

Northern Illinois Area 20 Spring Assembly Minutes March 01, 2025, In Person and Online/Video

MINUTES DISCLAIMER: THE MINUTES ARE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL PUBLICATIONS AND SHOULD BE USED FOR AA PURPOSES ONLY

Meeting Opening: The Northern Illinois Area 20 Chair called the meeting to order at 9am. The group participated in quiet time and the Serenity Prayer. The Area Chair welcomed attendees. Meeting announcements were given. Twelve Concepts were read. First time attendees and anniversaries were announced.

Approval of 2024 Winter Assembly Meeting Minutes: Moved by Tina, seconded by Lisa. Approved unanimously.

Assembly Attendance: 8 Area Officers, 13 Committee Chairs, 4 Past Delegates, 23 GSRs, 19 DCMs. 92 in total.

Delegates Report - Erik L

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Delgate-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Delgate-Report-ES.pdf>

Floor Motion

After the Delegate gave his report, he made a request that someone make this **floor motion**:

Move that Area 20 contribute \$200 for the International Convention East Central Region hospitality room payable to the East Central Region Hospitality Room Committee. Kevin A made the motion and it was seconded by Chris D. The assembly voted in favor of hearing the motion. After questions and discussion, the **motion passed. Minority opinion was heard. No vote count was provided.**

Treasurer's Report – Dave F

Income	
7th Tradition Contributions	
Contributions - District	50.00
Contributions - Group	10,063.63
Contributions - Other	1,789.41
Contributions - Personal	308.05
Interest	0.39
Total 7th Tradition Contributions	12,211.48
Total Income	\$12,211.48
GROSS PROFIT	\$12,211.48
Expenses	
Primary Purpose Basic	
B02-25 2025 General Service Conference Contribution	12,250.00
B03-24 2024 Area Assemblies	224.44
B04-25 Area Committee Meetings	1,581.99
B08-25 2025 Area Committee Participation in District Committee Functionms	268.53
B09-25 2025 ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present	1,329.05
B10-24 2024 Area Operations	88.54
B10-25 2025 Area Operations	3,815.19
Total Primary Purpose Basic	19,557.74
Total Expenses	\$19,557.74
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -7,346.26
NET INCOME	\$ -7,346.26

Old Business

Election of open positions: Bridging the Gap Alternate, Jessica B and Alternate Registrar, Dawn S was unanimously elected. Answering Service Alternate, Alternate Cooperating with the Professional Community, Alternate Literature, Alternate Public Information, Alternate Corrections, Alternate Accessibilities remain open.

New Business

No New Business other than above floor motion and Lisa S, Alternate Delegate reviewed our process for the upcoming Pre-General Service Conference breakouts and workshop.

Conference Reports

2025 State Conference – Jeff L & Sandy T At our planning meeting on February 16th, we filled the remaining chair positions. Registration flyers in English and Spanish were distributed at the ECR Conference of Delegates Past and Present and sent to AMOT Audio for distribution at their upcoming events. The registration and hotel QR code is at aa-nia-il-dist40.org, aa-nia20.org or 2025ilstconf@gmail.com. The State Conference page has a button to translate in Spanish. Representatives from Al-Anon and the Spanish districts were present. ISCYPAA will also be participating in the sobriety countdown and we'll be using their DJ on Saturday night. Our program chairs put together a great line up of events.

2025 Big Book Conference – Dave and Marcello – The chair, co-chair, treasurer, secretary, literature chair are now filled. It will be at Lord of Life Church in Elburn on October 18th. Currently, we are working to fill Committee chairs and get volunteers. We do not have a flyer yet. Our next meeting is in 3 weeks.

2026 Spring Conference – Paula and Jeremy – Most positions are filled. We meet every third Sunday at the EDI club and zoom at 2pm. We opened the checking account. We paid the hotel deposit and PO Box. Website is coming next month. We have the two speakers and will be contacting the GSO to coordinate their speaker. We are in contact with the Alanon liaison. The theme, to be determined at the next meeting, will allow us to print Save the Date flyers for distribution to provide awareness of the event. We need hosts for the hospitality room and people to chair meetings for the Alcathon.

