

Northern Illinois Area 20

Summer Assembly Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2023

In Person and Online/Video

Meeting Opening

The Northern Illinois Area 20 Chair called the meeting to order at 9am. The group participated in a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rob welcomed attendees and Dave T made the meeting announcements.

First Time Attendees

Dennis S Three Legacies Group

Terry D Alt Chair Accessibilities Chair D70

Anniversaries Since Last Assembly

Chris E. 4 years

Jeff L. 24 years

Jeff G. 40 years

Chris R. 33 years

Karen D. 44 years

Steve O. 5 years

Raul 6 years

Jim 40 years

Rob 35 years

DUE TO AUDIO ISSUES THE FIRST TIME ATTENDEES AND THE ANNIVERSARY LIST IS INCOMPLETE.

Approval of 2023 Spring Assembly Meeting Minutes

Cheryl V made the motion for approval, Sid, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Allen J.

Attached is of the usual Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statements from QuickBooks, and the 2023 PPR. Below is a brief summary of the main accounts.

Account	2023 Amount	2023 Amount
Checking		\$ 45,329.03
Green Can (restricted)	\$ 1,339.62	
Pink Can (restricted)	\$ 4,119.92	
Total restricted		\$ 5,459.54
Net Checking		\$ 50,788.57
Prudent Reserve	(0.3 X \$70,565.00) + interest	\$ 21,169.22
Total		\$ 71,957.79
	Sum Contribution	\$ 29,818.76
Interest		
Net Income (YTD)	Sum Income	\$ 29,818.76
Net Expenses (YTD)	Sum Expenses (per PPR)	\$ 25,492.27
Net (YTD)		\$ 4,326.49

Notes:

- The contribution spreadsheet has been updated to use the 9-digit “Fellowship Connect” ID. The thank you letters will include both the FC ID# and the older 6-digit FNV #. However, the contributions report will only have the FC ID#. I also found out that districts have FC ID# so the contributions report and thank you letters will have those numbers.
- The \$3,000 ISC seed money was forwarded to Area 19 and the \$3,000 ECRC seed money was forwarded to the Area 22 in December last year. We have received checks from 5 areas and 2 areas did PayPal contributions. A total of \$1,561.95 was deposited from six of areas. One check was returned (bounced) due to the account being closed, our area chair said he would contact that area about this.
- We did make a \$10,000.00 contribution to the 2023 GSC (73rd). The breakdown is \$1,800 (GSC) + \$8,200 (extra GSC). With \$7,400 of the extra GSC was to make up for not fully funding our Delegate in 2022.
- It has come to my attention that NIA has no definition or guidelines for the “Green Can Fund”. I have ask our area chair to appoint an ad-hoc committee that would do this hopefully by the 2023 fall assembly.
- Please turn in your reimbursement requests in a timely fashion. Thank you who do turn in your request right away.

Miscellaneous

- I have updated the Reimbursement Form to reflect the mileage increase from 40¢/mile to 65.5¢/mile (2023_Reimbursement_Form_Panel_72).
- If you are making a PayPal contributions please clarify if this is a Personal, Group, District, Pink Can, or Green Can contribution in the “**memo area**”. If the contribution is from a group, please clarify group number or group name and location in the “**memo area**” so that we may credit the correct group. You can also follow up with an email to treasurer@aa-nia.org if you missed putting in the group information. I have been reaching out via email to make sure the correct entity gets credit for the contribution.
- Clubs, please remember we cannot accept contributions from you. We **WILL** accept contributions from groups meeting at your clubs.
- The Crystal Lake P.O. Box has been closed with the Streamwood P.O. Box as the forwarding address.
- 7TH tradition contributions forms can be found on the NIA website (www.aa-nia.org). It’s on the home page or on the “**Forms for Group Use**” page. Please note that there is no check boxes on this form for “Pink Can” or “Green Can” contributions so you must identify them as such.

DUE TO AUDIO ISSUES, THE QUESTION PORTION COULD NOT BE HEARD ON THE RECORDING.

Alt Treasurer – Jeff L

DUE TO AUDIO ISSUES, JEFF’S REPORT COULD NOT BE HEARD ON THE RECORDING.

The NIA Contributions List will be available on the website soon.

Delegates Report

[link for the slide deck](#)

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE The following recommendations were approved by the 73rd General Service Conference: Floor Actions It was recommended that:

- In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.
- The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement. (Motion passed to recommit to Trustees’ ICRF Committee) Agenda It was recommended that:
 - The following theme for the 2024 General Service Conference be: “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.”
 - The committee recommended the following presentation theme and topics for the 2024 General Service Conference: o Presentation Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give” o Presentation Topics: 1. “Safety Throughout the Structure in our Fellowship” 2. “1728 Sponsorship” 3. “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation”
 - The workshop topic for the 2024 General Service Conference be: “Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.”
 - The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. Archives No recommendations. Cooperation with the Professional Community It was recommended that:
 - The pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes. Corrections It was recommended that:
 - The committee recommended that item #5 in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads: “To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year,” be revised, to read: “To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.”
 - The following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12 between the sections titled “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service” and “The following-through – released A.A. persons in custody”: Sponsorship Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee. Finance It was recommended that:
 - The materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision.

73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS AGENDA

- The committee discussed the composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and suggested that the composition be similar to the makeup of the General Service Conference: delegates, trustees, non-trustee directors, and staff members from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee discussed the current use of virtual meeting technologies and electronic surveys and noted that the GSB Quarterly report could help communicate updates about the development of a Conference Inventory Plan. The committee suggested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the use of modern communication technologies that could advance the development of the Conference Inventory plan.

- The committee reviewed the questions and framework of the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory Plan noting that it received extensive time and preparation. The committee also noted that the 2013-2015

Conference Inventory did not produce a report on procedural flaws. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the same framework in the development of a 2025 Conference Inventory plan.

- The committee discussed the role of non-voting A.A. consultants on trustees' committees, noting that they could be invited to participate on trustees' committees on a voluntary non-compensatory basis, when expertise is needed. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the use of a consultant with relevant experience in planning the 2025 Conference Inventory.

- The committee reviewed the 2023 General Service Conference (GSC) evaluations and noted improvements implemented at the 73rd GSC.

- The committee reviewed the 2023 progress report on Conference Improvements from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee. The committee appreciated the suggestions for improvement provided and suggested the exploration of available translation technology to support participation at the Conference in English, French and Spanish.

