

## Northern Illinois Area 20 – Summer Committee Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2023 In Person and Online/Video

### Meeting Opening

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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 made the meeting announcements.

#### Total Attendees

Area Officers	8
DCMs & Alternates	12
Service Committee Chairs	6
Past Delegates	4
Appointed Committee Member	2
AA Members	<u>13</u>
Total	45

**First Time Attendees:** Todd, Mike and Lisa

**Anniversaries Since Last Assembly** Jim T 35 years, Joe B. 10 years, Steve C. 39 years

#### Approval of 2022 Spring Committee Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes available for approval. A request was made that the Secretary resign. Area Chair agreed.

#### OFFICER REPORTS:

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##### Delegates Report: Chris D.

It's been a bit of a quiet time since the last Assembly however I have had the pleasure to attend several Districts to give a post-conference report back which are shorter and more concise versions of the full report that was given at the Summer Assembly. I would like to thank the following districts (which I attended in person, except for D43 which was virtual) for inviting me to attend –

- Tues. Jun 20 D21 – Palatine
- Wed. Jun 21 D43 – Naperville (Virtual)
- Sun. Jul 17 D12 – Waukegan
- Thurs. Jul 20 D20 – Elgin Hispanic District

The following districts are scheduled for upcoming visits-

- Sun. Aug 27 D10 – Grayslake
- Thurs. Oct 19?? D41 – Elmhurst
- ?? ?? D-73 - Sterling

**Delegates Report - Continued**

I am more than happy to visit any group or District that requests a visit so be sure and let me know if that is something you think your District would be interested in. I also had the pleasure of attending the Indiana State Convention / East Central Regional Conference with Erik and several other members from Area 20 back in June. It was great to see so many familiar faces 150 miles away from home! Speaking of conferences, I hope everyone is planning on attending our ILLINOIS State Conference hosted this year by Area 19 (Chicago) at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg on August 18 – 20. You can register for the conference and book your hotel rooms here. Hotel room nights are \$119 and conference registration is \$40. I also virtually attended the 1st “Delegates Only” meeting hosted by our new Delegate Chair (Mary for Area 14 Florida). The call gave her an opportunity to get her feet wet on leading this large meeting and gave the Delegates an opportunity to discuss items that were occurring in their Areas. I will take this opportunity to remind everyone that the deadline for forwarding proposed agenda items to the Conference coordinator for consideration to be placed on the 74th General Service Conference agenda is Sept 15, 2023. All Area and District committees, groups (and individual members too) are encouraged to bring forth agenda items to be considered for the conference agenda via a “proposed agenda item form” which can be downloaded here. I can also send one out if needed. Please let me know if your Group or District has an item they would like to present, or if any items are being considered at the Area. There is a short presentation created by the current Area 23 Delegate (Janet F), and Monica F. on how to write a proposal which is available here. There was discussion at the Delegates meeting regarding the deadline for proposed agenda being Friday, September 15, 2023, however many Area Assemblies are scheduled for that very weekend (as is ours), or the weekend after. There was no clear answer on whether the office would extend the date to accept items that are forwarded after the deadline, but the Delegate Chair agreed to follow up on this request, and I suspect I will hearing more about this over the next month. As I hear more, I will of course let you know. As shown in the table below, during the last General Service Conference, the Policy & Admissions committee recommended the GSC members should meet virtually twice a year. This was not a submitted agenda items and came directly out the committee. This item is referred to in the table below as (XXX).

Committee Name	Item	Item Text	Result							Voting Result	How I voted	Reconsidered	Comments
			2022	AA	RPI	CC	FA	TMA	VD				
VII Policy / Admissions	A	Review GSO general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.	X		X	X							
VII Policy / Admissions	B	Review dates for the 2027 General Service Conference.				X							
VII Policy / Admissions	C	Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the GSC between meetings.		X						92-36	Yes		2 amendments to add
VII Policy / Admissions	D	Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process				X							Extend 9/15 deadline!
VII Policy / Admissions	E	Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure.	X		X	X							
VII Policy / Admissions	XXX	That the GSC members should meet virtually twice a year		X						118-12	Yes		Several amendments to add

**Committee Recommendation (90-minute discussion on conference floor)-**

1. The committee recommended that, to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.

## Delegates Report - Continued

V 118 (Yes) – 12 (No) I voted Yes. This followed (2) unsuccessful attempts to amend the wording (1) - to remove “foster unity, trust & transparency (received 85 votes, needed 86 for amendment so failed by 1 vote), and (2) and “add input to meeting agenda from Conference Agenda Committee”)

That meeting has now been scheduled for Wednesday Aug. 16, 2023, at 7P. I will report on what happens at the next Assembly.

