

CONCEPTS

Volume XLV, No. 2

Northern Illinois Area, LTD. Area 20 Service Letter

Summer 2022

We Are All In The Same Boat!

I've always been amazed at how a group of generally opinionated drunks can achieve unity, and as our books says, "join in brotherly and harmonious action". To an outsider, it may seem that at times, AA functions and often survives despite itself. As we in AA know, however, our survival and function over the years is largely attributed to our observance and adherence of our 12 Traditions.

Of course, our practicing the Traditions isn't necessarily based on our virtue, rather, as our first Tradition implies, our very lives depend upon our fellowship's unity and our individual welfare comes second to what's best for the group. Our adherence to our 1st Tradition is essential for our individual sobriety as well as that of our fellowship.

The notion of unity and putting the welfare of others ahead of our own can certainly be a challenging ideal to live up to. In all aspects of society today we hear the cries of, and demands for, individual rights. Additionally, just about every societal topic of conversation seems to be potentially polarizing. While there has always been differing opinions and perspectives, that's not necessarily new, the level of empathy shown, and tolerance given, seems to be a bit compromised.

How then, can we as a fellowship avoid the pitfalls of divisive debate while doing our AA business or discussing matters that affect the group as a whole. In thinking from my own experience, I know that my own judgement and opinion suffers if I'm not able to somewhat identify with the other person. At the very least I need to first listen, and then try and find some common ground. I remember once watching a news report about a drunken driver that had killed another person in a blackout. My initial reaction watching that report was that "this person ought to be locked up for good"! Sometime after that news report I ended up sponsoring a man that had done the exact same thing. I remember being struck at how differently I viewed this person in AA as we began to talk and work the steps together. The fact is, I identified with this man as a fellow alcoholic, and I knew I was no better he was. He was simply another alcoholic asking for help and wanting to live sober like I was. We were essentially in AA for the same reason. We were passengers from the same shipwreck.

It would seem, by being able to identify with the other person, I'm no longer that unique and my own opinion seems

In this Issue

Feature: We Are All In The Same Boat	Pg. 1
Delegate's Corner	Pg. 2
Working With Others	Pg. 4
Accessibilities Committee Connection	Pg. 5
Walk Through The Big Book: More About Alcoholism	Pg. 8
Bridging The Gap	Pg. 10
2022 Events	Pg. 12

to take a backseat to our common welfare. It's not always that easy, but I need to remember that "we" stay sober, "I" don't stay sober by myself.

So, as we discuss, and even debate topics in our AA business meetings, let's remember that we are still all in the same boat. While we may not always share the same opinion or perspective, the debate itself should not, and can not divide us. We may make mistakes, and sometimes we may even change our minds, but let's remember that we are indeed, in this boat together.

In love and service,

Erik L. NIA 20 Alternate Delegate – Panel 72



Delegate's Corner



Fresh off my return from the 72nd General Service Conference I've had a couple weeks to "decompress" and reflect on my experience and while I'll be reporting later this year at Assemblies and other functions, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some insights. As I return from the conference, I'm reminded what an absolute honor and privilege it is to represent this Area as your Delegate and now am also aware that we (as a fellowship) have some of the most unbelievably passionate and intelligent people serving us, not only as Delegates, but up and down our entire service structure. I met Delegates and Trustees from the frozen tundra of Alaska and the upper Canadian provinces as well as representatives from Puerto Rico and South America and from all US Regions in-between. They say we are people who would not normally mix, but at the General Service Conference we all seemed to mix just fine!

Anyone who has ever been to a regional forum is aware of the preparation and forethought that goes into service themed events and believe me when I tell you, that preparation, dedication, and passion was on full display at the conference. We

heard board reports from Linda Chezem, the chairperson of the General Service Board, as well as A.A.W.S and Grapevine board reports from Jimmy D. and Josh E. All these reports were well thought out, informative, incredibly well written and in the case of the A.A.W.S. report was delivered with enthusiastic passion, intelligence, and grace. And when I say "grace", I mean I almost cried on more than one occasion when I heard how those entrusted to lead our fellowship endeavor to carry out those tasks. I was particularly struck when Jimmy D., Chair of the A.A.W.S.

