

Northern Illinois Area 20
2020 Spring Committee Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2020
Online Audio/Video Meeting

Meeting Opening

Chair Carmela R. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Carmela gave some hints about using the Zoom app. The online registration process for this committee meeting and future meetings was discussed briefly.

New Attendees

Nanette S. – D40 Alt DCM and district LCM

Kris S. – newly appointed Concepts Co-Editor

Anniversaries

No one has celebrated an anniversary since the May 2, 2020, Pre-General Services Conference Workshop.

Twelve Concepts for World Service – Concept 2 – Robert S., Past Delegate

Robert read the concept. This tradition makes the General Service Conference the active voice and effective conscience of A.A. It is the job of the Conference to tell the General Service Board of Trustees and their staff what we want them to do to continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Approval of 2020 Winter Committee Meeting Minutes

Kevin A. made the motion to approve the minutes and Cheryl V. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by simple majority voice vote.

Meeting Business

There was no Delegate's Report. Our Delegate Marilyn F. was attending the online General Service Conference at the time of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Dawn B.

The Treasurer's report is posted on the NIA website and is attached to these minutes.

Alternate Treasurer's Report – Steve L.

No Alternate Treasurer's report was submitted.

At the Mic:

Joe B. asked if Dawn could expand on the expenses for the cancelled 2020 Spring Conference.

Dawn reported that we spent \$101 to refund PayPal fees to attendees who registered more than six months prior to the conference. PayPal refunded fees for registrations they processed within six months of the cancellation. The \$2,000 deposit made to the Marriott Chicago Hotel in Schaumburg was not refunded. Hospitality Room donations that were anonymous were used to cover expenses. If you made an anonymous donation and would like a refund, please contact Dawn. Many registrants contributed their fees to cover the hotel fees, and she thanked those who did.

Carmela announced that the final Spring Conference Committee report will be presented at the Summer Assembly and will include a final expense report.

Chris E. asked what is the \$0.06 uncategorized expense in the report is for. Dawn replied that it is probably a banking fee of some kind.

Karen F. was uncomfortable with the hotel keeping the Area's \$2,000 deposit.

Cheryl V. asked if we should move \$100 out of the savings account each quarter and put it right back in to avoid having the account go dormant. Dawn thought that was a good idea and asked if she could agree to do it today. Cheryl indicated that it was within her authority as NIA Treasurer to do so. Carol will talk to Dawn offline about how to handle the saving account going dormant with the bank.

Dawn indicated that everything from the Spring Conference is accounted for, and Robert asked if that included all the registration refunds. Carol reported from her knowledge as Spring Conference alternate treasurer that all refunds have been made.

Steve L., Alt Treasurer said that his computer is 20 years old, and he needs an Area-supplied computer. Christy B., Area secretary will loan him the Alt Secretary's computer to use temporarily until he can present a motion for the Area to purchase a computer for his position.

Approval of 2020 Spring Committee Treasurer's Report

Earl N. made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Robert S. seconded the motion. The motion was approved by simple majority voice vote.

Old Business

2020 Big Book Conference Report – D10 & D12 (October 24, 2020)

Kevin A., Conference Committee Co-Chair – We are meeting virtually at 5 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We have our program together and are working with the facility on food. We are concerned about pandemic conditions, and I have emailed the facility, since it is a State facility.

Karen F., Conference Committee Co-Chair – We have our speaker and about one-half of our panels set. I am going to reach out online to DCMs to get more panel speakers. I have had no response from the Spanish-speaking districts.

At the Mic:

Carmela thanked the co-chairs for working in these difficult conditions.

Kevin A. announced that the conference registrar shut down registrations until July. We are considering having the conference online, if necessary. Kimberly T. made the comment that it would be good to research how GSO and other Areas are accommodating people through online events, and Ed M. asked where and when the Big Book Conference is being held this year. It is on October 24, 2020 at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois. Kevin indicated that they will have flyers ready for the Summer Assembly in June.

Open Elected Positions Review

- Area Secretary – Alternate
- Answering Service Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Archives Committee Area Chair – Alternate

- BTG Committee Area Chair
- BTG Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- CPC Committee Chair
- Grapevine / LaViña Committee Area Chair – Alternate
- Literature Committee Area Chair – Alternate

Chair Carmela said the CPC Chair position was recently vacated and asked if anyone in the meeting wished to stand for the position. Jeff L., the current Alt CPC Chair indicated that he intended to stand for the CPC Chair. After some discussion, it was determined that Jeff would be acting chair in his role of Alt Chair until the Summer Assembly when the full assembly will vote on filling open positions. Karen F. was interested in the BTG Chair position. Because she is currently DCM in D12, she will stand after her term as DCM ends in December 2020 if no one is elected by then. No one else present indicated they will stand for any of these positions.

Carmela asked the Committee to please spread the word to districts and groups about these open positions. The duties and responsibilities for these positions are listed in the Area Service Manual.

Appointments Review

Carmela has made some appointments, and her work on other appointments is ongoing. She thanked all those who have accepted these service positions to date.