In other news –

- The General Service Office continues substantial planning activities for the 2035 International Convention to be held in Vancouver, BC. Canada over the 4th of July weekend. An extremely large attendance is forecasted due to the cancellation of the last international Convention. Registration opens August 18, 2023, and you can access the information here.
- The final conference report is expected to be released in September. Per Conference action an anonymity protected version will also be posted on <https://www.aa.org/>.
- Our East Central Regional secretary has sent out new updated regional mailing lists, calendar and updated CDPP flyer. They are available at the hyperlinks shown. Note, the CDPP had been moved to Muncie IN. I have been asked to serve on an Ad-Hoc committee for agenda planning for that event. Monica F. is the chair, and our first meeting is later this month.
- There is a new current GSO Staff Assignment Sheet (F-15) available that contains updates to the Regional Forums desk, the Corrections desk, and a couple of regions. It is available here.
- Applications are being accepted until Sept. 15, 2023, for a Non-Trustee Director position on the Grapevine board. Click here for info.
- Some of you may know that Dr. Al Moony, (General Service Class A Trustee) and his wife were involved in a serious car accident last month. Though they both sustained serious life-threatening injuries I am happy to report they are both recuperating, though both still hospitalized, and I know the Area joins me in wishing them both a speedy recovery. Dr. Moony was present for a short time via zoom at the most recent Board weekend this past weekend.
- Regarding the most recent Board weekend, we had a call with our East Central Regional Trustee (Cathi C.) this past Wednesday. Here are some takeaways from that meeting.
  - o There is no Reserve fund drawdown anticipated even though cash on hand at GSO is low. Several preconference bills were due which have affected our cash flow, but higher than expected literature sales and contributions are forecasted to sustain the office for the foreseeable future.
  - o The membership survey information is expected to be compiled and posted on the AA website by October.
  - o Cathi will be sharing the agenda of the things discussed at Board weekend and I will pass that along once I receive it. She also stated that she will be sending along the Board

**Delegates Report Continued:**

minutes from the January and April board meetings soon. Again, you'll have it when I do!

o Site selection activities are intensifying for the 2035 International Convention. New Orleans, Phoenix and Indianapolis are the (3) finalists. There is a meeting on August 23-24 in Indianapolis (to support Indy) which all East Central Delegates are being asked to attend, but all are invited!! Please let me know if you're interested in attending and helping out. The deadline to register is August 8.

o A Finance Committee (my conference committee) consideration to have the office generate a fellowship wide survey to gather input on the topic of possible future updates to founders' literature is in the works but will likely not be sent out until additional conversation is conducted at next year's General Service Conference.

**• There is a planned national workshop for the PLAIN AND SIMPLE BIG BOOK PROJECT on August 20. Zoom information is below. This should be a great session to become acquainted with everything that's going on regarding this project!**

o A Tool for Accessing the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday August 20, 2023

@ 3 P.M. EDT

ID: 841 2499 3206

PW: 326186

Chris D.

Delegate

Area 20 / Northern Illinois Panel 72

\*\*Though I have not yet submitted my yearly expenses (sorry Allen), I have finally gathered all my travel logs year to date and will work on filling out the reimbursement form next week. I had planned on having it ready by today but was not able to have it completed prior to this meeting. I expect the reimbursement request will be approximately \$2000 which will include CDPP, Spring Conference, GSC and ECRC expenses along with various Area travel reimbursement requests.

All linked documents in the google folder can be obtained from his report on the NIA 20 website.

**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		\$ 56,092.60
Green Can (restricted)	\$ 1,582.62	
Pink Can (restricted)	\$ 3,392.79	
Total restricted		\$ 4,975.41
Net Checking		\$ 61,068.01
Prudent Reserve	(0.3 X \$70,565.00) + interest	\$ 21,169.22
Total		\$ 82,237.23
	Sum Contribution	\$ 45,619.86
Interest		
Net Income (YTD)	Sum Income	\$ 45,619.86
	Sum Expenses (per PPR)	\$ 28,676.10
Net Expenses (YTD)		
Net (YTD)		\$ 16,943.76

**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.
- We did make a \$10,000.00 contribution to the 2023 GSC (73<sup>rd</sup>). 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.
- Please turn in your reimbursement requests in a timely fashion. Thank you to those who do turn in your request right away.
- Please note that Area 20 currently does not have any guideline defining the “Green Can Fund” purpose or how it is to be used. So your contribution to this fund may not help those you are expecting to help. Also per our **Seventh Tradition** long form “Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose.” We have received \$368.00 this year to the Green Can Fund. And we have \$1,582.62 currently in it.
- I have updated the Reimbursement Form to reflect the mileage increase from 40¢/mile to 65.5¢/mile (2023\_Reimbursement\_Form\_Panel\_72).

**Miscellaneous**

- If you are making 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. Contributions without information are considered personal contributions.
- 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.
- 7<sup>th</sup> 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 are no check boxes on this form for “Pink Can” or “Green Can” contributions so you must identify them as such.

A question was asked regarding the pink can fund balance. Currently it is around \$3,400. All other Treasurer reports are available on the website.

The Chair asked for the Finance committee to report at this time.