Board while talking about contributions remarked "Oh no, another large contribution from an Area" ... He was speaking to the fact that due to the pandemic several Area treasuries (such as ours) had built up large reserves and were making substantial contributions to the General Service Board, substantial meaning more than \$20k. The point he was making was that circumstances being what they were (meaning Covid) had not allowed several Areas to effectively utilize their coffers to provide needed services to their Areas and so large contributions were being made to the Board. Don't get me wrong, the Board appreciates and needs all our contributions, but the contributions in \$100-\$500 range are where most of the money comes from, and those "large" contributions signaled a lost opportunity to him, and I was moved when he explained so.

And speaking of being moved, we heard reports from both Trustees' at Large, (US & Canada), who because of the pandemic and suspended international travel referred to themselves as Trustees at "Small". The work that goes on and is performed by these two women alone is amazing and I en-

courage everyone to read both of their reports when they are provided. Additionally, Trustee committee reports were provided for all the conference committees from Archives to Trustees and everything in-between, and it will be my intention to make all those available to you in advance of the final report. Again, I was amazed with the thought and detail that went into all the reports and presentations, and if I'm effective as your Delegate, you will be equally amazed! Our entire reporting structure is centered around communication, effective, transparent, and



informed communication, and in this Delegate's opinion was on full display at the conference.

In closing, there may be those who read this and ask, "Why does it matter", how does what happens at the Conference affect me, in my home Group". To that that I would say that it matters because I want you to know that your voice is "heard", through the conference process. The Delegates "listen" to the groups, then they go to the conference and "listen" to one another and then report back. Inevitably in the end, some opinions are not shared, and not everyone is always "pleased", but it matters because everyone has been "heard".

Chris D

Area 20 Delegate

Concepts is published four times a year in the Spring, Summer, Fall , and Winter just prior to the Area's Assemblies. It is posted on the Area Website in both English and Spanish. If you would like to receive a copy via email please send your request to the Concepts Editor by clicking this [link](#) or using the Contact Us page of the Area Website. Happy reading.



GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives.

We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God expressed in our group's conscience.

As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience.

As trusted servants, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.

Working With Others

Whenever the question of sponsorship is raised, I always refer individuals to the last two paragraphs of page 18 in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This passage, by far, has the best description of what to look for in a sponsor. It is also a great checklist for someone who is just starting to work with others. Even today, after a decade of sobriety, I continue to inventory myself to this passage, because like the authors say, "...these are the conditions we have found most effective."

"But the ex-problem drinker...has had the same difficulty, that he obviously knows what he is talking about..."



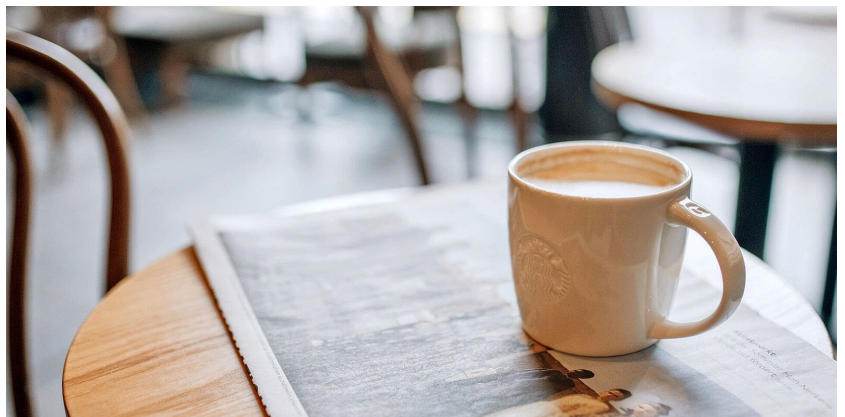
This is the foundation for working with others. When I first met with Mark after asking him to be my sponsor, I wasn't sure if I was a real alcoholic. What he did for me over the next few hours, was help me to fully concede to my innermost self that I was alcoholic. He didn't do this by giving me a quiz or a list of questions to help him give me a diagnosis. He talked to me about his drinking and let me draw my own conclusion. He shared with me experiences of how he couldn't control his liquor consumption once he started, and the peculiar mental twist that always proceeded him taking the first drink. This was stuff I never heard anyone share before, and for the first time in my life, I heard my story. He obviously knew what he is talking about!

"who has found this solution, who is properly armed with facts about himself...that his whole deportment shouts at the new prospect that he is a man with a real answer..."