Service Committee Reports

Accessibilities - Chris E – A report was given at the microphone. No written report submitted.

Answering Service – Dave T – I have printed QR code stickers in English and Spanish. I'm happy to say I'm almost out of those Stickers. I created an answering service display board in Spanish. I have contacted our past delegate Rich H to help write a few motions to be presented soon. There is a scheduled zoom meeting for March 9th to discuss these motions with the answering service committee. District 61 is working on introducing the idea of using Google Voice. We had some issues, but after visiting with Natalie she was able to get it set up. I attended their district meeting on February 26th. They currently use TAS United. On average they pay \$133 and average 5 calls a month. The district body seemed interested in switching to Google Voice. Visited District 70 Rockford on January 2nd, they use digits 5 people can use it at the same time like Google Voice but apparently it works better for them. They pay \$70 a month. Had a great suggestion from Jessica to add phone numbers for hot lines for suicide, NA, Al-Anon to the answering service page. Went to district 62 on January 8th. They are using TAS United. They had discussed switching to Google Voice a few years ago. I have spoken to Kim the new district chair and the district 62 committee chairs and GSR's briefly and offered to help with setting that up. They currently pay \$ 100 a month and on average receive 15 phone calls a month. I had the pleasure of showing the answering service display board and sharing some QR code stickers. I am planning a visit to District 64 on March 5th. They use TAS United, and pay a base rate of \$140/month for 100 minutes. If they exceed that amount, the charge is per minute. They are satisfied with their current service. I contacted district 73 DCM, their Answering service

chair is Patty. They use Nationwide Inbound, Inc, based in Freeport. District 73 shares one account with Districts 71 (DeKalb area) and 72 (Stephenson and JoDaviess counties). They split the monthly invoice 3 ways. (District 73) is "in charge" of the account. Patty is the person who communicates with Nationwide Inbound. Districts 71 and 72 send district 73 their "one third" payment each month, paying approximately \$33 a month on average and receive on average 3 to 5 calls.

Archives - Carol H, Karen C – Hopefully you will indulge me to share my personal information with all of you today as it has greatly impacted my abilities to perform my responsibilities as your Area 20 Archives Chair. I hoped to be there in person today, my chemo was supposed to be completed in January but due to low blood counts, chemo had to be cancelled several times. I am happy to report that yesterday was my last chemo treatment. There will be some follow-up treatment, but it will not impact me as the chemo has. I want to thank the alternate Archives Chair Karen who stepped up at the September Assembly and was on fire. Unfortunately, that was also the month that my treatment began so she been very patient with our limited work. But now we are ready to roll so here we go. With the help of our Area Archivist, Cheryl, I am finally able to access my area Outlook account. Although the technology committee tried to assist, there was apparently one thing that Cheryl found that was crucial to anyone who has several different Outlooks accounts. I would encourage anyone that sends out area communication to please change your distribution list to my area address, archives@aa-nia.org as our Area Chair and Secretary have been using this email for some time as I found after getting connected. Some of the Area 20 District Archives Chairs may have already begun receiving calls from one of us to introduce ourselves and gather information about them. Today, I will be sending out a survey to all the District Committee Members (DCM's), To gather information about their current needs and how we support them, hopefully attend one of their monthly meetings. We are planning to have our first monthly District Archives Chair virtual meeting before the Pre-General Service Breakout Sessions and will send out that information to all within the next couple days. Lastly, we received an email invitation from Bill K. at the Kankakee Alano Club to participate in their mini conference sometime this year. The only way to reach him is via email, which I did with no response. he did not provide a phone number. Recently I was provided with a contact in that district and left a voice mail message on that phone but have not heard back from him. If anyone has any information, could you please contact me directly.