**Finance Committee - Bonnie Lori P. NIA 20 Finance Committee Chair**

The Area Finance Committee has met twice since the Fall Assembly. The first meeting was on Tuesday, July 18th, 2023, at 8:30pm. We elected the chairperson D12 DCM Bonnie who scheduled the next meeting. Also, during this meeting we reviewed the proposed 2023 Primary Purpose Register. Allen

**Officer Reports – Continued**

did an excellent job going over the totals, and we agreed to accept the budget as presented and to forward it to the area chair to put on the agenda for the Summer Committee meeting.

Our second meeting was Monday, July 31st, 2023, at 8:30pm. During this meeting we reviewed the area budget and decided we need to send some money to the GSB as we are sitting on a hefty amount that the area will not be able to utilize by the end of the year.

**In the spirit of Tradition 7, “...we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose.” the Area 20 Finance Committee recommends that the assembly forward \$15,000 to the General Service Board.** Taking into account some remaining expenses for this year and considering that the 2023 PPR will be approved by the assembly, there will remain an excess of \$48,585.70 as described below.

Figures as of 7/18/2023

\$56,092.60 Checking

\$21,169.22 Prudent Reserve (30% 2023 Proposed PPR)

\$ 28,676.10 Known Expenses

\$48,585.70 Funds Remaining

We are fortunate in Area 20 to have groups that contribute generously. As we look to 2023, let’s please consider utilizing more of the annual budget. DCMs, ask the area to put on service workshops and request area officers/committee members to visit your districts. Area officers/committee chairs let’s provide the services and collect the reimbursements that the assembly has requested and agreed to support. GSRs, if there are any services you do not see that you would like to see the area do, please let your DCM and the Assembly know.

**EVERYONE NEEDS TO SUBMIT THE RECEIPTS IN A TIMELY FASHION!**

**Discussion:** A comment was made that the ECR Forum motion passed last month for \$34,000. We need to wait and see how much of that money is spent. Money should not be sent to the GSB until we know how much is used from that motion.

Bonnie replied that they did discuss this. In November we will consider how much to send the GSB. Also, the Treasurer stated there is unexpected income to consider. It will all be part of the discussion.

**Alternate Treasurer – Jeff L.** No report Provided.

## **Officer Reports – Continued**

### **Alternate Delegates Report – Erik L.**

I'll be attending virtually this morning as I am travelling in Wisconsin this weekend. In late June, I attended the East Central Regional Conference / Indiana State Convention in South Bend, IN. There were a few breakout sessions covering our 12 concepts and a special breakout meeting for the other Alternate Delegates in our East Central Region. It was very interesting to hear from the other Area Alt. Delegates on their respective roles and responsibilities as they differ between each area. Last month I visited District 70 and attended their monthly business meeting – thanks Steve C. for the invite. I'll be attending our Illinois State Conference this month and look forward to participating in a service panel – hope to see you all at the Conference. Looking forward to participating at the District 23 Service Workshop on August 27th. 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 \$865.78 – for hotel and registration to the CDPP, the Area Spring Conference, and the East Central Regional Conference.

### **Area Chair – Rob M.**

I have worked with the finance committee and a couple of districts.

### **Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B.**

Thank you to Dave and District 22 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. Flyers should be out soon, and the site ready for registration. 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. D70 did a workshop on hosting the Big Book Conference and I look forward to hearing from them on this soon. D23 will be having a service workshop on August 27th at the EDI Club in Streamwood. I will be talking about the role of the GSR in the service structure. We will be having a Tech meeting on August 17th at 7pm. There are flyers on the table and flyers will be sent to the Area Committee for distribution in their districts. We are looking to expand our tech committee and we need people with some experience. Please consider coming. 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.

Our Delegate asked where the Banner is from the last State Conference. Dawn did not know but would ask one of the co-chairs from the last conference. If anyone knows where it is, please let Dawn know.

### **Registrar – Chris E.**

Here is what I have been up to since the Summer Assembly:

- Attended the monthly sharing sessions for Area Registrars. GSO has not had the quarterly session yet.
- Attended the 2024 Spring Conference planning meeting.

Chaired a meeting of the Report and Charter Committee on June 29. We need to meet 1 more time to finish our work on the motion to change voting procedures and will present it at the Oct. Comm. Mtg.

**Registrar's Report - Continued**

- Sent lists of unknown groups to the districts to determine if they exist. 7 have replied with updates. If you have not replied with your updates, please send them by September 16.
- Began a major data validation project in Fellowship Connection (addresses, meeting location names, group names, etc.) – I have 2 districts left. I will be sending updated group lists very soon to districts.
- Continued work on updating the Registrar Handbook, creating step by step guides to creating excel reports for the Area from Fellowship Connection.
- Attended District meetings in 21, 22, and 90. I have plans to visit districts 10, 43, 64, 70, 80, 91.

**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.**

**Alternate Registrar – Kim D.** No report provided.

**Secretary – Kate D.**

Kate committed to completing the outstanding Committee Meeting minutes then will be resigning as Secretary.

**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 Summer Assembly on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The minutes from that day have been completed and emailed to the Area Committee.