During this meeting, I was shocked to hear he could have been this way. Mark was a very spiritual man, had a heart of gold, and would do anything to help his fellow man. Definitely not the characteristics I had been displaying over the past few years. If we were to have crossed paths out on the street, I wouldn't have guessed in a million years that he was alcoholic. He didn't have to tell me, just by watching him I knew he had a real answer, and I was dying for an answer.

"...that he has no attitude of Holier Than Thou, nothing whatever except the sincere desire to be helpful; that there are no fees to pay, no axes to grind, no people to please, no lectures to be endured..."

Mark never told me that I had to believe in his conception of God. He never told me that *Alcoholics Anonymous* was the only way I could achieve recovery. He never told me I needed to give him gas money if he was to take me to meeting. He never made me wash his car or cut his lawn because it would keep me sober. The only thing he told me was, if I wanted what he had and was willing to go to any to get it, here is what he did. That is what I did. I grabbed on for dear life, and we embarked on this journey



shoulder to shoulder.

“...these are the conditions we have found most effective.”

I have been the reformer, zealot, and even tried to be the newcomer's God. Guess what? It wasn't effective. Many of us get excited when we first strike gold. Like the gaunt prospector, I tried to keep the treasure to myself and flaunt my riches to the new man as a means of carrying this message. It was my way or the highway. Rather vain of us, wasn't it? It wasn't until I realized this gift will only pay dividends if I were to mine the rest of my life and humbly give away the entire supply.

Mark and many of my teachers have displayed the characteristics mentioned in this passage, and in keeping with their spirit, I will do my utmost to achieve this ideal.

Isidro (Sid) B.

DCM – NIA 20 Dist. 11

Accessibilities Committee Connection

“Get to a meeting!” we say. “Are you able to get to a meeting?” might be more appropriate, for many AA members. Staying connected is vital to our sobriety and happens in a variety of ways, as evidenced by the recent pandemic. For some AA members there are significant architectural and geographical barriers that must be addressed to insure full participation in A.A., such as

- a locked access door
- a blocked ramp
- parking problem, distance
- some may be wheelchair users
- others may use canes or walkers or have other mobility-related needs
- cultural differences
- remote geography

Personal physical and social concerns may include:

- illness
- being homebound
- living in retirement or skilled nursing facilities
- blindness
- deafness
- vision or hearing loss;
- learn, read, or process information differently
- language differences
- hard to understand literature
- childcare issues



Whatever the access barrier may be, the goal of our members and especially those who serve on Accessibilities Committees, is to find solutions to help ensure every alcoholic can participate in A.A. meetings, Twelfth Step work, and A.A. service (from the AA Accessibilities workbook 2/20).

In Northern Illinois Area 20, the most requested services are Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) translations at Area level meetings and conferences. At the group level, wheelchair and elevator assist have been requested as well as Braille literature. **What accessibilities requests have you handled?**

Over the last two pandemic years when physical meeting locations were unavailable beyond our control, online meetings surged. This led to the members, groups and districts immediate need to learn computer/phone technology to hold and attend meetings remotely. Technology subcommittees emerged. 24 hour international phone meetings began. Already established AA phone meetings quadrupled in size. AA members responded to the challenge and there are many inspirational stories on this topic in our Grapevine.

In an effort to assist the accessibilities committee members, the General Service Committee developed a checklist to assess meeting places ()

Many facilities already comply with the Federal American Disabilities Act regulations and may vary from state - to - state.

These are also on the AA website, aa.org with the ability to download and print. Take a look and see how accessible your meeting place and the entire facility is! We had a request to use the elevator in the church and it took us quite a while to find it in a closet we had never seen! An accessibility issue for our district became more apparent in the winter, with close parking spaces almost non-existent and visitors and members could not navigate the lengthy walk with snow and ice in the neighborhood. That led to changing the meeting space to a free standing church with its' own parking. How about a summer challenge? Take the accessibility checklist to your district meeting (myself included), share it by phone and/or paper and encourage others to take it to their meetings. Every district does not have an accessibility chair, so feel free to share any accessibility concerns or requests with your Area Accessibility Committee! Have a super, sober summer!

Susan H
NIA 20 Accessibility Chair

Service Material from the General Service Office

ACCESSIBILITIES CHECKLIST

FOR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

How accessible is your meeting? This is a guide to help reduce the physically-based access barriers that a person may encounter when attending meetings in your location.