Bridging the Gap - Joey B – Since the Winter Committee meeting, I have received my order of pamphlets from GS0. I've met with our new alternate Jessica to distribute some of the pamphlets to her and to discuss some future for our committee. Jessica designed and put together our beautiful display board. We have created a spreadsheet to gather temporary contacts throughout Area 20. We envision rebuilding an area wide database of these contacts in hopes of better serving District BTG Committees as well as working with Area's 19 and 21 respectively. We have brought these signup sheets with us today. DCMs, please bring back to your Districts. I also have the QR codes labels and cards available. On February 8th I gave a presentation at a BTG Workshop that District 70 hosted at Rockford Alano club. It was a great turnout and it also included a recovery panel on Step 2. I look forward to our committee getting even more active in the coming months.

Concepts - Susan H – Was not in attendance. No written report submitted.

Cooperation w/ the Professional Community- Since our last Area gathering our committee has been diligently filling several community requests for AA resources and presentations, organizing volunteer servants to support local events, and working collaboratively with other Areas to gather support for new ideas. 1/18/25 How It Works Workshop in McHenry. 1/25/25 People In Need Forum-McHenry County College. 2/1/25 CPC Planning Committee Dinner Meeting-Chessie's, Barrington. 2/3/25 D28 Business Meeting-Barrington. 2/6/25 D11 Business Meeting-Zoom. 2/8/25 PI CPC East Bay California Monthly Meeting-Zoom. 2/15/25 DuPage Open-Glen Ellyn. 2/16/25, Old Timer's Brunch-Wauconda. 2/18/25 Wheaton Women's Meeting-Wheaton. 2/19/25 Health & Healing Event-City of Elgin. 2/22/25 Living on a Prayer Workshop-Kankakee. Our foundational efforts to increase the visibility and accessibility of AA resources through engaging in community and professional events are paying off! As the list above indicates, our presence is welcomed, most often requested, by groups who've already had a connection with AA or our members. In addition to scheduling these events CPC is also responsible for our volunteer presence; that is why there are multiple meetings with specific

groups. Although there is no one officially filling the alternate Area CPC position an Area CPC Planning Committee has been formed to serve by organizing, researching, collaborating, creating, and directing upcoming projects and events. Many thanks to that committee and to those who will join the group at our mid-March dinner meeting. The suggestion from the CPC Handbook to host an appreciation/informational luncheon for our professional friends has taken hold and is in the planning phase for NIA 20. Rough numbers have been considered and connections made. It is the intention of Area CPC to continue to move forward with plans for a June 19, 2025 Extending the Hand of Gratitude Luncheon to take place in Palatine, IL. Those invited to the luncheon will have had DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT with members of AA in service and be required to reserve seats with us. "Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." The A.A. Service Manual, "A.A.'s Legacy of Service," page 91. I often ponder what the other hand is doing when one is extending the hand of AA; it is my philosophy that the other hand of AA is shaking that of our professional friends and fellow volunteers for humanity. Upcoming CPC Service Opportunities are listed below: always REMEMBER the events and the list are subject to change at any time. March 4th, Advocate Community Outreach, 2:30-5:30 St. Thomas Church, Crystal Lake. June 3rd, NIEAPA Conference 8:00 am-5:00 pm Drury Lane Event Oakbrook Terrace. April 9th, Free ONLINE event, A Presentation on AA and Alcoholism 6:00 pm, hosted by NIA 19. April 22nd, Student Wellness Day 7:00 am-3:30 pm, Downers Grove South HS, Downers Grove. June 11-13, NAMIcon VIRTUAL conference, A Presentation on AA All Day event. April 25th, Thrive After 55 Resource Fair 9:30 am-2:30 pm Elgin Community College. June 19th, NIA 20 Gratitude Luncheon 11:00 am-2:00 pm Cotillion Banquets, Palatine.