- The committee reviewed the positive feedback from delegate committee chairs on their quarterly communications with their corresponding trustees' committee chairpersons. The committee encouraged continuation of this practice to support communication within the Conference process.

ARCHIVES

- The committee reviewed the newly revised Archives Workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by previous Conference Committees on Archives and other updates implemented by GSO Archives staff.

- The committee discussed the section "Sharing on Digital Archives" in the Archives Workbook that includes shared experiences from local Archives committees on maintaining digital collections. The committee noted that the section was last updated over eight years ago and contains outdated information. The committee suggested that the section "Sharing on Digital Archives" be refreshed with new stories from local archivists.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet "A Member's Eye View" and took no action. The committee agreed that some members consider the pamphlet a useful tool for carrying the A.A. message. However, the committee expressed support for removing the pamphlet from Cooperation with the Professional Community materials as it may appear outdated and less effective for providing information about A.A. to the professional community.

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the LinkedIn page and received a verbal update from the Communication Services Department. The committee noted the improvement in the consistent cadence of posting and expressed their appreciation for the strategic planning and thoughtfulness which goes into posting to the LinkedIn page. The committee commended the sustained activity and strategy, mindful of A.A. Tradition, to ensure consistency and the best possible results with a continued focus on content for the professional community. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report submitted to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

- The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward-facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation for the work completed to date. The committee supports the continued efforts to interview additional mental health professionals with a focus on professionals who are not A.A. members.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee suggested a theme and direction to move forward, and that interviews seek to identify the myths and misconceptions that could prevent a clear understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous. Additionally, the committee suggested the trustees' CPC/TA Committee consider other vehicles of communication beyond a pamphlet to make the message more relevant for current mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- The committee reviewed the content and format of the CPC Kit and Workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. The committee provided several minor suggestions for updates to be included in the next printing.

CORRECTIONS

- The committee suggested that the assignment of new delegates to the Conference Committee on Corrections be balanced to allow for a more even rotation of panels.
- The committee suggested that AA Grapevine consider including shared experience on sponsoring persons in custody in the July prison issue and future issues.
- The committee agreed to forward to the trustees' Committee on Literature a suggestion to consider inclusion of language related to sponsorship of persons in custody in the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook. The committee noted that extensive changes were made to the workbook over the last two years. The committee provided a brief list of suggested changes to be considered at the next reprint.
- The committee acknowledged the work completed by the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Service Material ad hoc committee and expressed support for the recommendations put forth by the committee. Note: As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.
- The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" and concluded that the service piece is a necessary and useful tool for A.A. groups. The committee suggested revisions to be considered for inclusion in the next printing of the service piece.

FINANCE

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual Bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and took no action. The committee feels the level was doubled in 2019 and is still appropriate as is. The committee also felt that the current limit captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles, reminding members that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and took no action. The committee felt that the current limit was satisfactory and captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding members that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and approved the changes requested by the 2022 Conference Committee on Finance. The committee also noted that the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" will be updated to clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that the General Service Office performs contribution processing.
- The committee discussed the change of the Grapevine Subscription Liability in the Reserve Fund. The committee requests that the Finance Department clearly identify in all reporting to the Fellowship the portion of the Reserve Fund that is represented by the Grapevine Subscription Liability along with an explanation of the breakdown.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee requests that to better align with the duties described in the Service Manual for the Conference Finance Committee, committee members receive the monthly AAWS/GSB consolidated financial statements along with an executive summary from the Chief Financial Officer. Note: As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Finance.
- The committee considered a request to discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The committee suggested that the Trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Finance. (Mindful of budgetary restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.) Questions to be considered might include:
 - o Should the suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process. o Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for text being updated or should founder's writings remain unchanged?
 - o Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?
 - o Should the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by 2021 General Service Conference remain?
 - o Should a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writing be created as a guide to future changes?

GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA

- The committee reviewed the AA Grapevine Workbook and provided some editorial suggestions and ways to access the workbook more easily.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts and provided some suggestions.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2024 or later: 1. Grapevine Cartoons & Jokes III (working title) (GV book) Original members' cartoons, jokes, and humor of the past few years, previously published in Grapevine. 2. Emotional Sobriety III (working title) (GV book) Members share how they have changed after years of being in the A.A. program and how they have found peace and serenity in sobriety. Stories previously published in Grapevine. 3. Veteranos Hispanos en AA (Voices of Oldtimers) (working title) (La Viña book) Members who have been in A.A. a long time share their experience, strength, and hope. Stories previously published in La Viña. 4. Cómo Llegamos a creer (How We Came to Believe) (working title) (La Viña book) A.A. members share stories about their own personal journey with Step Two, how they found their Higher Power and what helped them. Stories previously published in La Viña. 5. Spiritual Awakenings (La Viña book) (GV book translated into Spanish) A.A. members share stories about their journey with Step Two and connecting with a Higher Power.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

- The committee discussed the update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, which summarized the survey data indicating that there was not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice. The consensus of the committee was to keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, or the Responsibility Statement.
- The committee discussed ways of encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums and attracting first time attendees and suggested:
 - o That the General Service Board add virtual elements to Regional Forums, or even add a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar.
 - o Disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in Grapevine and La Viña, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and Box 4-5-9 articles.