Introduction

The meeting location should be physically accessible so that anyone may arrive on site, approach the building, and enter the meeting without barriers.

Following are some questions your group can answer to determine the overall accessibility of your meeting space.

PARKING:

Are an adequate number of accessible parking spaces available? (9 feet wide for car, plus 5-foot wide access aisle)

Are spaces close to accessible entrances?

Are spaces marked with identification signs?

Is the parking area or street clear of snow, ice, or other debris?

Is a path of travel by wheelchair accessible from the street or parking area?

Are the sidewalks even and in good repair? Are there curb cut-outs to facilitate access to the sidewalk?

ROUTE OF TRAVEL:

Is the meeting place accessible to public transportation?

Is there a clear route of travel that does not require the use of stairs?

Can any potential obstacles along pathways — including hanging objects — be detected by a person using a cane or other mobility device?

If the meeting is at night, is the pathway well lit?

ENTRANCE:

Does the entrance have steps, a threshold, or other physical barriers?

If so, is there a ramp, lift, or an alternate entrance that is accessible?

Is the ramp excessively steep? Does it have railings?

Is the lift in good working order? If the lift is operated by a key, does someone on location have possession of the key or know where the key is kept?

Is there signage indicating the location of the alternate accessible entrance?

Does the entrance door have adequate width (32") and clearance to accommodate a wheelchair?

Can the doors be opened by someone in a wheelchair, or would he or she need assistance?

INSIDE THE BUILDING:

Is there level access from the wheelchair accessible entrance to the meeting area?

If not, are there ramps to enable someone in a wheelchair to reach the meeting? (Lifting someone over steps or stairs is not an acceptable solution for access.)

If there is an elevator or a lift, is it in good working order? If the elevator or lift is operated by a key, does someone on location have possession of the key or know where the key is kept?

Are corridors and door widths (32") adequate for passage of a wheelchair?

Are corridors reasonably clear to allow safe passage for everyone?

RESTROOMS:

Is at least one fully accessible restroom available?

Are the stall doors operable?

Is there adequate space for a person in a wheelchair to maneuver within the stall?

(44" for forward movement and a five-foot diameter or T-shape of clear space to make turns.)

Are there grab bars on the walls behind and to the side nearest the toilet?

Can the faucet be operated without grasping, twisting, or turning?

THE MEETING ROOM:

Are chairs set up with adequate aisle space for a wheelchair?

Is the lighting adequate?

Is there a designated section for members who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing?

If so, is there adequate space for a sign language interpreter to sit with easy access to that group?

Is someone available to welcome people and orient them to the meeting space as needed.

Is the coffee service accessible to a person in a wheelchair or with another type of mobility device?

Is A.A. literature available that addresses the needs of individuals with diverse abilities?

Does the local intergroup/central office know that the meeting space is available to people with diverse accessibility needs?

Additional information about Accessibilities and setting up your meeting space may be available from your district or area Accessibilities Committee or your local intergroup/central office. You may also want to search the internet for a variety of Accessibilities Guides and information. In addition, the following accessibilities service materials are available on our A.A. website at www.aa.org.

A.A. Guidelines — Accessibility for All Alcoholics (MG-16)

A.A. Guidelines — Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic Who Is Deaf (MG-13)

Serving All Alcoholics (F-107)

Walk Through the Big Book

More About Alcoholism

Bill has given us the doctor's opinion, told his story, and given us a glimpse of the solution. Now, in typical Bill fashion, he is going to hit us again with this disease we have: alcoholism. The goal of the chapter is to ram home the idea that we suffer from a condition that we can not fix or cure. That we are completely helpless without outside help. However, "The idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker. The persistence of this illusion is astonishing. Many pursue it into the gates of insanity or death. "We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery."

Bill does not hold back. He is insistent on delivering the message that if we are truly an alcoholic, there is nothing we can do to change that fact. "The delusion that we are like other people, or presently may be, has to be smashed." Smashed, totally obliterated, completely removed from the possible. I don't know how he could have made it any clearer. We will NEVER be able to control our drinking. Once we put alcohol into our mouths – unpredictability. When we are able to stop – obsession to drink. There really is no maybe! "We are like men who have lost their legs; they never grow new ones."

