientations, conferences, etc.
- The first section of the register, The Primary Purpose Basic (PPB) section, lists and funds and facilitates service activities that are described in the Duties and Responsibilities section of these guidelines.
- The PPB provides funding for all the activities listed in the Duties and Responsibilities section of this handbook.
- The second section, the Primary Purpose Motion (PPM) section, lists and funds. additional service activities, resulting from motions delegated approved by the Assembly to its trusted servants. PPM activities may be proposed by any member of the Fellowship but most often originate within a service committee. Ideally, all proposals are considered by a service or administrative committee prior to presentation to the Area Committee .

PPMs are approved by a substantially unanimous (2/3 majority) vote of the Assembly. Upon PPM approval by the Assembly, the Treasurer or Alternate Treasurer adds the PPM to the Primary Purpose Register, the responsible trusted servant performs the service activity, and the Area Treasurer is authorized to reimburse associated expenses.

In the primary purpose finance model, activities need not have a time frame and so may continue from one year to the next or even from one rotation to the next, thus providing continuity for service committees. As such, the primary purpose finance model is not a budget in the traditional sense. No individual or committee at the Area level has a line item budget they are free to spend. Instead, the basic register provides for activities that trusted servants are expected to participate in (see the Duties and Responsibilities document) and the motions section of the register provides for activities pursued by service committees in their effort to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Summary**

Consistently using the Primary Purpose Register as the financial communication vehicle defocuses the Assembly on money by focusing more transparently on service. It improves quantity and quality of communication between the Assembly and its trusted servants. The Treasurer is individually responsible only for the treasurer role – to manage cash and to pay the bills. The Finance Committee has responsibility for the controller role – to plan and manage the treasury and the time-sequence for service activities on the Assembly’s behalf. Detailed guidelines for each service activity provide common direction to trusted servants responsible for service activities and to the committee responsible for paying the expenses for those activities. Annual budgeting, mid-year budget increases, and the “new service activity” process, are simplified. The annual budget rollercoaster that was common previously is gone: we endure no more quibbling over contributions to the General Service Office or scrambling to do something at the end of a year to spend area contributions “at home”. Clearer delegation of these financial responsibilities by the Assembly has shifted the area’s focus from money to service.





## Northern IL Area, Ltd. Green Can Fund Transaction Report

Date	Transaction Type	Name*	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>					
<b>Total Income and Expense</b>			\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Balance Green Can Fund</b>					

\* Distribution of literature reported by Treatment Chair

## NIA 20 Events Calendar for 2022

Event	2022 date(s)	Host / Location	Notes
Winter Committee Meeting + Service Orientation Workshop*	January 8	Districts(s) 23 Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL	
Conference of Delegates Past & Present**	February 11-13	East Central Region Appleton, WI	
Spring Assembly + Board Meeting*	March 12	Districts(s)	
Pre-General Service Conference Workshop*	April 9	Districts(s)	
72 <sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference**	April 24-30	Brooklyn, NY	
Spring Committee Meeting*	May 14	Districts(s)	
Summer Assembly + Board Meeting*	June 11	Districts(s)	
Summer Committee Meeting*	August 6	Districts(s)	
49th Annual Illinois State and East Central Regional Conference	August 12-14	Districts 10 & 42 (NIA 20) Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel	To volunteer or for more information, please contact: Charles H. 331-202-8876 or Mike L. 312-505-1894 aaisc2022@gmail.com
Fall Assembly + Board Meeting*	September 10	Districts(s)	
Fall Committee Meeting*	October 8	Districts(s)	
Annual Big Book Conference	TBD	Districts(s)	
National Corrections Conference	November 13-15	IL Corrections Committees - Areas 19, 20 and 21 Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, IL	Download flyer to register <a href="#">here</a>
Winter Assembly + Board Meeting*	December 10	Districts(s)	

\*Dates sent to Lord of Life Church and confirmed in-person availability for all events for the year. For Assemblies, church serves only as a backup. Ideal is for Assemblies to be held in hosting districts.