Corrections – George P – Was not in attendance. No written report submitted.

Grapevine - Terry M, Karen W – We presented our display boards and material at the following locations: District 11, Old Timers Brunch, which we raffled off two subscriptions, we are participating on the committee for the 2025 Illinois State Conference, Attended the DuPage Open and plugged Grapevine to all and gave two subscriptions to new subscribers. This month we will attend the Flying Geese meeting with our material. Shout out to District 52 GV rep who had a tabletop display at the Prayer Workshop. There is a scheduled visit to District 20 on the 6th with LaVina in hand for the group. We are presenting at the Workshop in Milan on the 22nd.

Literature - Jan S – Conference Agenda Items Discussion: The committee discussed the upcoming Conference Agenda Items. A key point raised was the potential revision of the Living Sober piece. District 41 Open House: Chris provided an update on the open house he is organizing for District 41, scheduled for March 22nd at the Westmont Club. He will offer attendees the PLBB (Publications and Literature Based Books) to understand its significance. A timeline of advisory actions that were implemented for printing will also be available for attendees. Additionally, Chris shared that he is presenting a workshop on this publication, which has recently commenced. Literature individuals are encouraged to attend the workshop, and the event is open for broader participation from the district. Pamphlet of the Month: Chris mentioned his ongoing effort to introduce a Pamphlet of the Month at district meetings. He aims to generate more interest and enthusiasm about available literature among attendees. Engaging Enthusiastic Groups in Literature Review: The committee discussed strategies to work more closely with enthusiastic groups about literature selection. One suggestion was to assess the demographics of group members, such as focusing on youth-oriented literature for groups with younger members, ensuring the materials are both relevant and engaging. State Conference Literature Room and Big Book Writing Timeline: Charles, who serves as Chair of the State Conference 2025 Literature Room, has prepared a detailed Big Book writing process timeline. The literature committee is prepared to step in and help whenever necessary to support the conferences literature needs. AA/Alanon Conference in October: Jan is assisting in planning an upcoming AA/Alanon Conference in Schaumburg in October. Chris will distribute literature at this event, contributing to the information and resources available to attendees. Literature Committee PowerPoint Presentation: A PowerPoint presentation from the Literature Committee was distributed during the meeting. All members were encouraged to submit any ideas or updates to enhance the presentation and keep it relevant for future discussions.

Public Information – Tina R - I will be going over the most important stuff for the pi committee for the GSO.

Treatment - Kevin A, Jeff L – We are continuing our monthly zoom meeting. It is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. We asked for reimbursement from the green can funds for the purchase of literature for D70 Rockford treatment. The amount is \$527.29. Form and receipt turned in and books received. I have another purchase in the pipeline for D62 treatment this will also be a green can purchase. I am trying to get AA bookstore to bill NIA treasurer directly, so further reimbursement is not necessary. Then pass that on to the next Treatment Chair. Money should not be a bar to service. We are looking forward to the Pre-GSC Breakouts with Accessibilities. We will be on zoom on 3/23/25 1pm-3pm.

Web Administrator – Scott T - Thank you to all of you that have assisted with cleaning up the website and offering your suggestions on how to improve navigation and accuracy in the content so that it can be a trusted source of information for NIA. We will continue on this course as we look to upgrading the entire site. If you have suggestions or find errors, please take a few minutes and drop me a note at webmaster@aa-nia.org. I do monitor this email multiple times during the week and at a minimum commit to responding. Since our last Assembly we have introduced a new calendar which we continue to populate with new events as they are provided to me. Should you have anything for posting, please adhere to the guidelines as they are found on the website, especially taking care to anonymity protect the content, no photos of the fellowship and no references to gambling, raffles, and the like. You can send your information direct to me at the webmaster email. Please be patient as I try to do much of the maintenance in bulk unless it is an urgent matter. As of the writing of this report I have no expenses.