So, point made, right? Well not really, after all we are alcoholics and never is a four letter word. "Despite all we can say, many who are real alcoholics are not going to believe they are in that class. By every form of self-deception and experimentation, they will try to prove themselves exceptions to the rule, therefore nonalcoholic."

Next, Bill gives an example of a man who tried to prove he was not alcoholic: He gives us the man who at thirty decided that in order to succeed in business he needed to quit drinking and was successful at that for twenty five years. "Then he fell victim to a belief which practically every alcoholic has – that his long period of sobriety and self-discipline had qualified him to drink as other men." "In two months he was in a hospital, puzzled and humiliated." After many more unsuccessful attempts to regulate or stop "he went to pieces quickly and was dead in four years."

"Most of us have believed that if we remained sober for a long stretch, we could thereafter drink normally." But: "We are convinced to a man that alcoholics of our type are in the grip of a progressive illness. Over any considerable period we get worse, never better." "... here is a man who at fifty five years found he was just where he had left off at thirty." "Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic." "If we are planning to stop drinking, there must be no reservation of any kind, nor any lurking notion that someday we will be immune to alcohol."



Simple solution, right? Well, not so fast: "this is the baffling feature of alcoholism as we know it – this utter inability to leave it alone, no matter how great the necessity or the wish." Therefore, the real problem lies in this inability to leave it alone or the obsession to drink despite our history of catastrophic results.

Bill goes into some examples of the obsession or the "mental states that precede a relapse into drinking, for obviously this is the crux of the problem." First of all, Jim, "... an intelligent man, normal so far as we can see, ... " "He made a beginning. His family was re-assembled, and he began to work as a salesman ... " "All went well for a time, but he failed to enlarge his spiritual life. To his consternation, he found himself drunk half a dozen times in rapid succession." " He agreed he was a real alcoholic and in a serious condition." After the last drunk he was asked what happened: that is when he told the story of going for a ride in the country and stopping at a road side "place where they have a bar." In order to get a sandwich. He reported that *"Suddenly the thought crossed my mind that if I were to put an ounce of whiskey in my mild it couldn't hurt me on a full stomach."* And off he was with another trip to the asylum (treatment center). "We have sometimes reflected more than Jim did upon the consequences. But there was always the curious mental phenomenon that parallel with our sound reasoning there inevitably ran some insanely trivial excuse for taking the first drink. Our sound reasoning failed to hold us in check. The insane idea won out. Next day we would ask ourselves, in all earnestness and sincerity, how it could have happened."

Next Bill gives a hypothetical example of a person who like to jaywalk. Despite multiple accidents due to his jaywalking he keeps doing it up until he can't work, his wife divorces him, and everyone makes fun of him. "You may think our illustration is too ridiculous. But is it? We, who have been through the wringer, have to admit if we substituted alcoholism for jay-walking, the illustration would fit us exactly. However intelligent we may have been in other respects, where alcohol has been involved, we have been strangely insane. It's strong language—but isn't it true?"

Next comes Fred, a partner in an accounting firm "To all appearance he is a stable, well balanced individual. Yet, he is alcoholic."

After a few days in the hospital to recover from the “jitters” he decided that he wouldn’t drink anymore. “It never occurred to him that perhaps he could not do so, in spite of his character and standing. Fred would not believe himself an alcoholic, much less accept a spiritual remedy for his problem. We told him what we knew about alcoholism. He was interested and conceded that he had some of the symptoms, but he was a long way from admitting that he could do nothing about it himself. He was positive that this humiliating experience, plus the knowledge he had acquired, would keep him sober the rest of his life. Self-knowledge would fix it.” In Fred’s words, what happened was: “I went to my hotel and leisurely dressed for dinner. *As I crossed the threshold of the dining room, the thought came to mind that it would be nice to have a couple of cocktails with dinner. That was all. Nothing more.* I ordered a cocktail and my meal. Then I ordered another cocktail. After dinner I decided to take a walk. When I returned to the hotel it struck me a highball would be fine before going to bed, so I stepped into the bar and had one.” After several days, Fred wound up in a hospital. “As soon as I regained my ability to think, I went carefully over that evening . . .” “Not only had I been off guard, I had made no fight whatever against the first drink. This time I had not thought of the consequences at all.”