- Kris S. has been appointed as Concepts Co-Editor.
- Jessica R. wants to step down as Concepts editor. Robert S. would like to accept this position. He is currently helping Jessica and is doing an excellent job. If he accepts, the committee will have one less voting member because he will lose his vote as a Past Delegate, and the Concepts Editor does not vote. Carmela will talk with Robert S. about the next steps.
- The D22 CPC Chair will probably continue to work with Joe B. on the Electronic Equipment Committee. Joe B. will confirm this.
- Karen F., D12 DCM, and Jim A., D42 DCM have been appointed to the Finance Committee. Carmela is looking for a past delegate to appoint.
- It would be nice to have a past delegate on the Report & Charter committee.
- Cheryl V. will continue to be the Area Service Manual Custodian.
- Eric B. has accepted the position of Alt Webmaster.
- Eric B. and Rob M. have been appointed to the Technology Committee. You don't have to be a DCM to be on this committee.

Sharing Session

General Service in the Virtual Meeting Age

Karen F. asked if having a PayPal account for Area donations would help with the inactivity problem at our bank. Dawn indicated that the problem was with our reserve (savings) account, not donations. Another Area uses Stripe instead of PayPal and says it is easier to use. Carmela said this is a good topic for another day; we don't have to have answers on this today. Earl N. said PayPal works with our online system and other payment systems could work as well.

Steve L. asked for prayers for John R. He is suffering complications from the accident he had last year. Robert has talked to John and indicated that he is currently doing better.

On the topic of online meeting information, Earl N., Area Webmaster, indicated that there are three types of information for joining a virtual meeting that can be posted on the NIA website: 1) all the information for joining; 2) a contact phone number for getting the website link to join; and 3) a link to a pre-registration web page like we had for this meeting. The question is if posting meeting ID information online violates our anonymity tradition, especially with respect to Zoom bombing/crashing.

Carmela asked what the Public Information implications are for posting the information.

Chris E. said in his district some online meetings that are online are posted with meeting IDs and some are posted without them. For their district meeting, they use a Zoom waiting room, so the host has the responsibility to admit people to the meeting. On the matter of online payments, he said the Palatine Alano Club was using the Zelle app.

Earl N. said we can make a mandatory field for group name or group ID number for online donations to the Area through the NIA website. He asked if we wanted to post whatever we get for virtual meeting announcements on the website, or if we wanted to set restrictions.

Rick S., PI Chair, has given this a lot of thought. He had a meeting with district PI chairs included and shared the GSO guidelines. His suggestion was to leave it up to the districts to decide. On Zoom, you can change your name, turn off your video, etc. to protect your own anonymity. On online payments, he thought they were good since many people do not carry cash these days and because of our meetings currently being online. He keeps hearing a lot about Zelle being good. PayPal and Square both have service fees. Pandemic conditions may be long-term if there is a resurgence of the disease in the fall of 2020. The area, districts and groups may want to discuss having hybridized meetings.

Robert S. said that personal anonymity in meetings isn't what the tradition is about. Virtual meetings are no different from in-person meetings—with both you make a personal choice. Posting meeting IDs is also a personal preference. He proposed having the Area accept donations for the districts, and then passing the money on to the districts.

Cheryl V. said that meeting IDs are no different than meeting location addresses when it comes to anonymity. The PI committee should provide guidelines for online meetings to districts.

Kevin A., DCM D10, said that his district secretary has been sending out the district meeting ID and password information to the district members. They can also contact Kevin through the website or personally about GSR changes. He said, "I can't sit and worry about every little anonymity issue because it gets in the way of being of service." He likes online meetings; it saves him the drive time.

Chris D. has made online donations to GSO through PayPal. It is very fast. GSO already has my information from his payments for conference registrations. They have posted a Traditions statement on the GSO donations web page that "We only take contributions from alcoholics." If we go to online donations, we want to make it easy to do.

Dwayne G. is interested in suggestions for online security and maintain anonymity. He is not worried about his own anonymity, but rather anonymity of others. He is thinking about doing a hybrid online/in-person meeting when his home group brick and mortar meetings resume.

Sue M. informed the group that in rural districts, groups are pooling resources for one Zoom account fee, and are accommodating conflicting meetings as necessary. She would like suggestions on how to get group input on district/area motions when there are no business meetings being held.

Steve L., Area Alt Treasurer asked to have a required field for group names or numbers if we start an online donation option for the Area because we are already dealing with unidentified donations received in the mail.

Rich S. agrees with Kevin A. that the most important thing we can do right now is to continue to be of service any way we can. In D22, we put a list of online meetings on our website that can be accessed through the Internet, Wi-Fi or phones.

Carmela R. said she had heard general consensus during this sharing session on two items:

1. The Area should further explore an online app for groups to make donations to the Area.
2. The PI committee can help us with guidance on posting online meetings on websites, and we should keep doing what we are already doing on the website to get information communicated about online meetings.

Kim suggested having a mini workshop on what groups/districts are doing for online meetings—what is good stewardship for online meetings since they have some different risks for anonymity.