We had one District Secretary along with the Area Registrar and me at the July Monthly District Secretary meeting. We finished reading and updating the District Secretary Handbook. Thank you to all the District Secretaries who were able to participate in this project. We have discussed translating to Spanish once the final editing is complete. The handbook should be emailed soon and eventually be on the website. I will continue to communicate with the Secretary's Committee as we move forward. We will no longer meet monthly unless the need arises.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> I will be participating in the Service Orientation workshop being hosted by D23. Thank you, Dave, for the invitation.

If you need a new name tag, please see me for a replacement.

My reimbursements to date are \$730

**Conference Reports:**

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**2024 Big Book Conference – Steve C. DCM D70**

## **Conference Reports – Continued**

At our July 13th District meeting, we had a discussion on whether District 70 would host the NIA BB conference for 2024. Eric, our alternate NIA 20 delegate was in attendance and answered some questions. At our Aug 3rd District meeting, with 35 members attending, our committee voted unanimously to host the 2024 NIA 20 Big Book Conference at the Lord of Life church in Elburn, IL.

I would like to thank Dawn and Eric for their help.

## **2024 Spring Assembly Conference – Hugo DCM D64 Raul D20**

Planning is going great. We are about at the halfway point. Save the date flyers are on the table. There is a mistake on the flyer. A corrected flyer will be available at the State Conference. Translation problems are one of the key issues. We are working on better translations.

### **Discussion:**

The Area Chair stated that this conference will be unilaterally bilingual. Sarah previously mentioned the necessity of having 300 headsets for translation, at a cost of about \$30,000. Renting them for the conference would be less than \$3,000. Can this be included in the budget and be covered by increasing the registration from \$30 to \$50, with the idea that each conference be self-supporting, or should we put a motion to the assembly to fund the rental cost? Hugo doesn't think a new motion is needed because there is already a motion addressing this. The Treasurer stated the \$3,000 could be included in the PPR B14. After more discussion, Chris E stated that he has updated his motion to include purchasing equipment.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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There are many Area positions open. If anyone is interested, please come to the Assembly next month. They can stand for a position through the end of this rotation and still be eligible to stand for the next rotation in that position.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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**Motion to amend the NIA Ltd. Bylaws to include the Area Registrar as an officer of the Corporation and to update the list of voting members.**

### **Motion**

The Area Registrar moves to amend the By-laws of Northern Illinois Area, Ltd. (*N.I.A., Ltd.*) to include the Area Registrar as an officer of the Corporation in Article III, to update the list of voting members in Article V, and to fix typos throughout, as shown below; and to assign responsibility for this document in the Northern Illinois Service Manual.

Changes to be made to the By-laws of Northern Illinois Area, Ltd:

1. In Article III, first paragraph, add Registrar to the list of officers.
2. In Article III, after paragraph six, add, "In the event the Registrar shall resign or be removed from office, the Alternate Registrar shall assume the office of Registrar immediately upon the effective date of such resignation or removal."

**Motion to amend the NIA Ltd. Bylaws to include the Area Registrar as an officer of the Corporation and to update the list of voting members - Continued**

3. In Article III, paragraph eight, change, “The ~~five~~ ~~four~~ elected officers shall constitute an Executive Committee...”
4. In Article V, remove the list of persons entitled to vote, and replace with the following:
  - (a) All persons listed as voting members of the Area Assembly in the “Northern Illinois Service Manual.”
5. In the header of the document, change *BY-LAWS* to *BYLAWS*.
6. In Article III, first paragraph, correct the typos *Ares* to *Area*, and *Nothern* to *Northern*.
7. In Article III, second paragraph, correct the typo *offide* to *office*.

Changes to be made to the Northern Illinois Service Manual:

1. In the Responsibilities section of the N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian (p46), add the following bullet point after the bullet point regarding formatting the N.I.A. Service Manual:
  - Format and maintain the Bylaws of Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.
2. In the list of documents that the Report and Charter Committee is responsible for (p48), add:
  - Bylaws of Northern Illinois Area, Ltd.

*\*all page numbers reference the NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022.*

**Background**

According to Sarah E. Merkle, JD, CPP-T, PRP, bylaws are the go-to source for how an organization operates. Bylaws exist to give an organization structure. They define the organization’s primary characteristics, how it functions, and the rights and duties of members. They trump the parliamentary authority (Robert’s Rules) and any other rules that you’ve adopted (like our Northern Illinois Service Manual). But bylaws aren’t always in charge. The law, your charter, and any other formation documents (Articles of Incorporation) supersede the bylaws.

It has been said by some members of the Area Assembly that *N.I.A., Ltd.* is a separate legal entity and that its bylaws do not govern the Area Assembly, and therefore, that the bylaws do not need to be updated just because the Area Assembly passed some motions.

However, the bylaws of *N.I.A., Ltd.* lay out the framework of “The Quarterly Assemblies” in Article IV and specify who can vote on “any issues brought to a vote at such meetings” (referring to the Quarterly Assemblies). The bylaws clearly govern what happens at Assemblies.