These examples explain the mental obsession that is so prevalent that it goes against reason, common sense, and any logic whatsoever. From my own experience, there is only the “how did that happen” after the fact.

The fact is, if the person is a real alcoholic, there is no hope of not drinking unless there is an outside force brought to bear. “Once more: The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink. Except in a few rare cases, neither he nor any other human being can provide such a defense. His defense must come from a **Higher Power.**”





Hello from NIA 20 Bridging The Gap.

I have updated the volunteer list and have gotten some feedback on what next. Many districts are still recovering from the effects of covid shutdowns. I have received a few requests from people relocating and connected them to AA volunteers. They are grateful and the volunteers were grateful to be of service.

As we move forward, I suggest reaching out to facilities in your district to see how we can be of service to them. Providing BTG forms, literature, meeting schedules, info on the various websites (meeting guide app) are some ways to reach out. Getting back in person may be happening but until then connecting with program directors and letting them know we are here and willing to help may be our best option.

Please let me know if you have any questions and how I can be of service.

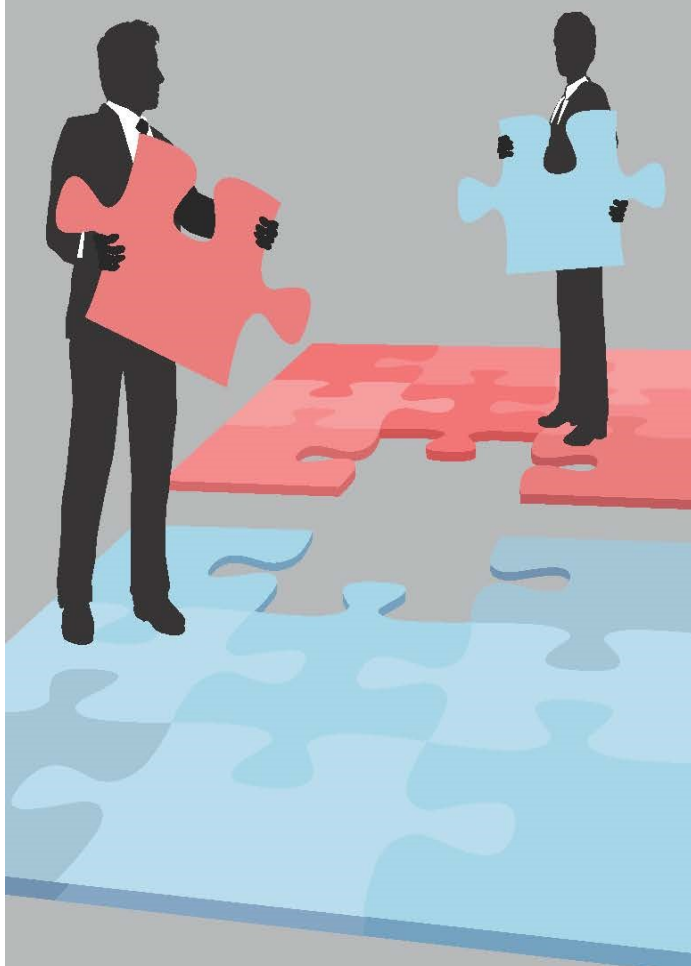
Yours in Service,

Karen F

NIA20BTG.org

Bridging the GAP

Between
treatment and A.A.
through
contact programs



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.



Is A.A. For You

Only you can decide whether you want to give Alcoholics Anonymous a try—whether you think it can help you. We who are in A.A. came because we finally gave up trying to control our drinking. We still hated to admit that we could never drink safely. Then we heard from other A.A. members that we were sick. (We thought so for years!) We found out that many people suffered from the same feelings of guilt and loneliness and hopelessness that we did. We found out that we had these feelings because we had the disease of alcoholism. We decided to try to face up to what alcohol had done to us. There are some of questions we tried to answer *honestly* (www.aa.org, search “Is A.A. for you”). If we answered YES to four or more questions, we were in deep trouble with our drinking. See how you do. Remember, there is no disgrace in facing up to the fact that you have a problem.

What is NIA?

The principal function of Northern Illinois service Area 20 is to be a forum for effective communication between the Groups and the General Service Conference through its Delegate. In addition to counseling its Delegate about the collective Group Conscience of the Fellowship in Northern Illinois, NIA will assist its Districts, Groups and members to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers in a broad variety of ways, including but not restricted to conducting workshops, sharing sessions and seminars in all fields of general service.