LITERATURE

- The committee reviewed minor graphic and editorial updates that improve the final appearance and clarity of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." which was approved by the 2022 General Service Conference.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee reviewed a draft of the Literature Committee workbook. The committee made minor editorial suggestions and looks forward to the new Literature Committee workbook being made available.
- The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies and requested that the material gathered for the draft pamphlet be made available to the Fellowship as service material, not a pamphlet. The committee suggested that the service material be included in the General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM) service kits.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language and agreed with the general direction of the project. The committee requested that the project continue to move forward and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic." The committee noted the progress made on the development of the pamphlet and requested that a draft or a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
 - o The committee noted with appreciation the efforts made by the trustees' Literature committee to ensure that the members of the working group that participated on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic" represented the community reflected in the pamphlet. The committee suggested that the 2018 report "Reaching Out to African American Alcoholics" be provided as a possible resource for future projects involving carrying the message to other communities.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos (Spanish). The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American." The committee discussed efforts to distribute the call for stories to the widest possible native North American population in the U.S. and Canada. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
 - o The committee noted with appreciation the efforts made by the trustees' Literature committee to ensure that the members of the working group that participated on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" represented the community reflected in the pamphlet.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special session during the 2023 General Service Conference.
- The committee discussed an update on the adaptation of the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The committee acknowledged that the project of adapting the video for use in the U.S./Canada structure is pending for budgetary reasons. The committee looks forward to a report on the status of this project being brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a proposal for Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides and took no action. The committee suggested that currently approved projects be completed before considering new materials.
- The committee reviewed the 2023 matrix of A.A. recovery literature. The committee agreed to continue providing suggestions regarding the usefulness and purpose of the A.A. recovery literature. The committee looks forward to reviewing the matrix at their meeting during the 2024 General Service Conference.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee reviewed a draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and chose not to proceed with the graphic approach. The committee requested that the Publishing Department develop a new draft and that a progress report or a draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2027 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select three proposed dates for the 77th General Service Conference, as follows (in order of preference): May 2-8, 2027; April 11-17, 2027; May 23-29, 2027. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices available for avoiding conflicts with significant holidays. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 77th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by GSO management.
- The committee reviewed the GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee appreciated the detailed analysis of the costs and logistics of holding the Conference at sample facilities in four of the eight regions. The committee is not requesting a site selection report from the General Manager in 2024, recognizing that contracts have been executed with hotels in the New York area for 2024, 2025, and 2026, and that site selection for the 2027 General Service Conference could be impacted by the results of the Location Plus Committee and possible relocation of the General Service Office. The committee is requesting that the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee conduct a survey of current General Service Conference members regarding the spiritual implications of holding the Conference outside the New York area. An additional option to explore in the survey could be alternating between holding the Conference in the New York area and the Akron/Cleveland area. The committee looks forward to reviewing the survey results or a progress report at the 74th General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the “Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure” and expressed appreciation for the report, particularly the results of the survey to delegates. The committee agreed that an important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The committee looks forward to the next iteration of the ad hoc committee and the continued exploration of the possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada general service structure.
- The committee reviewed the progress report from the 2023 Subcommittee on the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) regarding year two of the three-year pilot. The committee appreciated the improvements made to the joint meetings and the simplification of forms and processes. The committee requested that the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee (TGSCC) explore all possibilities for extending the deadline for submitting Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) to allow areas more time to consider items at their Fall assemblies. The committee also requested that TGSCC conduct a survey of delegates to find out the effect EDW has had upon their areas, especially related to the submission deadline and the engagement of members and groups in the group conscience process. Finally, the committee requested that TGSCC consider creating a simple video or other communication that would reinforce the idea that PAIs can be submitted year-round, as well as help the Fellowship better understand the role of PAIs as a document to reflect the outcome of a group conscience rather than a petition or suggestion box.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- The committee discussed a request for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged Communication Services to continue with planning for the account. The committee suggested that Communication Services provide additional information on the intended messaging, target audiences, analytics, and total cost to maintain the account. The committee requested that a new proposed plan be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the proposed plan: o Posting Daily Reflections, “What’s New” from GSO, and press releases, are duplicative to what we share on our A.A. website and Meeting Guide app news. The committee requested a detailed strategy on the target audiences for internal versus external messaging to be communicated within a potential future Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account. o Including more

Delegates Report Continued:

information in the proposed plan, specifying how distinct messaging and target audience of a potential Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account differs from the existing AA Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts. o Providing information on the total expense including the staff expense for managing the account. o Including a section defining the key performance indicators that will indicate the channel is successful in carrying the message to members and potential members. o Capturing the need for a social media management platform, like Hootsuite, in the proposed plan. o Performing ongoing evaluations of our communications channels to meet members and alcoholics on the platforms they utilize. o Developing a policy with defined criteria that would allow AAWS to explore and implement new external platforms as technology changes.