Earl N., the Area webmaster, is clear on his directions for the website, which is to exclude last names on flyers and only post flyers that are sent to him by the person whose name is on the flyer as contact person. For online donations, he recommends picking one platform (app) and sticking with it (PayPal, Zelle, etc.). He thinks having groups make district donations to the Area to be forwarded to the districts would put too much burden on the Area Treasurer and Alt Treasurer.

Committee Showcase at Assemblies

Carmela asked for input on adding a showcase of the work of the various Area committees at each Assembly. It could be one committee or a grouping of similar committees, such as BTG, Corrections and Treatment. These would be about activities the committees have undertaken, not what the duties and responsibilities of the committee are. The showcase would be rolled into the current Assembly timeframe, rather than adding time to the assembly.

Chris E. liked the idea.

Robert S. said he would rather talk about committee work than spend time talking about a concept at each Assembly.

Christy B. thought it was a good idea to get people excited about service work. She gave the example of Susan H. talking about carrying the message at Health Fairs as CPC chair.

Kevin A. concurred that it would give people ideas and get districts moving, even during the pandemic stay-at-home period.

Tom B. liked giving people ideas for service work. Sometimes people get elected and shoved in the corner without any idea of what they could be doing.

Ed M. suggested we do something like the panels we do at conferences for the assembly showcases.

Susan H. said it would help recruit people for committee work at Assemblies after they heard about what the committees were doing to be of service.

Lisa S. talked about how much change has taken place in treatment facilities during the stay-at-home period. This would be a great opportunity to have conversations about what we are doing to continue to help those in treatment. She liked the panel idea.

Rick S. brought up that access to meetings is key during this stay-at-home period. We are all currently handicapped when it comes to receiving the AA message.

Karen F. suggested making the showcases accessible to folks in districts by sending email announcements and posting a flyer on the website.

Dwayne G. likes this proposal as a way to help out others with accessibility issues.

DCM Reports

D10, Kevin A. / Michael L.	Kevin – The district meetings are held the 4 th Sunday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Currently, meetings are virtual. We have listed all virtual meetings that groups have allowed us to list on the district website. We are continuing work on the Big Book Conference to be held in October 2020. We will get back into treatment work when we can. Newcomers are still coming in through the district website.
D11, Kate D. / Pat M.	Kate – 32 people attended our online district meeting on Thursday, May 7 th at 7:00 p.m. The April district meeting was cancelled by vote. In lieu of the April meeting, 12 people met online for an explanation of what is available online for recovery now, including a friend in Georgia giving us access to Georgia speaker meetings. Her mom who is a sober senior will not go to online meetings. I am concerned about her and others who are not getting to meeting because we are not meeting in person. Kate's full report is attached to these minutes.
D12, Karen F. / Matthew K.	Karen – We have our first district meeting tomorrow, May 17 th . This meeting will be online and in-person at the Waukegan Alano Club with a limit of 15 people attending in person. We are currently not getting into the corrections facilities. We have a small group of people who participate in district service work.
D20, Rafael V. / No Alt	Not present
D21, Chris E. / No Alt	Chris – I sent a list of district officers and committee chairs to the Area registrar last month. Tuesday, May 19 th is our first online district meeting; we had no meeting in April. Most meetings in the district are virtual, and we have those meetings listed on the website. We did not include the meeting link on the website; we instead posted meeting IDs and passwords. I will hear on Tuesday how these meetings are doing.
D22, Joe B. / Dave F.	Joe B. – We had our last district meeting in early March in person. I have been waiting to see what other districts are doing before scheduling our next meeting. The webmaster is keeping the meeting list up to date with available virtual meetings. I have been sending out emails to keep committee chairs and GSRs updated on district and area news. I will discuss having an online district meeting in June with Alt Chair Dave. A PI/CPC district workshop scheduled for April was postponed. I will talk to the two co-chairs to see if they want to do a virtual workshop. Carmela will participate when it is rescheduled.
D23, Scott T. / Dave T.	Not present
D28, Kevin K. / Johnna I.	Not present