Article V explains who can vote, “The following persons shall be entitled to vote at elections and on issues requiring membership approval,” and then lists those people, as they existed in 1991 when the bylaws were approved. That list does not include the Registrar, Alternate Secretary, Alternate Treasurer, or Alternate Registrar.

**Motion to amend the NIA Ltd. Bylaws to include the Area Registrar as an officer of the Corporation and to update the list of voting members - Continued**

The Registrar position was created, made an officer, and became a voting member of the Assembly at the Summer Assembly in 2005. The Alternate Treasurer and Alternate Secretary became voting members of the Assembly at the Fall Assembly in 2006. The Alternate Registrar became a voting member of the Assembly at the Fall Assembly in 2022.

Because bylaws supersede any other rules adopted by an organization (like the Northern Illinois Service Manual), these changes have never truly taken effect. It is time to update the bylaws to include these changes that the Assembly already made, and we might as well fix some typos, too.

Article VI says, "These By-Laws may be amended from time to time by vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the eligible voters in attendance at any assembly..." Ownership of the bylaws, and the right to change them, belongs to the Area Assembly, not the officers of *N.I.A., Ltd.*

So that a motion like this will not be needed again if there is a change to the voting members of the Assembly, I propose replacing the list of voting members in Article V with the following:

- (a) All persons listed as voting members of the Area Assembly in the "Northern Illinois Service Manual."

I also propose that responsibility for the Bylaws document be formalized in the Northern Illinois Service Manual by assigning duties to trusted servants that already have responsibility for other governing documents: the N.I.A. Service Manual Custodian & Report and Charter Committee.

**References**

- <http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202012.pdf>
- "NIA Ltd. Bylaws (anon protected).pdf" – attached to this motion.

**Follow Up Action Required**

- Make the changes outlined in the motion to the two documents.
- Reporting the changes to the Bylaws may be required the next time we file IRS Form 990.

**Respectfully submitted**

Chris E

N.I.A. 20 Registrar

[registrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org)

**Motion to amend the NIA Ltd. Bylaws to include the Area Registrar as an officer of the Corporation and to update the list of voting members - Continued**

**Discussion:**

A request for a friendly amendment to add the Northern Illinois Planning Procedures in the responsibilities section of the Service Manual Custodian as well as adding Northern Illinois Planning Procedures for translation. This is due to a recently passed motion. This friendly amendment was accepted to add this under: Changes to be Made to the Northern Illinois Service Manual portion of the motion.

A question was asked: Why do we need to add the Registrar as an Officer of the Corporation?

Answer: Right of Participation. Because I have been excluded, as the Registrar, from sitting at the front table and from participating in NIA Ltd discussions and from having a vote. After looking into it, the Alternate Treasurer, Alternate Secretary and Alternate Registrar also do not have a vote. It is partially selfish, feeling like I am a second-class officer not on the same par as the rest of you. This document trumps what is in the guidelines. It needs to be updated.

Legal representation for this motion if it passed was considered. The Registrar researched the requirements. They are: A form is completed and submitted to the IRS. Because the change is not substantial, we would not need to give details. A copy is submitted in duplicate to the Illinois Attorney General. We should consult our attorney for any follow-up paperwork.

**Motion to provide for Spanish translation of all Area documents and to provide a Spanish interpreter at all Area functions.**

**Motion**

The Area Registrar, along with the D.C.M.s for the Spanish linguistic Districts, moves to amend the Northern Illinois Service Manual in the following ways, to provide for Spanish translation of all documents in N.I.A. and to provide a Spanish interpreter at all Area functions:

*\*all page numbers reference the "NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2022."*

1. The following paragraph shall be added to Northern Illinois Service Manual, at the end of the Introduction paragraph of SERVICE GUIDELINES, before The Area Assembly on page 17:

All agendas, motions, minutes, presentations, reports, and other documents produced at the Area level in N.I.A. are to be translated into Spanish by a third party vendor and made available concurrently and in the same format as English documents; whether printed and provided at an Area function, emailed to the Area

**Motion to provide for Spanish translation of all Area documents and to provide a Spanish interpreter at all Area functions - Continued**

or its various committees, posted on the website, or made available in other ways. All such documents should be written and provided to the Area Chairperson, or their designate, with sufficient time to translate and distribute the documents before Area functions. The timeframe shall be determined by the Area Chairperson with the third-party vendor. Area trusted servants are strongly encouraged to use web-based translation or another translation method to translate their email communications into Spanish before sending them out. A Spanish interpreter and sufficient equipment shall be provided at all Area functions, such as Assemblies, Committee Meetings, conferences, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

2. The following bullet point in the responsibilities of All Officers on page 30, "Reporting Officers or their Alternates must submit a written report at Assemblies and Committee meetings," shall be replaced with this new bullet point:

Submit a written report at Assemblies and Committee Meetings. Reports should be written and sent to the Area Chairperson, or their designate, with enough time to be translated into Spanish according to the SERVICE GUIDELINES section of this document.

3. That same new bullet point from change #2 shall be added to the list of responsibilities of *Alternate Officers* on page 30.