\*\*Events not hosted in or by NIA20 though some trusted servants, as outlined in our Duties and Responsibilities, are expected to attend, and may be reimbursed.

## Motion to provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA Area Meetings

### Motion

The Area officers move to provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA Assemblies, Committee Meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

Item #	Activity	Description, expected outcome and execution guidelines	Example expenses	Reimbursement Guidelines	Projected cost
PPMxx	Provide video conferencing capabilities at NIA Area meetings.	In an effort to address those with Accessibilities concerns, provide video conferencing capabilities at the above named NIA meetings.	Cost of video conference accounts and necessary transmission equipment including cameras, microphones, mobile hotspot equipment and other items deemed necessary to set up and execute the plan.	Reimbursement authority: Area Treasurer Appeal body: Operating Committee	\$5000.00 Based on Initial projections of startup costs.

As a supplemental action to this motion, the NIA planning procedures documents and Service Guidelines will be updated to make the necessary additions to allow for video conferencing at all Assemblies, Committee meetings and the Pre General Service Conference Workshop. Area officers will still be encouraged to attend in person (when permitted) but participants (especially those with Accessibilities concerns) will have the option to attend “virtually”.

The projected costs shown above are for the projected start-up costs only. Ongoing administrative costs will be covered under a PPB line item.

### Background material:

As the Covid-19 pandemic took hold in 2020, NIA 20 (and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole) was forced to implement virtual strategies to continue to meet its objective of continuing to hold Area wide service meetings including Assemblies, Committee meetings and the Pre-General Service Conference workshop. As we plan on returning to in-person meetings in the future there exists no mechanism to allow for the continued use of video conferencing capabilities at these events. Passage of this motion would serve as the Assembly’s authority to purchase the necessary equipment to continue to utilize virtual conferencing technology when we return to in-person Area meetings. Sharing sessions at the past two assemblies have shown a desire to provide hybrid capabilities at NIA meetings in order to improve accessibility to NIA meetings. These types of in-person meetings, which also allow for attendees to participate via video conferencing are becoming more and more prevalent in AA and are collectively referred to as Hybrid events.

## Archives Committee Report – December 2021

This Archives Committee Report is submitted by the Committee Chair in advance of the Winter Assembly held virtually on December 11, 2021.

- Area Website Archives Committee Service Pages. Archives committee chair (Jeff K) is currently working with our Webmaster (Earl N) to get the Archives Committee service pages up on the Area's website. The content is based on materials considered by our Committee over the past few months. The full content should be in place before the end of the year and will provide a foundation for the Committee to build on and improve in years ahead. The Committee greatly appreciates our Webmaster's assistance and encouragement. Thank you very much, Earl!
- Recap of Committee Chair activities. Since this is the final Committee report from your outgoing Committee chair, here's a quick summary of main activities by the chair over the past two years:
  - 2021 Illinois State Conference – Served as panelist/speaker on the archives panel titled "Archives Our History & Preserving It" at the State Conference held virtually August 28, 2021 (hosted by Area 21). Also assisted the ISC planning committee with content for the digital/virtual archives area considered for the Conference.
  - 71<sup>st</sup> GSC Agenda. Committee met virtually March 21, 2021, to discuss two (2) Archives Items on the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC Final Agenda, focusing mostly on the Item re a *proposed book on AA history*. The chair sent a written report to our Area Delegate on March 25 and reported to the full Area Pre-GSC Workshop on March 27.
  - Area Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management. Committee chair participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Document Management chaired by the Area Secretary (Christy B) during 2021. One item initially discussed was how (or whether) to set up digital access to materials in the Area Archives collection. This item was essentially tabled for the time being.
  - 2021 DuPage County Open. Archives chair prepared material for an Archives display shown at the 2021 DuPage County Open held virtually on February 20, 2021. The theme was "Four DuPage County AA Districts – Working Together for 40 Years" and materials from Area and districts' archives showed how Districts 40, 41, 42 and 43 have cooperated in service work since their beginning in 1982 when former District 4 was subdivided.
  - 2020 Illinois State Conference. Archives chair assisted the Area 19 State Conference planning committee re archives topical areas in the Conference held virtually in August 2020. Materials from Area archives were shared to provide content for the "Virtual Archives Room" at the Conference. Archives chair also served as moderator for the Archives panel included in the Conference program.
  - 70<sup>st</sup> GSC Agenda. The committee held a virtual meeting on April 21, 2020 to discuss the two archives items on the GSC agenda; a written summary of those discussions was sent to our Area delegate and a report was given at the Pre-GSC workshop held May 2, 2020.
  - 2020 Spring Conference. From early January through mid-March 2020, Archives chair worked with the Spring Conference planning committee on set-up and operation for an archives display room at the Conference. Unfortunately, the Conference was cancelled in mid-March due to Covid-19. However, the Spring Conference Planning Committee's final