D40, Gordon R. / Nanette S.	Gordon – We have been doing Zoom district meetings. We have not had a lot of service activity, but we are keeping in touch through the meetings. We have posted online meetings on the website. We think availability is more important than anonymity. The 9 th Annual DuPage Open Meeting was held in February, and 700 people attended. We have outgrown the facility used and need a larger one. We still have our district picnic scheduled for the end of July.
D41, Tom M. / Walt K.	Our April district meeting was online. Our next online district meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. We have an address for district donations on the website, and we are working on getting a Zelle account. We hope that future event won't be cancelled because of the pandemic. Anona East is open for meetings in persons with a limitation on number of people allowed to attend. We will continue online district meetings for as long as needed.
D42, Jim A. / Barry O.	Not present
D43, John O. / Kate R.	Erik L., Area Alt Chair reported for John O. that the next district meeting will be held online tomorrow, May 17 th . The first virtual meeting held in April was well attended. One of the two treatment centers in the district currently has a Zoom AA meeting once a week that AA's from the district have been conducting.
D51, Adam R. / Michael S.	Not present
D52, Heather S. / No Alt	Heather – We are disappointed to not be hosting the June Assembly in person in Kankakee. The jails are still closed; one of the treatment centers has opened up for meetings recently. The Alano Club is open for meetings of 10 people or less. When posting Zoom meetings on the website we put on the phone number of the contact person, not the link or meeting ID number. We didn't have a district meeting in March because the hospital where it was to be held closed to outside meetings shortly before the scheduled date. We had an in-person meeting in April and will meet in-person again in May. We don't have a district Zoom account. Individuals are using their personal accounts or having free 40-minute meetings.
D61, Natalie G. / Rita O.	Natalie – We did not have a district meeting in March. We had a Zoom district meeting at the end of April with 15 people attending, and we are meeting virtually at the end of May. We sent a donation to GSO; the district is financially healthy. The Women's Luncheon and Fox Valley Open Meeting were cancelled. Our district picnic is pending. Some parking lot meetings are being held at the Batavia Alano Club. Some live meetings are occurring in Geneva at churches that are open. I talked to one person who hadn't attended a meeting in two months either in-person or virtually. There seems to be a disconnect with some AA's on how we are proceeding during the stay-at-home period.
D62, Betsy W. / No Alt	Betsy – We have had two Zoom district meetings. One church is open for live meetings and we have many online meetings posted on the district website.
D64, No DCM / No Alt	Not present
D65, Alt Javier H.	Not present
D70, No DCM / No Alt	Not present
D71, Eric B. / No Alt	Not present

D72, Sue M. / No Alt	I don't have an alt chair currently. We are moving forward with reorganization. We have a treasurer now and a checking account for the district. The Alano Club is closed, so we didn't have a March meeting. We reached out to meetings with the answering service phone number to post at meeting places that are closed. One group folded and two groups merged. We had a Zoom district meeting in April. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20 th . I am thankful for the information shared today. I will use it to help the district be of service to help the alcoholic and help each other reorganize the reorganization.
D73, Karen D. / Harry E.	Karen – We just completed our second virtual District meeting last night, May 15 th . There were 15 in attendance with one GSR that had never been to a District meeting. Answering Service Chair reported that our service is still working and down in use. She also has contacted the Answering Service to contact her and the District 73 Alt. Answering Service chair if they receive a question on a meeting. They have the information on meeting status. Correction chair reported that since March 13, the Thomson Federal Prison, & Dixon Correctional Facility, Carroll County Jail, Ogle County Jail and Whiteside County Jail notified A.A volunteers that all volunteer services were suspended. Our Corrections Chair is going to see if Correction facilities will accept speaker tapes or grapevine tapes to play for AA inmates. No Grapevine magazines are received at this time. Grapevine Chair shared the offer of The Best of The Grapevine: Volumes 1, 2 & 3 special offer. Website chair shared that our District 73 website is update with online meetings, temporarily suspended meetings and meetings still going. Our schedule on NIA has not been updated with all these changes. Website chair is going to contact NIA webmaster to put some type of note stating to go to District 73 Website for current meeting status. I also shared a couple paragraphs from 7 th Tradition letter from Greg Tobin on the \$3 million Reserve Fund drawdown and the several layoffs or temporary furloughs of workers at the General Service Office. I will be sending 7 th Tradition letter to all GSR's and District Officers. Our District continues to reach out to members to check on them.
D79, No DCM / No Alt	Not present
D80, Bill B. / No Alt	Not present
D90, Randall C. / No Alt	Not present
D91, No DCM / No Alt (Ed M. LDCM reporting)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reorganization started March 2020. Positions filled and active before the virus shutdown. We now have 13 groups in the district.2. Several newer members are taking an interest in district work.3. A tech-wise member is interesting in restating the D91 Web Page.4. District has operating monies at present, group donations are good. District events are good (social events and fund raisers).5. We plan to donate \$25 each month to Area and GSO.

D91, No DCM / No Alt (Ed M. LDCM reporting)	<p>6. A new group in Illinois City will join us; they were attending another district. 7. We plan to look at Answering Service options, going forward. 8. At present Oquawka and Monmouth have a regular schedule of meetings. 9. Various members plan to attend Area meetings, when restarted. 10. The group will look for a new DCM, Ed M. is the temporary DCM at present.</p> <p>Respectfully, Ed Melvin, LDCM District 91</p>
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Officer's Reports

Alternate Delegate, Chris D.

Welcome to the 2020 Spring Committee Meeting!!

Thanks to everyone for attending the very first VIRTUAL NIA Spring Committee meeting!

It's been a while since my last report at the Winter Committee meeting last January however I can certainly assure you it hasn't been an idle time for me, or the fellowship!

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Conference of Delegates Past & Present last February in Detroit. This was the 3rd time I've been able to attend that conference and I continue to be amazed at the level of service that exists within our fellowship as well as the passion of the people both on the General Service Board and at the General Service Office. People from both offices were present at the conference and their sole intention was to inform and educate.