Administrative Reports

Archivist Cheryl V – The Assembly Actions file has been updated to include items from 1972 to the 2024 Winter Assembly in December. The PDF for this file is on the website. The picture frame of Bill W. & Dr. Bob had become damaged and loose. With the Area Chair’s approval, I have taken on the task of maintaining these for archival purposes. These have now been placed in new frames. The carrying case has also become worn, with half of the zipper no longer working. Two new cases have been purchased, and I am in the process of devising additional packaging for the cases to make them more secure for storage and carrying purposes. I have generated a short write-up of some historical information regarding the pictures. This information has been placed on the back of each picture for future reference. It reads, in part: *From the minutes of the Fall Assembly, 1983: “Earle McNutt presented the Northern Illinois Area with two 2’X3’ photos of Bill W. & Dr. Bob. for use at Area functions as well as special group functions. District 51 will have them framed ...” Earle was Panel 26 Delegate. Minutes from the Fall Committee Meeting in 1990 indicate that the pictures had become old and tattered, and a motion was made and seconded to have them replaced. This motion was again presented at the Winter Assembly and passed a 2nd time. However, it seems that there was difficulty making the purchase, and the new photos were not reported to be framed and ready until the Spring Assembly in 1992.*

Conference Advisory Committee – Aaron V – A report was given at the microphone. No written support submitted.

Electronic Equipment Committee – Rob M - A report was given at the microphone. No written support submitted.

Finance Committee – Dave F – A report was given at the microphone. No written support submitted.

Operating Committee – Dawn B - A report was given at the microphone. No written support submitted.

Report & Charter Committee – Chris E – A report was given at the microphone. No written support submitted.

Service Manual Custodian - Cheryl V – The NIA Service Manual, English and Spanish, have been updated to reflect the Technology Committee motion approved at the 2024 Winter Assembly. The updated English and Spanish have been placed on the NIA website.

DCM Reports

D10 – John – Tri-County Conference March 29. Next planning meeting is March 23. GSR Workshop with D12 is in May.

D12 – Jaime – We are doing a GSR School with D10 on May 17th. April 13th is our breakfast and the Tri-County Conference on March 29th. We are in the rebuilding mode. We are getting all the GSR and group information updated.

D20 – Marcello – We are working on the meetings and the State Convention, September 23-25th. I will bring a flyer next time. Registration is \$15. We are also working on the Big Book Conference.

D21 – Debbie – We have approved our budget for the year and are hosting the Summer Assembly June 21st. Chris has been diligently organizing our archives.

D22 – Paula – We are busy with the 2026 Spring Conference. We made flyers saying that we meet the third Thursday of each month. We are planning two workshops. Our Corrections Chair, is planning a workshop in April or May and the other is being planned. We are looking for chairs for district picnic and Christmas party. We are still need to fill open committee chair positions.

D23 – Jeremy Alt. DCM – We are working on the conference. Things are going well.

D28 – Lisa – Our focus is filling the chair positions.

D40 – Sandy and John – GSR School March 8th. Our District meeting was last week, 40-50 in attendance. All committee chairs are filled except one, and we think that will be filled soon. We are discussing a service sponsor workshop with other districts. Picnic is July 27th. All committee chairs will attend the Pre General Service Conference breakout meetings, then reporting at the next District meeting.

D43- Laura – We are doing well. GSR school on March 8th. Also, DuPage Open was a couple weeks ago. We had an archives table set up there with a steady stream of people. May 24th is the bingo event and speakers.

D52 – Steve – We continue to hand out literature to newcomers. The Woman-to-Woman group held a workshop last Saturday. We are planning a mini conference September 20th.

D61 – Kyle Alt. DCM – The Area Grapevine and Answering Service Chair visited our meeting. We are kind of co-hosting the 2026 Spring Conference. Unfortunately, I am the only person signed up to date. We are hosting the May 10th Area Committee Meeting at Lord of Life Church. We had a great Emotional Sobriety Workshop and a Gala Event that night called a Woopie Party. Bingo and St. Patrick's Day party are upcoming. April 27th is the 19th Annual Women's Luncheon at the Aurora Club. May 17th is the Fox Valley Open at Lord of Life Church.