report included a detailed summary of the archives room set-up plans to help guide archives display planning at future conferences.

- Area Archives (Hard Copy) Collection. In January 2020, Committee chair met with the Area Archivist (Cheryl V) and the past Area Archivist (Ray M) to review in person the Area archives hard copy collection at the Elgin storage facility. We had high hopes for getting better acquainted with and improving the collection, but those went on hold after we entered the Covid-19 pandemic in March.
- Districts: There have been no recent requests for assistance from any of our District archives committees on specific projects or workshops. The Committee hopes the new Archives service pages on the Area website will help our Districts' archives committees, especially those just getting started. Here is a summary of District-level archives activities the Area Committee has reported over the past 2 years:
  - Districts 28 & 90 working to set up their collections;
  - Districts 40 dealing with inventory, classification, and retention policies;
  - District 64 working to convert cassette audiotapes to digital audio;
  - District 43 has done a comprehensive document scanning project;
  - District 73 working on group histories and presentations;
  - Several Districts received materials from Area to assist with archives-related workshops and projects such as digitizing audio files from older formats;
  - District-level workshops reported previously include an archives workshop/panel on 12/8/20 by D.43 archives; panel discussion on how the pandemic impacts AA service work (9/8/20, D.43) and "long-timers" panel (7/25/20, D.42 archives).
- As always, the Area Archives Committee remains committed to carry out its service responsibilities by assisting and supporting the Area Archivist as needed; by facilitating Area-wide archives committee meetings & communications; by hosting Area-wide archives-related panels and/or workshops; by helping District archives committees with local archives related panels and/or workshops; and by continuing to be a go-to resource for District archives committees.

#### **IN CLOSING:**

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 get in touch with your local District or Area archives committee before deciding what goes to the trash or recycle bin.

Gratefully submitted,

Jeff K – Archives Chair NIA20

December 10, 2021

2021 NIA 20 Winter Assembly  
Area Treatment Chair Report

As we enter into the winter months, any progress that was made moving forward into bringing volunteers back into treatment centers appears to have experienced a setback. The arrival of the highly transmissible Omicron variant has put the treatment community and healthcare centers back on high alert and previous health and safety protocols are being put back in place.

The past 21 months have been a very difficult time for volunteers to continue carrying the message of A.A. into the treatment facilities. Yet the time for planning our return into these facilities could not be better. During a recent Treatment Facility Workshop hosted by NIA 20 and the One Day at a Time Group from Oswego in D62, we spoke with treatment facility staff to develop important relationship building and discussing how to meet facilities needs during the pandemic. Also discussed was identifying the literature needs of the local treatment community and how we can bring in important literature, not just for the patients but also for staff education. Even if we can't host meetings in facilities at the present or bring meetings into the facilities as we had in the past, this doesn't mean we stop working with the facility entirely; it simply means we adapt. This can be the ideal time to establish an A.A. treatment contact for each facility, so when that time comes where we are no longer restricted by COVID impacts, we are ready to be of service.

This will be our last report serving as Treatment Chair and Alternate Chair. We wish to thank everyone for their support. It has been a pleasure to be of service to the Area.

In love of service,

Lisa S.  
NIA 20 Treatment Chair

Richard H.  
NIA 20 Alternate Treatment Chair