It was shortly after that conference that the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic began to come to light. That of course forced the cancellation of the Spring Conference and Assembly and we (as an Area) began to turn our attention to how we could adequately inform our Delegate for the recent VIRTUAL Pre-General Service Conference Workshop. I was involved behind the scenes in that workshop and wish to thank all those who gave their time and talent to make that meeting such a great success. A shout out also needs to go out to Carmela for doing such a great job facilitating that workshop.

I look forward to meeting with the DCM's when we convene for our next assembly and also look forward to working with Marilyn in whatever capacity she needs as we move through the summer and continue to inform the fellowship.

2020 Reimbursement Requests

I was reimbursed \$610.18 for my attendance at the Conference of Delegates Past & Present. This includes expenses for mileage, hotel and meals.

Respectfully submitted – Chris D. – NIA 20 – Alternate Delegate – Panel 70 (nia20altdel@gmail.com)

Chair, Carmela R.

Carmela talked briefly about her experience attending an Area Inventory Assembly in Oahu, Hawaii, while she was on vacation recently. Like Chris D. when he attended the Big Book Conference in Montreal and made a connection with the Quebec AA's, she has thoroughly enjoyed making this connection with Hawaiian AA's.

Carmela's Chair written report is posted on the NIA website and is attached to these minutes.

Alternate Chair, Erik L.

Eric attended the Spring Conference planning committee meeting. Tom and Kevin and the group did a remarkable job. He also attended the policy committee meeting for the Illinois State Conference. At this time, the conference is being planned as a one-day online event. I chaired the Pre-General Service Conference workshop held on May 2nd and enjoyed doing it. This week the first meeting of the new Conference Advisory committee was held. We discussed how to be of better service to hosts. The conversation was mostly about conferences in the virtual world. When we do make decisions about cancelling events, we are at the mercy of the Illinois governor's 5-Phase Plan for emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic. We will be giving guidance to future host committees on cancelling with respect to refunds, etc. The Conference Advisory committee will not meet in person until Fall 2020.

Registrar, Carol H.

Carol learned that GSO is sending out workbooks to committee chairs without waiting for the information to be entered into the database, so chairs can have the resources they need to do their jobs. She needs the help of a Spanish interpreter to help her get the Hispanic districts information for the Area roster and GSO.

The full Registrar's Report will be posted on the NIA website and is attached to these minutes.

At the Mic:

Heather S. wants a copy of the Committee Roster. Carol will send it to her via email.

Chris E. told Carol that one group in his district had a GSO donation rejected when they sent it with their legacy group number and asked for help. Carol will research that group's number for him.

District 40 has a specific question about their district officers'/committee chairs' information that Carol will help them with offline.

Alternate Registrar, Rob M.

Rob was not in attendance. He has been working with Carol to supply information to the GSO database and prepare the NIA20 Committee Roster.

Secretary, Christy B.

As Carmela mentioned, the secretary still needs an alternate, mostly for backup. Documenting the Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies is an important function. She has put the list of District GSR meetings on hold since we do not post it, and currently most meetings are virtual. If anyone has suggestions for handling this, you can send them to her using the message function on the NIA website. She is willing to gather information about virtual district meetings and send that out if that would be helpful.

Alternate Secretary – OPEN

Meeting Closure with Open Mic

Before she opened the microphones for announcements, Carmela wanted to get a sense of how the Area committee wants to handle the upcoming summer Area events. She said that the venue District 52 had chosen for the in-person June Assembly was not able to hold the event under current conditions.

Committee Poll (conducted online in real-time)

Should we have virtual meetings for both the June Summer Assembly and the August Summer Committee meeting, or plan now to have a virtual Assembly in June and wait until the Assembly to decide about the Summer Committee meeting?

Yes, have virtual meetings for both – 52%

Yes, virtual Assembly / hold on August Committee Meeting – 48%

After some discussion, Carmela decided that we would have a virtual Assembly in June and make a decision about the August Committee meeting when we meet in June and have updated information about which phase of the governor's plan will be in effect in August.

Open Mic:

Robert S. – Please scour your districts for an Area Alternate Secretary candidate.

Chris D. – I am responsible for conducting Service Orientation workshops. DCMs can contact me to set one up; it can be done as a virtual workshop. I encourage you to send a shout out to our Delegate Marilyn who is at the General Services Conference today through Tuesday.

Kate D. – Can I get a job description for the Alt Secretary position?

Carmela – The responsibilities and duties are listed in the Area Service Manual.

Rich H. – Thanks to everyone, especially those doing the technical part, for a very well done, respectful meeting today. I liked the information exchange on virtual AA. I attended a Pacific Region event recently in Tucson and was in a session on Corrections service work. I met some of Carmela's friends from Hawaii there, who were happy to have met her and to have gotten her input on their area inventory. The Three Legacies Group in Crystal Lake is having their 5th Sunday of the month open meeting on May 31st at 7:00 p.m. The speakers will be Mary D. from Portland, Oregon, a former GSO staff member. It is posted on the NIA website. It is a virtual potluck; bring your own food!