- The committee discussed feasibility research of paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms. The committee noted that paid placement is an important new addition for airing and tracking our already produced, relevant and useful PSAs on streaming platforms. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider several vendors and develop a plan detailing target audiences, analytics, and cost for how we would begin to use such streaming platform channels in the U.S./Canada Service Structure and that a report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed the report on the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process and offered the following suggestions for improvement for future surveys. o Provide the survey method process, including the timeframes and actions that delegates will need to perform, to the Conference Committee on Public Information each year that a triennial membership survey is requested to be considered. o Encourage all the delegates who participated in this 2022 A.A. Membership Survey to complete the process evaluation to inform process improvements as needed. o Design a pilot study to complete two surveys using convenience sampling, which focuses on gaining information from participants (the sample) who are "convenient" to access. These samples could be collected using the A.A. website, and the A.A. Meeting Guide App, and the same questions as the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey. The goal is to examine any potential differences in data patterns across the three different collection methodologies, the traditional A.A. survey process and the two channels listed above. Ideally, collection of this type of data would follow the collection of the traditional A.A. membership survey data within 1-2 years from 2022, so that no portion becomes dated. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee design a pilot study and that it be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed the report titled, "The 2022 A.A. Membership Survey Results Reporting" and agreed with the development of a dynamic A.A. web page to disseminate the complete results of the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey. The committee appreciates that each infographic developed to reflect the survey results is designed to be a part of a library of results and will be made available for use by A.A. members, the professional community, and the media. The committee liked the concept that local A.A. members and service committees will be able to share direct experience with GSO regarding how they are using these tools, via the A.A. web page "how are you using this information?"
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the 2022 Young People's Video project. The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture of the ongoing project to obtain user generated content. The committee reviewed two submitted videos and is requesting that the trustees' Public Information Committee review the project's process, A.A. website webpages, project flyers and the technical requirements to ensure that we are communicating appropriate information to obtain the desired user generated content. The committee offered the following suggestions to consider and requested a progress report to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. o Expand the submission timeframe to include fifteen second minimum up to three minute maximum for videos submitted by members. o Clarify that we are seeking user generated content video submissions from young members creatively carrying a message to other young people. Focus is requested to be on the experience of getting sober young and to reflect the diversity of the Fellowship. The committee is seeking shared experiences that will relate to the "young" alcoholic who has yet to come to A.A. o Review of the two submissions to determine if we can make additional edits to tighten the message in the framework of what it was like, what happened and what it is like now focusing on the key messages that have an impact and identification.
 - o Provide communication to all delegates with the goal of producing excitement and engagement for the Young People's Video project for the members in their local areas.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed continued support for the vision and architecture of this version of the CMP. The committee shared that the plan provides a great framework and guardrails that capture the public information work, messaging and channels GSO and AA Grapevine are using to make the Fellowship, general public, media, and professionals aware of the relevance of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the CMP to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. o Consider the creation of a section on how projects requesting user generated content, such as the Young People’s Video Project, fit into our Comprehensive Media Plan and messaging for Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on developing and administering a survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population with the goal of obtaining results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the flyer “A.A. at a Glance” and looks forward to a progress report or draft flyer to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” and looks forward to a progress report or draft pamphlet to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the flyer “A Message to Teenagers.” The committee provided support for the fact that there is a need for a flyer or format that can be handed off to professionals or young people in hard copy and would like it to include a QR code, if possible. The committee looks forward to a progress report or draft work to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the final distribution and tracking information for the video PSAs: 1. Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall 2. Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party. The final one-year campaign results for the U.S. were 125,192 airings, 615,956,841 impressions and \$34,506,580 in media value. The final Canadian results for the campaign were 11,485 airings. The committee noted these results are an excellent return for the self-support contributions spent to produce these two PSAs. The committee requested a “call to action” be provided to all delegates with the goal of producing excitement and engagement for how the local public information service committees can increase the airings and ongoing usage of our relevant PSAs.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2024 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.” Discussion included that PSAs are conversation starters about A.A. or how to get help for a problem with alcohol for people who view them. The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful. The committee is excited to learn we are finalizing a one-year contract with a no cost channel called Mesmerize Point, to distribute PSAs on digital TV screens in doctor offices, private pharmacies, and community-based organizations with our relevant messaging made available to viewers. The committee looks forward to a Mesmerize Point progress report being brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee did not see the need at this time for a new video PSA.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report for the GSO podcast development. The committee noted the planning, development, and production of episodes on many service-related discussion topics. The committee reiterated that the planned topic focus will help avoid competing with the Grapevine Podcast. The committee appreciated that the plan is to produce up to eight episodes to introduce a recognizable, consistent, and enthusiastic voice for the GSO podcast. The committee agreed, before the launch, it is important to “bank” these initial episodes for the initial rollout to ensure a regular cadence. The committee noted it would be good to use relevant archival recordings in the podcast, as applicable to an episode. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees' PI Committee report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the AAWS YouTube account. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
 - o The committee noted that stagnant growth of the channel and requested the trustees' PI Committee to consider ways to encourage members to use the channel as a public information tool.
 - o The committee requested consideration of the use of hashtags for the channel.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the Communications Services report on the AAWS Meeting Guide. The committee looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee suggested that the Meeting Guide keep its focus on providing information on locating A.A. meetings.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org. The committee finds the website is easy to navigate and user-friendly. The committee suggested that GSO continue to improve its website search functionality.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees' Public Information Committee report on Online Business Profiles. The committee suggested care be taken to ensure the GSO response messages avoid sounding canned. The committee looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 annual report "AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast" regarding aagrapevine.org. The committee noted that the current host style and delivery could limit attraction to the podcast by all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the fully intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging.
- The committee discussed the content and format of the PI Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the contents of the kit are useful to local Public Information Committees. The committee provided the staff secretary with suggested updates to the PI Workbook.

REPORT AND CHARTER

- The committee noted that some sections of The A.A. Service Manual need more detailed review of language clarity by the General Service Board and affiliate boards before being revised. The committee asked that the Publishing Department "short order" supply of the current A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition to ensure sufficient inventory until a proposed 2024 printing.
- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the proposed A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition and the 2023 General Service Conference Final Report.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for The A.A. Service Manual and accepted the updates. In keeping with the 2018 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the AAWS Board and the AA Grapevine Board bi-annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the current updates from the AAWS Board and the AA Grapevine Board. The committee noted the importance that the Conference Committee on Report and Charter receive any proposed edits in a timely window prior to Conference to give thoughtful review of any proposed edits. The committee provided suggestions regarding The A.A. Service Manual to be forwarded to the three boards, GSO, and the Grapevine Office.
- The committee considered a request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of The A.A. Service Manual and suggested that the requests be considered in the 2024 review of the updated manual.
- The committee considered a request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action regarding a footnote in the Resolution concerning "register" and "Groups" and took no action. The committee noted that the footnote sufficiently clarifies the current terminology for groups that list with the U.S./Canada service structure. ➤ Add the following text from footnote 4 in The Resolution: "A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications" to the A.A. Group chapter of The A.A. Service Manual.

Delegates Report Continued:

- That GSO provide clear and consistent language disclaimers on GSO digital platforms and informational materials to clarify that the purpose of listing groups at GSO is distinct from listing meetings on the Meeting Guide App. However, the committee suggested the following:
 - o The committee discussed the 2021 Advisory Action that a new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments,” and that it contains an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees. The committee reviewed draft language provided by the Publishing Department and provided suggestions to the staff secretary. The committee requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee provide an updated draft or progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee reviewed a GSO Publishing feasibility report for an ASL translation of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service. The committee noted the importance that A.A. materials be translated in the order of the most widely expressed needs of the Fellowship. The committee asked that the staff secretary forward notes from the committee to the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee to continue discussion on this important topic, to gain insight from members of which ASL materials are most in need for members and potential members.

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

- The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.’s services and structure and suggested that the trustees’ CPC/TA Committee take an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship.
- The committee discussed carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities, and suggested that:
 - o The trustees’ CPC/TA Committee review accessibility-related service material and consider updating it with new shared experience on this topic.
 - o The AA Grapevine consider publishing an issue dedicated to the experiences of people with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities and those who sponsor them.
 - The trustees’ Literature Committee consider revising the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.
- The committee discussed the progress report on a proposed Bridging the Gap workbook. The committee noted that information on Bridging the Gap and other contact programs already exists in the Treatment and Corrections Workbooks and suggested instead that sharing be collected from the Fellowship and combined with existing resources to develop A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (P-49). The committee appreciated the work that has been completed on the updated draft pamphlet for A.A. members and suggested additional revisions. The committee also agreed that the distinction between Treatment and Corrections activities be maintained in literature from GSO and requested that references to Corrections and to the video “A New Freedom” be removed from the draft. The committee requested that a progress report or revised draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on updates to the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” and suggested that the trustees’ CPC/TA Committee convert the newly developed draft pamphlet “For Professionals How A.A. Bridges the Gap” into a single sheet service piece or a service card.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on Military Audio interviews and requested that the Military Audio project be expanded to include veterans. The committee also suggested that the Military Audio project continue to seek interviews with francophone members. The committee requested that sample audio and an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Delegates Report Continued:

- The committee reviewed the draft A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and asked the staff secretary to revise the service piece. The committee looks forward to the guidelines being made available once the updates have been made.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. The committee noted that some changes suggested for the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook in recent years have not yet been implemented. The committee suggested that the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department to update these materials.
- The committee reviewed the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and strongly suggested that the material be updated to reflect the fact that some members and potential members experience various forms of discrimination including racism which creates a barrier or accessibility challenge. The committee also noted that some of the already suggested changes to the kit and workbook had not been implemented and suggested that the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department to update the materials.