4. At the end of the bullet point in the Responsibilities of Service Committee Chairs on page 40, "Report on Area Service Committee activities at Area Committee Meetings. Committee Chairs or their Alternates must submit a written report at Assemblies and committee meetings," add the following sentence:

Reports should be written and sent to the Area Chairperson, or their designate, with enough time to be translated into Spanish according to the SERVICE GUIDELINES section of this document.

5. That same new bullet point from change #2 shall be added to the list of Responsibilities of Appointees on page 45.

6. That same new bullet point from change #2 shall be added to the end of the paragraph beginning the section of *Responsibilities of Administrative Committees* before the *Operating Committee Responsibilities* on page 46.

7. The bullet point "Report on recent activities at Area Committee Meetings. Submit a written report at Assemblies and," which is erroneously placed at the bottom of page 44 in the list of appointed positions, shall be removed.

8. The following bullet point in the Responsibilities of Area Alternate Chairperson on page 32, "Assist in obtaining Spanish interpreter for Assemblies and Pre-General Conference Service Workshop," shall be replaced with this new bullet point:

Assist in obtaining a Spanish interpreter, and additional equipment when needed, for all Area functions, such as Assemblies, Committee Meetings, conferences, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

**Motion to provide for Spanish translation of all Area documents and to provide a Spanish interpreter at all Area functions - Continued**

**Background**

The current practices of N.I.A. fall short of adequately addressing the language barrier to full participation in the Area. How can Spanish speaking trusted servants participate in discussion and vote on motions if they don't have the materials available in Spanish?

We do not provide a Spanish interpreter at Area Committee Meetings. These are the meetings where motions that will go before the Assembly are explained, questions can be asked, and information can be gathered to take back to the Districts to share with the G.S.R.s, so that they can in turn take it to their groups to get an informed group decision. The D.C.M.S from the Spanish linguistic Districts have been attending Area Committee Meetings without an interpreter present to translate. The motions and background materials are only available in English. Reports from officers and committee chairs are not translated. The Northern Illinois Service Manual has not been printed in Spanish since 2020.

Steps have been taken in the right direction by some officers voluntarily, translating their reports and emails. Spanish agendas for Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings have been produced, but only available in print at the meetings. Because translation is not being done by all Area trusted servants, voluntarily or completely, it needs to be required now. Access to the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous should not be hindered. The path to service should be as easy as possible, and it is up to us to make that path better for *all* members.

**References**

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202012.pdf>

Respectfully submitted

Chris E	& Raul S
N.I.A. 20 Registrar	District 20 D.C.M.
<a href="mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org">registrar@aa-nia.org</a>	raulsan0817@gmail.com

**Discussion:**

Raul read the motion in Spanish. Clarification was made regarding purchasing headsets. 300 is what is recommended. Also, have a translator available for all Area events.

There was discussion about whether the wording should be changed from Spanish to any language requested by the membership or by a member. Chris will make this change to the motion for presentation to the assembly.

What is the estimated cost for translation to Spanish for the reports? They do not have a cost estimate currently. Google translate is what is currently being used. The Translator fee is \$550 each meeting. A suggestion was made to include a cost estimate with the motion. Chris asked the Finance Committee for help on this. The Area Treasurer confirmed that the Finance Committee would do this work when reviewing the PPR for the year.

**Motion to provide for Spanish translation of all Area documents and to provide a Spanish interpreter at all Area functions - Continued**

Question: Couldn't we just use the Word translate feature or Google Translate? That is what we are currently doing for reports and email communication.

Joe B. shared that he attended the Spanish Conference and used the headset to translate to English. He said it worked well for him.

**MOTION to amend the NIA Service Manual to include Green Can duties to the Treatment Chair responsibilities:**

**Motion:**

The NIA Area Chair moves to add the following verbiage to the NIA Service Manual section outlining the duties of the Treatment Chair.

Add the following:

Facilitate the collection of green can contributions.

- Green can funds are to be used only for literature for Treatment.
- Green can contributions are collected by groups. Pink can funds may be used directly by groups or districts to purchase literature for Treatment.
- Excess contributions should be forwarded to the N.I.A. Treasurer. Pink can funds held by the Area Treasurer are available to Districts by making a request of the Area Treatment Chair.
- Green can funds are available to the Area Treatment chair.

**Background:**

It came to the chair's attention by the NIA Treasurer that although there is money that has been collected from the NIA groups for green can and has been held for use the treatment chair it has never been added to duties. The money has been collected and used up to this point with no guidelines. The above verbiage is taken from the Corrections Chair guidelines and is suggested that the green can be handled in the same way.

**Discussion:**

One member thought the motion should be removed from the agenda.

A request to correct the word pink to green and to add something explaining what the process would be if there is no Treatment Chair.

It was stated that the motion cannot be removed from the agenda.

## **DCM REPORTS:**

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**Lori DCM D10** – The picnic is on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Marcia S. will be the speaker. Our breakfast is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. We have good treatment meetings. We are not back in the Lake County Jail yet. D10,11 and 12 will be doing workshops together. That information will be coming soon. I will see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Chris D and Chris E. will be at our district meeting. I will be attending the forum in November.