Ed M. – The Elgin Wild Bunch invited me to attend their online meeting and it is a great meeting.

Carmela – We sent a fruit and chocolates gift to Marilyn to kick off her attendance at GSC and thank her for her service. This is an Area tradition.

Adjournment

Robert S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl V. seconded it. Carmela R., Area Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m., and the AA responsibility statement was recited.

The Summer Committee Meeting will be held on August 8, 2020. A decision will be made at the Summer Assembly in June if it will be a virtual meeting or conducted in person at Lord of Life Church in LaFox. If it is held in person, it will be hosted by District 23.

NIA20 – 2020 Spring Committee Meeting Minutes

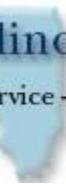
Attachments

- **Area Treasurer's Report**
- **District 11 DCM's Report**
- **Area Chair's Report**
- **Area Registrar' Report**

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Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery



2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Treasurer
NIA Spring Committee Meeting
May 16, 2020

Balance Sheet

The QuickBooks Balance Sheet summarizes our assets, liabilities and equity (equity is assets minus liabilities) incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020:

- Checking account balance: \$20,762.89
- Restricted funds balance: \$5,893.00 and consists of:
 - “Pink Can” \$4,507.90
 - “Green Can” \$829.85
- Savings account balance: \$16,748.53 (Prudent Reserve)

Profit and Loss Statement

The QuickBooks Profit and Loss Statement summarizes the revenues, costs and expenses incurred during a specified period. See attached report for the period from January 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020:

- Total Contributions: \$33,832.60
- Total Expenses: \$24,938.96
- Net Operating Income: (\$8,893.64) which is the amount that our income exceeds our expenses in 2020

Miscellaneous

- The accounts did not change names until February, and the shutdown of Illinois began Mid-March. The minus 996.13 “cash” is not actually a minus, it’s a miscategorization in QuickBooks. When asked to “match” to the bank, for some reason, it categorized some things as “cash” instead of “cash checking”. The cash designation is never used for deposits or reimbursements on our end. Carol and I need to sit down and go over these things together when it’s safe. All deposits and checks since 2/2/20 are correct and accounted for within Chase banking and QuickBooks.
- We transferred 1096 to the 2020 Spring Conference to help them pay back things that needed to be refunded due to cancellation. They then transferred 995 back to us when they were finished
- I transferred one dollar into prudent reserve from cash/checking to keep it active as I received a letter from Chase that the account had no activity in so long that it would revert to the State.
- The not for profit designation payment of 10.00 has been made to the Secretary of State

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

District 11 Committee Member (DCM) Report to Area 20

May 16, 2020

Since the April 2020 Business Meeting was cancelled, there's 2 months of updates to share!

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Illinois Governor's stay-at-home order, many AA activities were cancelled or rescheduled:

- Area 20 Spring Conference, March 20-22 – cancelled
- Area 20 Spring Assembly, March 21 – cancelled
- District 11 Business Meeting, April 2 – cancelled
- Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, April 4 – rescheduled for May 2nd as a virtual meeting
- General Service Conference (GSC), April 19-25 – rescheduled for May 16-19 as a virtual meeting
- 2020 AA International Convention July 2-5 in Detroit is cancelled; the 2025 Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA [2020 AA International Convention Cancellation FAQs 2020 Convention Cancellation Process](#)
- Most/all in-person AA meetings were cancelled and recreated as virtual meetings using Zoom

There is a plethora of **virtual** meetings offered in District 11. Sean and Harry have done a beautiful job uploading online meeting details on the D11 website: <https://aa-nia-dist11.org/online-meetings/>.

Please take note that meetings with "CLOSED" in the title are limited to people who have a desire to stop drinking. "OPEN" meetings welcome everyone – alcoholics and non-alcoholics. If your online meeting isn't posted, here's the link to have your meeting added to the D11 website: <http://aa-nia-dist11.org/submit-remote-meeting-listing/>.

On April 2nd, I hosted a virtual meeting to discuss AA tools during the stay-at-home order, including:

- 7th Tradition for Online Meetings - "Every AA group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."
 - Your 7th Step Contributions: [AA's 7th Tradition Fact Sheet](#)
 - GSRs should discuss how to best follow AA's 7th Tradition via group conscience with their home groups in this new era of virtual meetings
 - Here's an article from AA's Box 4-5-9 that shares a member's experience with "Passing the (Digital) Basket on page 3 [AA Box 4-5-9 Passing the Digital Basket p 3 Holiday 2017](#)
 - Options for electronic 7th Tradition collection
 - PayPal - [Setting Up a PayPal Account](#), [Sending Money Using PayPal](#)
 - Venmo – How Venmo Works [How Venmo Works](#)
 - Credit Cards
- Access to virtual / online / phone AA meetings:
 - [District 11 Online Meetings](#)
 - [Chicago Online Meetings \(Area 19\)](#)
 - [AA Intergroup Online Meetings - Global](#)
- Free tools to use during this stay-at-home directive
 - [Free access to 2020 Grapevines](#)
 - [Free access to Hazelden Betty Ford meditation books - limited time](#)
 - [Free access to AA Speaker talks](#)

On Saturday, April 25th, I attended the Area 20's Pre-Breakout Report and Charter Committee Meeting via Zoom. Discussions included:

- Continuing to print Regional A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
- Considering restoration of 2 paragraphs and accompanying footnote in the Concept 11 essay of *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* that were removed by an advisory action of the 66th General Service Conference
- Considering amendment of a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter

On Saturday, May 2nd, I attended Area 20's Pre-General Service Workshop via Zoom. The facilitators of the Pre-Breakout Committee Meetings reported results to Area 20's Delegate, Marilyn F. Committees represented were: Accessibilities, Agenda, Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, International Conventions & Regional Forums, Literature, Policy & Admissions, Public Information, Report & Charter, Treatment, and Trustees. This feedback gave our Delegate, Marilyn, a stronger idea of how she should vote on various issues at the virtual General Service Conference in two weeks.

As an aside, I have learned about various virtual workshops, speaker events and round-ups, that were originally scheduled as live events in different cities across the U.S. I have participated in 3 events in the last 8 weeks, which was only made possible due to the pandemic. Just a little silver lining (thank you, God)...

Please let me know if you have any questions.

In grateful service,

Kate

Kate DeGross
D11 District Committee Member

Report of the Area Chair

May 16, 2020

Spring Committee Meeting

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Panel 70 Area Committee,

Who thought it possible to be busier than ever while not going anywhere? Ha! These last many weeks have been full of learning, mistakes and new experiences. Here is what I have been up to since our Winter Committee Meeting in January:

I had a most fabulous experience with Area 17 in Hawaii at the end of January. I was able to participate with that crew of servants for their area inventory. It was a full two-day agenda on Oahu. I ate a lot. Laughed a lot. Learned a lot. And took in every bit of beauty and sunshine possible. I was so looking forward to seeing many people again in Detroit this summer – I got a gift of an Area 17 lanyard to wear while there. It was another example of the best of Area work in AA. They put me to work leading one of their breakout sessions and I learned a lot about the committee work they do. Two things stuck out to me about their reality as a collection of islands and culture - island to island outreach programs and service to the elderly. Most of their accessibilities work is geared toward the elderly population. They do things the same... and different. I was made to feel at home immediately. And, now I can attend meetings happening on Maui and see some familiar faces whenever I'm able! I enjoy staying in touch with Area 17 leadership and hope to have more to share from this connection.

The conference of Delegates Past and Present was another learning experience in February. It was my first time in attendance, and I enjoyed the weekend. It was a weekend designed for first year Delegates to get a feel for how things work at the General Service Conference. Zoom was not in the picture yet. As I consider my continued path in service to NIA 20, I am glad for the folks I met and the things I saw and heard.

As I was readying our final agenda for our Spring Assembly, the COVID-19 pandemic safety orders started coming down. This meant a rally of the troops for disaster recovery planning and communications. We had to make difficult and then not so difficult decisions about our Spring Assembly Conference, our Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, this meeting and those yet to come. We also had to make some financial calls to enable us to keep our service levels to our fellowship as high as possible. We leveraged the Zoom platform to help us navigate this new virtual AA experience. As our Treasurer can account for the dollars and cents, I'll share the high-level details: We purchased nine Zoom Pro subscriptions to help us complete the Pre-workshop and workshop events through March and April. We presently maintain just one of those Zoom Pro accounts for ongoing use. We also maintain an add-on that makes a way for more than 100 people to join an event. I use this account nearly weekly for Area meetings of all

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery

Report of the Area Chair

sorts and have found it incredibly useful for us to have at the ready to continue our business. I urge us to think about how we can leverage this tool across this committee. Let's start talking about how.

I have also been involved in the Illinois State Conference policy committee meetings. The IL state conference planning committee in Chicago will host a virtual online meeting for one day. The program committee has created a subcommittee and is currently planning out the schedule. Our next policy committee meeting is scheduled for June 3rd. As I learn more, I will certainly share.

There is a regular cadence of sharing sessions going on for Area Chairs across the US and Canada. It was developed to make a way for us to meet and share ideas on various topics. While I'm not able to attend all sessions, each call introduces me to more and more about how other areas do things and who our fellow servants are around the country. Talk about an experience you must not miss!

Our first larger virtual area event, the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop, was held on April 25th. I learned a lot there as well. Facilitating an online meeting is both enjoyable and challenging. Thank you all for your patience with me as I learn the new ropes and try new things. I cannot thank this committee enough for all the hard work and effort to inform our Delegate, to pull up quickly on meetings when needed, to treat each other with compassion and demonstrate a sincere desire to be helpful. How we do our work is just as important as the work we do.

Expenses to date: nothing to report here yet. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Area Registrar
PO Box 524
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524**

Northern Illinois Area 20

Unity - Service - Recovery

2020 Report from the Panel 70 NIA Registrar NIA Spring Committee Meeting – May 16, 2020

The General Service Office (GSO) Portal which is the database stores the information for all the registered groups and service positions for the districts and areas is still in the development stage. As registrar I am only allowed to access the limited information but cannot enter updates myself as the previous registrars could in Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database.