NIA Statement on Self-Support

Our Seventh Tradition states that “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Northern Illinois Area 20 wants our fellowship to endure, and be ready for the still-suffering alcoholic to come. NIA makes this possible by taking care of its essential services such as website. The groups and districts in Area 20 fund this website thru their continued contributions and support. For additional information see the A.A. pamphlet regarding self-support.

NIA Statement on Singleness of Purpose

Our Third and Fifth Traditions state that “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.” “Each Group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And as a Fellowship we do one thing only: “- share our program of recovery.”

Hello NIA!

The National Corrections Conference is coming in November! Area 20, along with Areas 19 and 21 will be hosting the 5th Annual National Corrections at the Schaumburg Hyatt Regency from November 11th to 13th this year.

We exist to shine a light on corrections work in Alcoholics Anonymous. We have speakers and panels that give information on the work within the walls of correctional institutions, at the county and state level. We have professionals within corrections, those of us who have done AA work within the system, and those who have gotten sober through AA being brought into their facilities.

If you are at all curious about that work or have the idea that it would be something you would like to do, this conference will light that fire. I think I can speak for many, including myself, when I say that of all the work, I have done in Alcoholics Anonymous, corrections work was the most rewarding.

We will need help with greeters, with sitting the registration table, and with hospitality. The website to register; <https://www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org/>

We are still working on having a Zoom portion of the conference but keep your eye on the site for Zoom registration.

In Service, Dawn B.



National A.A. Technology Workshop 2022

Moving Forward
Together



September 9th - 11th, 2022

Seattle (Tukwila), WA and online

In-Person Location:

Hotel Interurban

223 Andover Park East, Tukwila, WA 98188

Room Rate: Two Queens \$139/night - One King \$129/night

Use Group Code **NAATW** when booking

Registration:

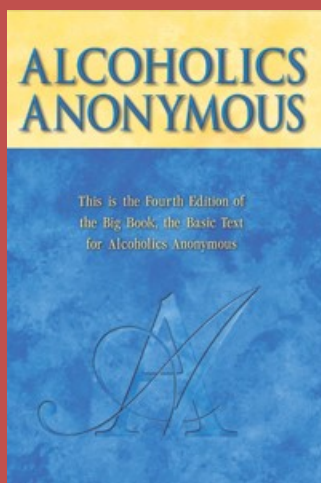
In-Person - \$75; Online - \$25

Onsite meal options available as add-on options. Friday buffet and Saturday box lunch

For more info and to register visit **NAATW.org**

Also available via Zoom

<https://naatw.org/2022-naatw-workshop/>



2022 Big Book Conference

SAVE *the* **DATE**

10 . 29 . 22

**PARKVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
GLEN ELLYN**

More details to follow!

For information or to volunteer, contact
bbc2022niachair@gmail.com



2022 Events

July 13th - NIA20 GSR Meeting via Zoom - [More Information Link](#)

August 6th - Summer Committee Meeting via Zoom - Check aa-nia.org for details.

August 12th - 14th 49th Annual Illinois State Conference with East Central Regional Conference, Sheraton Lisle Naperville Hotel - [Registration Link](#)

September 10 - Fall Assembly

September 22nd - 25th National A.A. Archives Workshop - [Flyer Link](#)

These are only a few of the upcoming events. There are more workshops, studies, and meetings taking place listed on the Area website. See the [Area Calendar](#) for details on all events both local and beyond.

Please Note: At this time, all events are subject to be cancelled, postponed, or attended through a virtual format such as Zoom, Skype, etc.

Concepts is published quarterly by the Northern Illinois Area of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is intended as a form of communication between Northern IL Area, Districts, and GSRs. Subscription is free but generally limited to A.A. members within the NIA geographical area. All publication costs are paid by A.A. members through their contributions to NIA. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the thinking of Alcoholics Anonymous, NIA or the Editor. Comments, suggestions, subscription requests, and experience, strength and hope, should be directed to the editor: Concepts@aa-nia.org. All A.A. members are encouraged to see Concepts on-line at: <http://www.aa-nia.org>. "CONCEPTS" is a confidential document. It should only be used and distributed within the Fellowship.

Submissions for the next edition must be in by August 15th 2022