**Steve C. DCM D70** - Our attendance has been up at the District meetings! About 30 members are attending. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, we had a well-attended workshop on steps 6 & 7 and How to Host the NIA 20 Big Book Conference. Dawn, the alternate chair for NIA 20 made a presentation on How to Host the Big Book Conference and answered questions. At our July 13<sup>th</sup> District meeting, we had a discussion on whether District 70 would host the NIA BB conference for 2024. Eric, our alternate NIA 20 delegate was in attendance and answered some questions. At our Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> District meeting, with 35 members attending, our committee voted unanimously to host the 2024 NIA 20 Big Book Conference at the Lord of Life church in Elburn, IL. I would like to thank Dawn and Eric for their help.

**Dave DCM D22** – We sent out the message that we were low on cash and suddenly the groups got rid of their cash! We were then able to purchase some of the things we had wanted to buy earlier. Our District picnic is August 27<sup>th</sup>. D23 is having their workshop right next door the same day. The picnic starts at 10 so we can attend both.

**Dave DCM D23** – Thank you to everyone participating in the workshop at the EDI Club from 2-4:30 on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup>. Take a flyer to your districts and groups. There will be a Spanish translator that day. Our District is excited to have more workshops.

**Raul DCM D20** – I am from the Spanish District. Our District is working well. We have 17 groups and 15 GSR's. It is good that you are working with us, visiting us. When I tell them what is going on in the Area, they do not believe. But, when you visit us, they believe. We are still learning. It is not easy for us to learn how the Area works. I will continue to come and will take up service in the Area on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We are working with Corrections in Wheaton. We are happy to be part of the Spring Conference.

**Sid DCM D11** – Things have been going well. A lot of activity with our committees. As Lori mentioned, we will be planning workshops with them. Since the pandemic, D11 has been struggling to get up to date group contact information. Our District had a meeting to discuss how to correct this. A fillable form on our website was discussed. Dan, the alternate DCM introduced himself.

**Aaron DCM D43** – Thanks to Chris for giving an abbreviated Delegates report from the GSC. Right now, the focus is on ECRF participation. I found information about the forum on AA.org that was helpful. Chris E. will be at the next meeting to discuss the ECRF. We started the discussion of transitioning to the next service term and the positions. District Elections are in November.

**Bonnie DCM D12** – Thanks to Chris for the Final Report of the GSC. We have been working with D10, as Lori mentioned. We are working on a Tri-County Conference that covers Racine, Kenosha, and Lake County. It's a one-day event in March or April of next year. We're also working with them on workshops. I have been visiting groups in the District trying to get service workers. We have several open positions. I am inviting everyone to join me at the Area meetings. I get them free coffee and ice cream. I do get a

## **DCM Reports - continued**

few people. We couldn't be there in person today because we have the District picnic. We will be going to the Forum and State Conference and look forward to seeing everyone at the Assembly.

**Karen DCM D73** – Karen had to leave before this portion of the agenda. She submitted her report.

We continue to have our District 73 business meetings in person & via zoom the 3rd Friday night of the month at 7pm in Sterling, Illinois. Attendance is averaging 20 to 25. Our website is current and updated as meetings change. Our Answering service continues, and we are currently updating contact phone numbers. Our Answering Service 800 # is shared with District 71 & 72. Our Correction committee continues to have meetings in Carroll & Whiteside County jails. Meetings are being held at Dixon Correctional Facility and we have just been notified that Thomson Federal Prison will begin allowing us to have meetings soon. Our PI & CPC committee continue to reach out and share what is available in our District for our 4 counties – Carroll, Lee, Ogle & Whiteside. Our Treatment committee continues to reach out to Treatment facilities and hand out our 800 # cards, mobile app cards and meeting schedules for locations to AA meetings.

### **Service and Administrative Committees:**

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#### **Answering Service – Dan**

We are updating the document with the State of Illinois map and all the 800 #s listed.

#### **BTG – Jim**

I started in this position on 3/11/23 and on July 29, 2023, after 141 days, I received the first request for a BTG Temporary Contact on 7/29/23 I received an email request for a Temporary Contact for a lady in treatment in Chicago who lives in Aurora. According to the chain of emails that led to me, this request was originally sent from the Chicago Area Service Office to Laura B. who is the HTF Alt Chair. I have no info on when Laura B. received this request from CASO. I have no info on when the request was originally filled out by the lady requesting the contact, or when it was received by CASO.