It appears that many of the updates submitted have not been completed. My last contact with Karen H., the Assistant Director of Administrative Services at the General Service Office (GSO) of A.A. confirmed this and provided answers to many questions. The response about the delay at that time was, “due to the change in the processes attached to this system the Records department is 2 months behind on processing (all of January and February and 6 days in March. Each file which we keep by date has an average of 100 pieces of work to be processed some files contain spreadsheets which can contain 25 to 50 requests. So, I cannot even fathom what the timeline will be for catching up.” This was prior to the Covid-19 pandemic entered the scene and the GSO closed the office and opened their virtual doors with everyone working from home. The GSO has a new NetSuite engagement team (process, programming and design) who are supposed to help with streamlining the processes so the records team can get back to processing work in the manner they always did.

The GSO only lists the positions that are provided on the Portal. They do not list area structure positions such as Alternate Literature chair, Alternate DCM. The only alternate position that they currently list is the alternate delegate. The GSO uses the main database as a mailing list and they do not mail to the positions that are not included in the service position list. They did advise me that when the new service position or group information is submitted to them, they send out the workbook or packet prior to entering the information in the Portal so hopefully that is not delayed. This is the clarification about the service committee positions that are recorded in the system:

Area	District
Accessibilities Comm. Area Chair	Accessibilities Comm. District Chair
Delegate	Alternate Delegate
Area Archivist	District Archivist
Area Archivist Chair	
Area Chair	
Area Secretary	
Area Recording Secretary	
Area Corresponding Secretary	
Area Registrar	NO ALTERNATES
Area treasurer	
BTG Area Chair	BTG District Chair
Corrections Area Chair	Correction District Chair
CPC Area Chair	CPC District Chair
DCM	NO ALTERNATES
GSRs	Alternate GSRs
DCMC	NO ALTERNATES
Grapevine Area Chair	Grapevine District Chair
H & I Area Chair	H & I District Chair
Area Literature Chair	District Literature Chair
Public Information Area Chair	Public Information District Chair
Treatment Area Chair	Treatment District Chair

So, to date, the registrar and alternate have requested the contact information and maintaining Excel spreadsheets to store it for reference from those who need it.

- We sent emails to every District Committee Member (DCM) to obtain current contact information for service positions.
 - We received responses from every district except the Spanish ones.
 - Some of the DCM's provided very limited information i.e. First names only and no addresses. THIS IS NECESSARY. If you have not provided that information please have someone in your district send that to us.
- We need someone who speaks Spanish to help us obtain the contact information contact for the Hispanic districts
- It would be helpful if the districts that are meeting via Zoom would send their meeting information to the secretary and registrar so that any of the officers or committee members could attend for support them.

Updated group change and new group forms are on the NIA Website. Please complete them and forward to us via email or mail. It is best if you could send the form as an attachment instead of a screen shot from your phone. They will be forwarded are listed in our Excel spreadsheet and then forwarded to GSO. maintained by Rob M., the Alternate Registrar and myself until a time when the data can be entered into the new GSO database. Until then we will not distribute lists of current position or group rosters, except the ones provided today of Area officers and service committees, until all the updates have been completed at GSO.

We will continue to record and maintain this information at the Area level for now but please be patient when information is needed. We will do our best within our means to be of service to the fellowship, but as of this date the training for new registrars has been pushed back from the planned January period. The January 6th communication we received from GSO stated:

“We have a small set back which requires additional programming. This of course changes our initial timeline for rolling the Portal out, however until we can have the updates the were requested added to the portal and we can test those updates we cannot provide a definitive date for training, however, it will be soon.”

A few details regarding the new system:

- The 6-digit service numbers issued to any entity prior to August 15th remains on the record and will be referred to as a “Legacy Service number”.
- All individuals in NetSuite (the new system) whether attached to a group, service position, sales order or contribution will be assigned a “Customer Number”.
- Unlike in FNV the service positions will no longer have a service number attached to that specific position. So, every time a new person is added to the position a new “Customer Number” will be assigned (to the person not the position).
- Both numbers, the “Customer Number” and the “Legacy Service number” can be used.
- There are some exceptions to the new rule of service numbers, and it is the existing service number will remain the same for the following positions:
 1. Area Delegates and past Delegates
 2. Trustees, Directors (AAWS/Grapevine) and past
 3. World Service Meeting delegates and Past
 4. Foreign International Contacts
- 1. All LIM members-Homers, Loners, Loner Sponsors, Internationalist, Port Contacts, Intergroups and Central Offices.

Please help us my maintaining a list of your updates and changes with the understanding that it will be awhile before they will be completed. ***All communication of changes and updates should be sent to the registrar@aa-nia.org mailbox or mailed to Area Registrar, PO Box 524, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0524 .***

Respectfully submitted,

Carol H., NIA Registrar – Panel 70
registrar@aa-nia.org

Rob M., NIA Alternate Registrar – Panel 70
Alt-registrar@aa-nia.org