TRUSTEES

- The committee reviewed an update report regarding the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Trustees. Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the above item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Trustees.
- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved as eligible for election all Class B trustee candidates for Northeast Regional trustee, Southwest Regional trustee, and trustee-at-large/Canada.
- The committee thoroughly discussed the General Service Board’s actions at the January 29, 2023, Board Planning and Sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair. The committee agreed that the board’s failure to fully utilize the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address leadership problems was deeply concerning. The committee also agreed that failure to expedite communication to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous about the board chair’s resignation and lack of transparency regarding the board’s decision resulted in widespread mistrust and disunity. After lengthy and prayerful discussion, the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board, failing to achieve substantial unanimity.
- The committee met individually with each current General Service Board trustee to hear their vision for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, assessment of the current state of the board, and what actions can be taken to improve communication. The committee agreed the board must improve communication with the Fellowship, including listening to the Fellowship. The committee suggested that the board utilize an externally facilitated process to make organizational improvements.
- The committee requested that the General Service Board find time and space to continue to develop spiritual practices in harmony with the A.A. principles of reflection, accountability, and healing. The committee encourages the board to continue their work on reviewing and clarifying the board’s code of conduct, whistleblower policies, and confidentiality policies to provide a clear path to remedy any possible problems within the General Service Board.

Kevin Prior, CFA, CPC, Class A Trustee, GSB Treasurer, reviewed the finances of the General Service Board, General Service Office and Grapevine beginning on slide 17 of Chris’s presentation. Also, Carolyn W, Class B Trustee on the General Service Board, AAWS Director and Treasurer and Location Plus Ad hoc Committee, contributed to the discussion.

Conference Reports

- **2023 Spring Conference – Dave T**

This was a successful event we had reached our goals for registrations, banquet, hotel and lunches. Attendees seemed to have enjoyed themselves. We have finalized our final payments to our speakers and the hotel. We have returned the \$3,000 seed money to the Area. We had a little misunderstanding regarding pricing boxed lunches. We were communicated a price of \$15 per boxed lunch including service charge and tax, however, in our agreement it stated that the lunch would cost \$16 plus service charge and tax. This issue was resolved fairly quickly after a few emails were provided to the hotel with clear communications of the expected price. The hotel has honored the prices, and we have communicated to the next conference chairs to be vigilante. The best part of working with the 2023 Spring Conference on this committee was the meetings after the meeting, the way people stepped in to help other committee members and the opportunity to better connect and involve our Spanish community. Alanon reported: Loved how many people attended the

Conference Reports Continued:

Alanonathon meetings. Very Successful as we filled the room for 2 sessions and had multiple tables for 2 sessions (1 session had just one full table). Great turnout and interest in Alanon from the conference.

Main Suggestion for the NIA Area 20 and the future Spring Conference is to add conference committee Webmaster Chairs and responsibilities to the guidelines.

Total Registrations- 412

Total Banquets- 180

Total Hotel Rooms- 170

\$6,392.08 - \$3,000 seed money = \$3,392.08

The best part of working with the 2023 Spring Conference on this committee was the meetings after the meeting.

- **2024 Spring Assembly Conference – Hugo**

The conference is on March 1 - 3, 2024

We have a budget. We were invited to the 39th Annual Spanish Conference, which was translated into English for the first time. 12 English only speaking members of AA showed up to take part. Here we were made aware of what our Spanish-only members have known for a long time, that our translation equipment was not the best. Some of the pieces were replaced, and now the experience is much more desirable. Our Program committee has been strenuous at work and has already secured 2 of our services speakers; keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks. Because this conference is being hosted by three districts, districts 20, 21, and 64, we are holding all our planning committee on Zoom, and for anyone wanting to be a part of united service, we meet the last Monday of each month, a flyer will go out via email because I forgot to print them out last night.

La conferencia del 1 al 3 de marzo de 2024

Tenemos un presupuesto Fuimos invitados a la 39 Conferencia Anual en Español, que se tradujo al inglés por primera vez. 12 miembros de AA que solo hablaban inglés se presentaron para participar. Aquí nos dimos cuenta de lo que nuestros miembros de habla hispana saben desde hace mucho tiempo, que nuestro equipo de traducción no era el mejor. Algunas de las piezas fueron reemplazadas, y ahora la experiencia es mucho más deseable. Nuestro comité de programa ha trabajado intensamente y ya ha asegurado 2 de nuestros oradores de servicios; Esté atento a más información en las próximas semanas. Debido a que esta conferencia está siendo organizada por tres distritos, los distritos 20, 21 y 64, estamos reuniendo a todo nuestro comité de planificación en Zoom, y para cualquiera que desee ser parte del servicio unido, nos reunimos el último lunes de cada mes. se enviará un volante por correo electrónico porque olvidé imprimirlo anoche. Gracias

- **ISCYPAA – Murphy**

Due to recording issues, his report on the next event is unavailable.

- **2023 Alanon Conference – Alan, Sid and Georgine**

At our Winter Committee Meeting on January 21, our Delegate, Chris D, put out a request for someone to host the Alcoholics Anonymous sub-committee for the 2023 Alanon Illinois State Convention. Some of us that were in the room that day agreed to take on this commitment. The dates are October 6,7 & 8, 2024 at the Schaumburg Hyatt Regency, 1800 E. Golf Rd in Schaumburg Illinois. We have our two main speakers, Mike M. and Ericka M. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Mike and Ericka will do a 4-hour Workshop Saturday morning titled "A Journey Through the 12 Steps". We have finalized our weekend AA program of Alcathon and Panel topics. We will next begin to look for volunteers to fill those time slots. If anybody here is interested, please see me today or contact me later. We may also be looking for volunteers to man the Hospitality Room during the late-night hours of Friday and Saturday nights. We have our own AA sub-committee meetings and have also had a representative at each of the Alanon Convention planning meetings since our committee was formed. We believe we have an attractive AA program that our membership would want to attend, and we hope to see you all

Conference Reports Continued:

there. There are currently 40 registrations, with 29 banquets. There are at present no AA members registered for the convention.

- **2022 Big Book Conference – Chris E.**

The Big Book Committee gave a final report at the May Committee meeting. The report can be found in the minutes for that meeting. Chris E read the report again for the GSR's here today.

Breakouts Were Held after lunch.

Old Business

- **Area Administrative Committee appointments approval:**

If anyone would like to serve on any of these committees, please see Rob, Area Chair.

- **Election of Open Positions**

No open positions were filled.

New Business

Motion

- **Motion to Amend Archives – Archivist in Service Manual – Cheryl V**

Motion to Amend NIA Service Guidelines for the Archives Chairperson and the Archivist Motion The Archivist moves to amend the Responsibilities for the Archivist and the Archives Chairperson in the NIA Service Guidelines (Archives Chairperson: at page 58 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, printed version 09/2022, and page 41 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022; Archivist: at page 64 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, printed version 09/2022, and page 45 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022) with the addition of the below bulleted point to both:

- It is recommended that either the Archivist or the Archives Chairperson attend the annual National AA Archives Workshop on a yearly basis.

Background

It is the intent of this motion to provide the coordinated opportunity of the NIA Archives Chairperson or the Archivist to attend this event on an annual basis. Information will be shared at subsequent opportunities to those in the Area interested in learning more about archives.

From the NAAAW web site: "Prior to the birth of the National AA Archives Workshop, most Alcoholics Anonymous archivists had little or no information on how to fulfill their service commitment. Often boxes were passed down from the previous archivist to the newly appointed or elected Archivist. Sometimes these boxes had been in the trunks of cars or stashed in homes. The advice was to take classes or work with a conservator in a museum.

The National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop ("NAAAW") began in 1996 with a Workshop held in Akron, Ohio at the Mayflower Hotel. The Workshop grew out of the desire of a group of Archivists to have a Workshop for the Archivists operating within the General Service, Intergroup, and Institutions structures. These Archivists are found all across North America as well as the rest of the world. We take our inspiration from the first General Service Archivist, Nell Wing (a non-alcoholic), and all of the subsequent General Service Office Archivists.

The founders of our workshop saw the need and took the initiative. Now we have our annual workshop dedicated to the instruction of archival techniques such as: restoration, preservation, and de-acidification. There are hands-on workshops, historical presentations, long-timer panels, and key-note speakers who share their experiences on not only our history, but history in general. We have training and sharing that offers a variety of insights into all areas of archives service. With the development of new technology there are new methods of record keeping, cataloging, and preserving. We are evolving."

New Business Continued:

After questions, a friendly amendment to make this a PPB motion with \$2,500 for the estimated cost to be added to the Primary Purpose Register was considered. In the motion it says, "guideline change". This automatically makes it a PPB motion. The motion was voted on as is. A substantial unanimity vote was taken and passed, 52/6.

Motion

- **Motion to Amend NIA Service Manual for the NIA Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V.**

The Service Manual Custodian moves to amend the Responsibilities for the NIA Service Manual Custodian in the NIA Service Guidelines (at pages 65-66 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, printed version 09/2022, and page 45 of the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022) to read as follows:

N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian Responsibilities

The N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian maintains the N.I.A. Area Service Manual.

Qualifications

- Proficient knowledge of MS Office applications.
- Sufficient time available to prepare documents to hand over to the ~~Concepts Editor~~ Area Chair for publishing by third party vendor.

Responsibilities

- Format and maintain the documents that together make up the N.I.A. Service Manual, along with Northern Illinois Planning Procedures.
- Maintain records of all Assembly-approved changes to the Manual and prepares the Manual documents for publishing.
- Coordinate the translation into Spanish of the documents that together make up the N.I.A. Service Manual, along with Northern Illinois Planning Procedures by third party vendor if necessary.
- Forward updated documents to the Web Administrator for posting on the Area website.
- This position works closely with the Report and Charter Committee.

(NOTE: For convenience, additions to the current text of the section are indicated by underscoring and italicization; deletions are indicated by crossing out current text.)

Background

The changes proposed by this motion are intended to more clearly define the responsibility of the Service Manual Custodian to include the Northern Illinois Planning Procedures and to ensure that translation into Spanish happens.

There were no questions or discussion. The 2/3 majority vote passed 100%.

Motion

- **Motion to Amend the List of the Area Assembly and Area Committee – Chris E.**

This was referred to the Report and Charter Committee for recommendations at the May Committee meeting. This motion was not heard today.

Motion

- **Motion to Amend the Voting Procedure for Area Elections - Chris E.**

This was referred to the Report and Charter Committee for recommendations at the May Committee meeting. This motion was not heard today.

New Business Continued:

Motion This is the Final Motion

• **Motion to Fund AREA Participation at the 2023 East Central Regional Forum**

With the exception of the current Delegate & Alternate Delegate (whose attendance at the East Central Regional Forum is already reimbursed under our Area guidelines) it is moved that a maximum of \$400 be reimbursed to each of the remaining NIA20 Area Officers, Service Committee Chairs, and their Alternates (shown below), to help offset costs to attend the East Central Regional Forum on November 17-19, 2023 in Independence, OH. This is a partial reimbursement only; this covers less than half of the cost of mileage and lodging.

Activity Number	Service Activity	Expectations Outcome Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Projected Cost	Expected Amount
PPMxx	East Central Regional Forum	Provide funding for current Area trusted servants and DCMs, excluding the current Delegate and Alternate Delegate, to attend the East Central Regional Forum Nov 17-19, 2023 in Independence, OH. The amount shall not exceed \$400/person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodging • Meals • Mileage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups I and II, excluding the current Delegate and Alternate Delegate • Current DCMs 	\$400.00 X 60	\$24,000.00

Background Regional Forums are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and The General Service Office Staff stay in touch with AA members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the AA service structure. Attendance at the forum also offers the attendee an opportunity to meet with and to share experience with trusted servants from the other thirteen areas of the East Central Region. There have been many past discussions on how much money we as an Area forward to GSO and why we do not spend more here. GSO holds Forums to stay in contact with the Fellowship as a whole. This is a way to spend funds on GSO related activities and helps the Area servants. The list of who can be reimbursed includes the following:

Area Chair	Archivist	**Grapevine Chair
Area Chair – Alt	**Archives Comm Chair	**Grapevine Chair – Alt
Area Registrar	**Archives Comm Chair – Alt	Literature Comm Chair
Area Registrar – Alt	Bridging the Gap Comm Chair	**Literature Comm Chair – Alt
Area Secretary	**Bridging the Gap Comm Chair – Alt	Public Information Comm Chair
Area Secretary – Alt	Concepts Editor	Public Information Comm Chair – Alt
Area Treasurer	**Concepts Co-Editor	Service Handbook Custodian
Area Treasurer – Alt	Corrections Comm Chair	**Treatment Comm Chair
**Accessibilities Comm Chair	Corrections Comm Chair – Alt	**Treatment Comm Chair – Alt
**Accessibilities Comm Chair - Alt	CPC Comm Chair	Web Administrator – Area
Answering Service Comm Chair	**CPC Comm Chair – Alt	**Web Administrator – Alt
**Answering Service Comm Chair - Alt		

****position is currently vacant**

The first substantial unanimity vote passed 52/2. Minority opinion produced one person wanting to change their vote. Discussion was re-opened. A friendly amendment was accepted to include the current DCMs in this motion. A request was then made to send the motion back to the committee. After a second, there were questions and discussion on this request to recommit. The simple majority vote to send it back to the committee did not pass, 56/4. There was no minority opinion. The substantial unanimity vote for the motion with the friendly amendment to remove incoming Trusted Servants and include the current DCMs passed, 55/4. There was no minority opinion after the final vote.

New Business Continued:

Motion This is the Final Motion

- **Motion to Fund District Participation at the 2023 East Central Regional**

It is moved that the Area provide limited funding to offset costs for Districts to participate in the East Central Regional Forum on November 17-19, 2023, in Independence, OH. A maximum of \$400 shall be reimbursed to each of the twenty-six districts. Each district can decide who will be reimbursed from their district, and reimbursement requests should be submitted by the DCM/Alt. This is a partial reimbursement only; this covers less than half of the cost of mileage and lodging based on two people driving together and sharing a double room.

Activity Number *	Service Activity	Expectations Outcome Guidelines	Allowable expenses	Reimbursed Authority	Projected Cost	Expected Amount
PPMxx	Promote District Participation in the East Central Regional Forum	Provide funding for Trusted Servants from each of the twenty-six Districts to attend the East Central Regional Forum November 17-19, 2023 in Independence, OH. The amount shall not exceed \$400 per District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodging • Meals • Mileage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Officers, excluding DCM • Committee Chairs • GSRs Submitted by the DCM/Alt preferred	\$400.00 X 26	\$10,400.00

Background Regional Forums are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and The General Service Office Staff stay in touch with AA members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the AA service structure. Attendance at the forum also offers the attendee an opportunity to meet with and to share experience with trusted servants from the other thirteen areas of the East Central Region. Past funding opportunities have allowed Districts to send Trusted Servants to the ECRF. If we want to encourage people to get involved in general service, we need to attract them into attending an event that is enjoyable and educational. The forums are that.

Clarification was made regarding reimbursement: Each District should submit one request to the Area Treasurer for reimbursement on behalf of that district along with receipts from the weekend. A friendly amendment changed the motion: The current DCM is excluded because of previous motion adding that position. The 2/3 majority vote passed, 44/15. There was no minority opinion.

Service Committee Reports

- **Accessibilities Open**
- **Answering Service – Dan M No Report**
- **Archives Open**
- **BTG – Jim T**
My article, “The Times they are a changing...”, can be found in the recent edition of CONCEPTS. All members of the BTG Committee were given a handout at the breakout and were asked to review and send their replies to me for tabulations. The future of the NIA’s BTG Volunteer Database is still undecided. I was told new information today and there is no resolution to those issues yet. I have a report regarding the Delegate’s Report of BTG from 73rd GSC. Contact Jim for that full report.
- **Concepts – Susan H No Report**
- **CPC – Jan S No Report**
- **Corrections – Phil M, George P.**
Steve, D11 Corrections Chair, reported on the breakout discussion.
- **Grapevine Open**
- **Literature – Scott T.**
In September we will have new things on the Area Website for literature. The breakout session went well.

Service Committees Continued:

- **Public Information – Lisa S**

In April and May I attended both the national PI/CPC virtual working groups hosted by the East Bay PI/CPC group from out on the West Coast. Interested PI/CPC members are invited to join others nationwide on the second Saturday of each month to share peer learning experiences. In April there was a presentation on the Top 5 Ways to Make Your A.A. Website a PI/CPC

Service Tool. In May, we discussed strategies on informing and recruiting our members to PI/CPC service work. A Public Information presentation has been created for either virtual or in-person workshops. We have reached out to several Districts to explore interest for hosting workshops in their respective Districts or even working with another Area Committee to combine more than one area of interest over the summer. District 43 continues to work on increasing their social media presence by highlighting the work of Public Information through an innovative sponsored Facebook approach. The D43 PI Committee and its Chair, Stephanie H. are able to use data analytics to monitor and determine how effective the digital outreach has been compared to other methods used historically by the District.

- **Treatment Facilities – Open**

Patty, D40 Treatment Chair reported on the breakout session.

- **Web Master – Earl H No Report**

Administrative Reports

- **Archivist & Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V**

I found a discrepancy in the 2016 minutes. There was a motion from the Web Administrator to attend the AA Technology Workshop but was never added to our service manual, however, it was added to our PPR. It will be added to the service manual.

- **Conference Advisory – Dawn B No Report**

- **Electronic Equipment – Joe B**

I attended the Hispanic convention over Memorial Day weekend in Rosement. There were issues with the translation headsets, but I think I figured out what the problem is after some testing. We bought some new headphones and have eliminated some of the background noise. I'm working with the Spring Conference planning committee and will probably have a motion in the future. I have been talking with Rob because I will not be at the Big Book Conference so someone will need to step up and help.

- **Finance – Allen J**

We have not met since the beginning of the year. We will meet before the next committee meeting to discuss where we are financially and to look at how much to possibly send to GSB.

- **Report and Charter Chris E.**

The Report and Charter Committee (R&C) convened on June 15, 2023. Kelly L (Past Delegate), Chris E (Area Registrar), Sarah 8 (DCM District 21), and Christy 8 (member) were present. One member was not present. The following business took place:

1) Election of a chair -Chris E was nominated and unanimously voted in as chair.

2) First motion we discussed - Motion to Increase the Mileage Reimbursement Allowance passed at the 2023 Spring Assembly. The approved wording replaced "\$0.40 per mile" with "the current IRS allowance for business miles driven." This change would be made in the *Spending Guidelines – Primary Purpose Basic Expenses* section on page 39 of the printed version/page 29 of the web version of the NIA 20 Service Manual, 09/2022. We discussed that this change would necessitate a new responsibility to be added to the Treasurer's responsibilities - to double check IRS mileage every year to ensure the mileage amount is properly calculated and used for the year.

Action #1: The Report & Charter committee recommends using the exact terminology from the IRS website: "the current IRS standard mileage rate for business use" instead of the phrase that was passed in the motion: "the current IRS allowance for business miles driven." The bullet point under the section titled *Spending Guidelines – Primary Purpose Basic Expenses* (on page 39 of the printed version/page 29 of the web version of the NIA 20 Service Manual, 09re022) would then read:

- **Mileage - For Area activities mileage is reimbursed at the current IRS standard mileage rate for business use.**

Action #2: The Report & Charter committee proposes to add the following bullet point at the end of the section titled *Treasurer -Responsibilities* (on page 35 of the web version):

- **Ensure the current IRS standard mileage rate for business use is the mileage reimbursement rate in NIA 20.**

3) Second motion we discussed -**Motion to Amend the Voting Procedures in the NIA Service Manual**, which was proposed by the Area Registrar and Area Alternate Registrar at the 2023 Spring Committee Meeting and referred to the Report &

Charter Committee. The committee began discussion and will continue work on modifying this motion at the next committee meeting. So far, we have agreed that the motion should be modified so that the election of all officers will be done by Third Legacy procedure, *without exceptions*. The Third Legacy procedure calls for written ballots. The Area historically has not used a show of hands for officers, we use a written ballot. So, removing the exception currently written in the NIA Service Manual (show of hands) will align with the current practices of the Area. Our next meeting will be Thursday 6/29 at 6:30pm on zoom to continue work on the motion to amend the voting procedures.

- **Technology Committee – Rob**

We need a lot of help on this committee. If anyone is interested, please reach out to me or Earl.

Officer Reports

- **Alternate Delegate - Erik L**

We held 11 Breakout Zoom meetings covering each section of the GSC Agenda from March 22-March 30. Thanks to all the breakout chairs, scribes, and trusted servants that participated! On April 1, we held our PGSC Workshop in Woodstock – it was a full day and had great participation from our Area – I believe we covered all aspects of the agenda and trust our delegate, Chris D., was adequately prepared! I look forward to his report! I've had the pleasure of attending a few extra meetings in other districts. Next weekend, I will be attending the East Central Regional Conference / Indiana State Convention in South Bend, IN. I am happy and willing to assist or visit any district – please let me know if I can help! My YTD expenses through today are \$507.78 – for hotel and registration to the CDPP as well as the Area Spring Conference.

- **Area Chair – Rob M**

The last quarter I have worked with the technology committee. I had the opportunity to work with ISCYPAA to provide support for the Eastern Conference. I have also worked with some of the Area chairs on technology issues. My expenses to date are \$415 for mileage.

- **Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B**

Thank you to Dave and Laura and all the volunteers in District 23 for hosting today! The work for the 2023 Big Book Conference, planned for November 4, 2023, at Lord of Life, has begun. Planning is well under way and moving along. The program is very much set, and the lunch plan is in place. I look forward to working with them until conference completion. Work is ongoing for the three districts hosting the 2024 Spring Conference. The hotel contract is signed, and we are waiting on food prices at this time. They have their AI Anon liaison, and budget. The last GSR meeting on Zoom went very well and was well attended. Our special guest Karl talked about his role as GSR Coordinator in his district, and I have asked him to speak to the GSRs at Summer Assembly breakout. The next GSR committee meeting will be on Zoom in July. I will be sending out the flyer to the DCMs later this month, and it will also be posted on the site. I'm planning on visiting the Rockford District for a workshop on hosting the Big Book Conference on the 24th of this month. PLEASE ask me to visit your District meeting or workshop. I'm happy to come and observe, participate in any way you need, or make the coffee. My expenses so far this year have been 370.70.

- **Registrar – Chris E**

Here is what I have been up to since the Spring Committee Meeting:

Attended the monthly sharing sessions for Area Registrars. Attended the XXXIX Convencion Hispana del Estado de Illinois. Began work on updating the Registrar Handbook, creating step by step guide to creating excel reports for the Area from Fellowship Connection. Convened the Report and Charter Committee on June 15. We will meet again June 29. DCMs, if you would like me to attend your District meeting,

Officer Reports Continued:

please ask! I love road trips so I will gladly go the four corners of our Area. Summer is the best time for me too! **All group forms are downloadable from the NIA website.**

<http://aa-nia.org/group-forms> Submit forms and requests for information to **registrar@aa-nia.org or to the mailing address above.**

2023 Expenses to date: \$746.32

Expenses since last report: \$140.12

- Mileage \$100.22
- Photocopies \$39.90
- **Secretary – Kate D** No Report
- **Alternate Secretary – Sue M**

On the table are a limited number of copies of the District/GSR meeting list for Area 20. I will continue to periodically email the updated list to the committee. Please remember this list is confidential and only to be used within the fellowship. I attended the Spring Committee Meeting. Our next monthly meeting for secretaries and recordkeepers is July 6th at 7pm. An email with zoom invite is sent to the committee roster and district secretaries prior to the meeting and anyone can attend! A limited number of copies of the flyer are on the table. I continue to support Kate, our Area Secretary with minutes. If you need a new name tag, please see me for a replacement. Please bring your reports to me at the front table. My reimbursements to date are \$730.40.

After Open Mic, the meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement. There was a motion and was seconded to close the meeting. The next meeting is the Summer Committee Meeting on August 5th, 2023, at Lord of Life Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA Alternate Secretary