On 7/28/23 Laura B. forwarded the request to Karen F. the last, past, BTG Chair for Area 20, at her personal email address. Karen forwarded that request to Jeff S. the current BTG Chair for D-10 on 7/29/23. Jeff sent it to me on 7/29/23. On 7/29/23 I called Hugo, DCM of D-64 since they do not have a BTG committee and Hugo said to send it to him and he would forward it to his Answering Service Chair who could find a female to contact this lady. I emailed the lead to him that day. On the surface this sounds like a success story for BTG. Except for this request stated this lady was getting out of treatment on July 14, 2023. 15 days before the request finally made it to the NIA. Once we were made aware of the request the BTG system in the NIA performed as hoped. The problem is this request arrived at least 15 days after it was needed because the people working at CASO, and the Trusted Servants in Chicago Area 19, either do not have current contact information for the NIA service structure, or, if they did, they may have originally sent the request into the broken NIA Email system, and it disappeared. Or it may have sat around in Area 19 until found its way to Laura who knew Karen's personal email address and then sent it to her without knowing Karen had rotated out over 2 years ago. On Monday July 31, 2023, I had email correspondence with our NIA Registrar, Chris E. to inquire if he shared our NIA Rosters with other Areas. He said that he did not share it outside our own NIA trusted servant list.

## Service and Administrative Committees - Continued

Chris suggested I bring this story to the attention of the Committee for discussion and possible consideration. If CASO, and the various trusted servants inside Area 19 where this BTG lead originated, had our Roster available, they could have handled this request in a timelier manner. If they had our current Roster, the first person who received that request could have sent it on to the NIA quicker than 15 days late. I hope this Committee will see the value in asking our Registrar to share our Trusted Servant Roster with other Areas and CASO. The quick dissemination of information like this temporary contact request can mean the difference between sobriety and relapse, which is the founding reason and principle behind BTG. Collectively AA failed to help this lady when she reached out her hand. Back in 1988 my first service position in AA was with the District 42 TFC trying to help with AA's "temporary contact program" on a national level. It was the precursor to BTG. It was a failure. This brings me to the last point I wish to make. I remain unaware of the current status of the several items that impact BTG activities: Has the NIA BTG Database been accessed and repaired?

Is the NIA Answering Service Map as shown on the NIA website being corrected and updated? (see Item "C" in the Appendix to this report. Where do we stand with fixing the NIA Email System and the migration to a new web provider? I know that Rob, our Area Chair, and others have been working diligently on fixing the broken NIA email system and switching our web service to a new provider. I also understand our current webmaster has had medical issues of late that have hampered his mobility and participation. For the record, I have attached hard copies of 3 Items to this report to help highlight the status of BTG efforts thus far.

### Appendix:

In keeping with the BTG mandate I have been looking for other tools newly released persons could use to contact and find AA in their home community Item "A" is the article I wrote for the 2023 Summer Issue of Concepts, and which is not yet posted on the NIA website. I had hoped it would attract BTG members to the Assembly, but I was unaware it would be published approximately 12 hours before the Assembly started. Item "B" is a copy of a Survey Questionnaire I had intended to hand out to all the BTG committee members at the Summer Assembly. Sadly, no BTG members came to the Assembly, so I sent the Survey out via email to all known BTG members in the NIA and to date I have received one reply. Thank you to Zoye from D-10, I appreciate your dedication. Item "C" is a copy of the NIA Answering Service Map as it appears today on the NIA website, which shows a date of May 2004 in the top right corner. I'm sure that date is when the Map and the website were first created, not when it was last updated. I had a phone conversation with Dan M. the NIA Answering Service Chair on 7/8/23, and he informed me that the Answering Service phone number map on the NIA website has several incorrect phone numbers listed and that the Map on the website was going to be updated. On August 4, 2023, I called all the numbers listed and found the following:

D-10 changed their ans. svc # to be: 877-893-1212

D-22 changed their ans. svc # to be: 224-325-4414

D-80 Princeton in Bureau Co. ans. svc # is disconnected

D-80 Southern LaSalle Co ans. svc. # has this as it's out going message: "The person you called does not have voice mail."

## **Service and Administrative Committees - Continued**

### **CPC – Jan**

We have seen about 1,000 students throughout the year as well as presentations to about 90 nursing students in college. I attended a national employee assistance program convention. I met a lot of treatment center managers. They are more in management development, so I plan on contacting them to see if I can talk to their counselors. The future events are another high school and I'm pursuing a trade show in October in Naperville. I am trying to set up contacts with the Illinois Nursing Association for our area. I am attending the Illinois State Conference and hope to be at the ECRF.

### **Electronic Equipment – Joe B.**

I will be bringing the translation equipment to D23 Service Orientation Workshop. I need help! I will not be at the Big Book Conference, so we need someone to help set up and take down.

### **Public Information – Ed M.**

Lisa has been meeting with PI chairs in the districts.

**Technology and Webmaster:** The Area Chair stated that moving forward, any requests for website or technology related should be sent to him. If you have an outstanding issues, please send them to him.

A member shared that maybe it is time to look for a new Webmaster. The Chair asked that if he or anyone has a person in mind, please let him know.

### **Open Mic:**

Chris E. shared that Report and Charter will meet one more time to discuss the motion for voting procedures, specifically for nominating. If anyone would like to participate, please email him.

After a motion and a second, the meeting ended at 12:45 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA 20 Alternate Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT LORD OF LIFE CHURCH IN ELBURN, IL.