D70 – Kim – Joe B, Area BTG chair, participated in our workshop. D71 and D72 were in attendance. GSR School is April 19 at Alano Club. March 8, St Patrick's Day event with speakers. District meeting has 18 GSRs consistently. We began talks with D73 to host the 2027 Spring Conference. We received books from the green can for Treatment facilities.

D73 – Karen – GSR School Workshop is on March 15th with Area Chair, Aaron. All are invited and sending invites to surrounding Districts 70, 71 and 72. We are excited to host the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop in Dixon on April 5th at the Elks Club. We have flyers and Alternate Delegate has sent via email.

D80 – Debbie – We have been working with the Area Web Administrator to get our meetings on the meeting guide app. Also, Michelle P, has been tirelessly working on our District website. Swing into Spring event will be on April 26th in Streator.

Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate – Lisa S <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Alt-Delgate-Report-ENES.pdf>

Area Chair – Dawn B –<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assembly-Packet-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assembly-Packet-ES.pdf>

Alternate Area Chair – Aaron V – <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Alt-Chair-Report-EN.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Alt-Chair-Report-ES.pdf>

Registrar – Kim - Since the previous Registrar stepped down, I have been swamped learning and implementing the responsibilities promptly. I am happy to report that all requested changes have been processed. I am working only on about five or six that need special attention. Please get in touch with me if you have not heard back about a request. I have several that GSO is working on, which will be addressed over the next couple of days. I attended the Secretary's Zoom Meeting on 2/20/25. We will handle all group and member changes during assembly or committee meeting that day. When you leave, you will know whether it was done or more information is needed. Please understand that the roster constantly changes, and I am only as good as the information given. When sending in change forms, please use the forms on the NIA website and fill them out electronically. This will ensure we receive accurate information and reduce the need to communicate more than once about any request. All group forms can be downloaded from the NIA website: <http://aa-nia.org/group-forms/>. If you need any information or want to submit forms, please send them to altregistrar@aa-nia.org or the mailing address above. As of now, the expenses for 2025 are at 0, and there have been no expenses since the last report.

Secretary – Sue M - <https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-Spring-Assy-Secretary-Report-ENES.pdf>

Alternate Secretary – Lorrie F – Attended Secretary's Zoom Meeting on 2/20/25. Met with Sue M., Secretary to review printing of name tags. Communicated with all the DCMs to obtain the most up-to-date information for the District Meeting List. Received information from 10 out of 26 Districts. (38% Response) Calendar of District Meetings: Created a new tool to quickly review when District Meetings are held. It can be used to easily refer to what days/times district meetings are held. One still needs to refer to the District Meeting List for specifics. This tool can assist not only the Officers, but Committee Chairs in various ways, such as: What day and time monthly committee zoom calls would have less conflicts. When to have workshops. When to visit District Meetings to encourage more Area participation. At this moment and time only, I am maintaining this quick reference tool, but if the Area would like to add it to the website, I would recommend the responsibility of this calendar to become part of the Alternate Secretary's responsibilities. A point of interest: I have been asked by Area 20 to Co-chair the AA portion of the Annual AFG conference which will be October 17, 18, 19 in Schaumburg at the Hyatt Regency. AFG has been having monthly planning meetings usually the 1st Sunday of the month in Schaumburg which I have attended one and the next one in person is March 8th. My AA committee has had 2 zoom meetings, the last one on Feb. 13th and will continue monthly. Our next one is scheduled for March 13th on zoom.

After open microphone there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Kevin, seconded by Tina. The meeting ended with the responsibility statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M, NIA Secretary

Next meeting is April 5, 2025 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop at Dixon Elks Lodge 1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon.