

Northern Illinois Area 20 Fall Assembly Minutes December 9, 2023, In Person and Online/Video

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

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

Total Attendees: There were 139 total attendees (103 in person, 37 on zoom), 93 voting members, 46 non-voting

Area Officers 9, Area Service Committee Chairs 7, Past Delegates 7, DCMs & Alternates 21, District Trusted Servants 23, GSRs & Alternates 56, members 16

First Time Attendees: Jordan, Julie, Lisa, Katie, Krista, Candace, Lael, Charles D40, Don D40 GSR, Aaron M D90 Corrections Chair and GSR, Maddie P Alt DCM D90

Anniversaries Since Last Assembly: Lisa S 24 years, Patty 4 years, Robert S 26 years, Cheryl V 37 years, Rebecca D 5 years, Scott 10 years, Dave 7 years, Susan 12 years, Tracy 37 years, Morena 4 years, Don 38 years, Kevin 23 years, Randy C 9 years. There were a few more anniversaries that are not listed due to audio issues.

Approval of 2023 Fall Assembly Meeting Minutes: Dan motioned; Aaron seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Allen J.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Winter-2023-Assembly-Treasures-Reports.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Winter-2023-Assembly-Treasures-Reports-SP.pdf>

Alternate Treasurer – Jeff L.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-Contributions-06DC2023.pdf>

Delegates Report: Chris D.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-16-Winter-Assembly-Delegates-Report-12082023-Final-English.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt.-Delgate-Report-Winter-Assembly-12-9-23-Spanish-1.pdf>

Founders Writings Sharing Session

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd GSC suggesting that 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 Trustees Literature Committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding the topic. Those in attendance shared on the questions provided from the Trustees Literature Committee.

Old Business

Open elected positions review: (next rotation)- Alt. Answering Service, Alt. Accessibilities, Chair & Alt. Chair Archives, Alt. Corrections, Alt. CPC and Chair and Alt. Literature are currently open. Jan S, stepped down from CPC Chair and was elected unanimously as the Literature Chair. CPC Chair is now open. Jennifer, D40, stood for Alternate Corrections. She was elected unanimously.

Area Events Hosting Bids:

ISCYPAA - Murphy gave an update on the conference in Southern Illinois, March 29-31 2024.

Illinois State Conference bid - Aug 15-17 2025 - D40 bid was accepted unanimously. The Chairs are filled, Robert S will be Program Chair. High profile draws for main speakers. A Coffee Chair will be added for this event. The event will be held at the Hyatt Schaumburg.

2025 Spring Assembly Conference – There were no bids for this conference. There will be no conference for 2025, only an assembly.

New Business:

2024 Area Budget - Allen reviewed and discussed the PPR line by line. A motion to approve was made and seconded to accept as submitted. The PPR was approved unanimously with 77 votes.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-PPR-07DC2023.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-PPR-07DC2023-SP.pdf>

2024 Area Calendar – motion to approve was made, with the exception of changing the Fall Committee meeting date. Passed unanimously.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Approved-NIA-Calendar-1.pdf>

Motion to provide for translation of all Area documents and to provide a language interpreter at all Area functions

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 translation of all documents in N.I.A. and to provide a language interpreter at all Area functions:

**all page numbers reference the “NIA 20 Service Manual, web version 09/2023.”*

1. The following paragraphs 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 any language requested by the fellowship. All documents shall be made available concurrently and in the same format as English documents; whether printed and provided at an Area function, emailed to the Area or its various committees, posted on the website, or made available in other ways. Translation of documents may be done by a third party vendor.

Area trusted servants are strongly encouraged to use web-based translation or another translation method to translate their reports and email communications into other languages before sending them out.

Language interpreters and sufficient equipment for live translation shall be provided by the Area 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 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 language interpreters, and additional equipment when needed, for Assemblies, Committee Meetings, and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.

3. The bullet point “Report on recent activities at Area Committee Meetings. Submit a written report at Assemblies and,” which is erroneously placed at the top of page 45 in the list of appointed positions, shall be removed. The following bullet point shall be added to the list of *Responsibilities* on page 45:

Report on recent activities at Area Committee Meetings. Submit a written report at Assemblies and Committee Meetings.

Background

The current practices of N.I.A. fall short of adequately addressing the language barrier to full participation in the Area. 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 motions and background materials have only recently been made available in both English and Spanish, and we would like this practice to continue and be expanded. More and more reports from officers and committee chairs are being translated, but not all. The Northern Illinois Service Manual has not been printed in Spanish since 2020. Steps have been taken in the right direction, and we want the practice of translating to continue on a permanent basis.

References

<http://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/NIA-20-Service-Manual-web-202309.pdf>

Respectfully submitted

Chris E & Raul S

N.I.A. 20 Registrar District 20 D.C.M.

registrar@aa-nia.org raulsan0817@gmail.com

The word “conferences” was struck (by the author) from the sentence beginning with Language interpreters under item 1 of the motion. This motion is for all languages, not just Spanish. This motion passed. **73 in favor, 2 opposed**. The minority opinion voiced opposition only to the open-ended idea that we will translate for anybody. The motion should only include translation for Spanish.

Motion to provide for translation equipment for the 2024 Spring conference and Assembly

The 2024 Spring Conference Committee Chairs move to have the Area pay for translation equipment for the 2024 Spring Conference and Assembly. The expected cost is \$3,400.

Background

The 2024 Spring Conference is a co-lingual conference, meaning that all speakers and main events will be in both English and Spanish. We currently only have 20 headphones and equipment for translation for one language; it is not enough equipment for the Spring Conference. We need enough headsets for everyone participating and equipment to translate both English to Spanish and Spanish to English. This equipment and translation service is not just for the conference, but also for all the GSRs to participate in the Assembly. Translation at the Assembly is a necessary service function for full participation. We will need to translate from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. This motion is for this event only.

Respectfully submitted

Hugo S &	Raul S
District 64 D.C.M.	District 20 D.C.M.
hugo.saltijeral@gmail.com	raulsan0817@gmail.com

The committee is estimating a need for 300 headsets. The request to include the word rental after the word equipment was accepted. This will clarify the motion is for equipment rental, not purchasing equipment. **This motion passed 73/1.**

Motion to amend Spring Assembly Conference and Illinois State Conference bidding process

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves to amend the general bidding guidelines for the Illinois State Conference (ISC) and the NIA Spring Assembly Conference (SAC) in those years in which NIA hosts the Illinois State Conference. This motion will ensure that ISC bids are accepted before an SAC bid is accepted.

With approval of this motion, the below corrections are to be made to the NIA 20 Service Manual. Suggested changes are in italics and underlined. Pages numbers refer to the current web version.

Page 8

Assemblies are held quarterly. The Spring Assembly in late March or early April is held in conjunction with the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference (SAC), which is a weekend event. Currently, all Assembly activities take place on Saturday of the Conference weekend. *In years in which NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference (ISC), the Spring Assembly may be a stand-alone event. NIA is required to host the ISC every three years. In these host years, the Area Committee intends to fulfill this responsibility by ensuring that bidding Districts commit to the ISC before the SAC.*

Page 19 & 20.

Scheduled Assembly Agenda Items

- Spring Assembly Conference - Late March or early April
- Pre-General Service Conference Workshop – Mid April
- Summer Assembly – June
 - o Bids for the N.I.A. Big Book Conference (that will be held the following year) will be heard and voted on.
- Fall Assembly – September
 - o *Every third year, bids for the Illinois State Conference (that will be held approximately one and one-half years later) will be heard and voted on. This commitment will be filled prior to any bid acceptance for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference.*

o Bids for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference, (that will be held approximately 1½ years later) will be heard and voted on. *In the years which NIA 20 hosts the Illinois State Conference (ISC), bids will not be accepted until after ISC has been awarded. (Also see Winter Assembly notation below.)*

o Odd year is Area election Assembly.

- December (Winter Assembly)

- o Approval of proposed Area Calendar and Area Budget.

- o Every third year, bids for the *Illinois State Conference* (that will be held approximately one and one-half years later) will be heard and voted on.

- o *Final bids for the N.I.A. Spring Assembly Conference, (that will be held approximately 1 ¼ years later) will be heard and voted on. Should no bid be forthcoming, the Spring Conference portion will be canceled for that year and the Spring Assembly will be held as a stand-alone event.*

Background

Although the Illinois State AA Conference (ISC) is held every year, the host Area rotates among the three delegate areas of Illinois, so NIA only host it every three years. Because of this and the fact that NIA has a Spring Assembly Conference (SAC) every year the getting a host for ISC tends to get overlook. Also, the SAC occurs earlier in the calendar year than the ISC, the bids for host committee for the SAC occur earlier. So, we often struggle to find a host committee for the ISC.

One of the purposes of canceling the SAC and replacing it with an assembly in the years that NIA is the host of the ISC would be to ensure that a host district, districts, or individuals would be available.

An additional correction needs to be made to the Scheduled Assembly Action Items. At the Fall Assembly in 2021, the CAC brought the below motion:

The Area 20 Conference Advisory Committee (CAC) moves that if no group, or district completes the bidding process in accordance with the "Formal Preparation & Presentation of Conference Bid" guidelines in the current and approved Planning Procedures document, by the Winter Assembly, fifteen months prior to its scheduled event date, then the Spring Assembly Conference will be officially canceled by the Area Officers for the intended year.

However, no documentation was added to the NIA 20 Service Manual at that time. This can cause potential confusion for the Area Chairperson, along with the Area at large. This proposed change will simply document the procedure for future clarification. This change needs to happen regardless of the outcome of this motion, and is only that portion which has been added to the Winter Assembly agenda item, along with reference to the bullet point in the Fall Assembly agenda item.

This motion passed 66 for 2 against.

Motion to Amend NIA Service Guidelines for Spanish translation

Panel 64 past Delegate moves to amend the Responsibilities for the Delegate, Area Alternate Chairperson, and the Secretary in the NIA Service Guidelines with the changes listed below. Suggested changes are in italics and underlined.

Delegate (additional bullet)

- *Coordinate the translation into Spanish, by third party vendor, if necessary, of their written report(s) and presentation(s), from Committee Meetings and Assemblies, to be posted on the website.*

Area Alternate Chairperson

- Assist in obtaining Spanish interpreter for Assemblies, *Committee Meetings*, and Pre-General Conference Service Workshop.

Secretary

- A digital, anonymity-protected version of minutes should be sent to the Area Webmaster to be posted on the website. Coordinate the translation into Spanish, by third party vendor, if necessary, of the minutes to be posted on the website.

Background

It is the intent of this motion to provide better communication with our Spanish speaking members.

This motion is to clarify responsibilities of the three trusted servants listed above.

The author removed the Area Alternate Chairperson section of this motion. A friendly amendment was accepted to remove the words, "if necessary, (behind third party vendor) from the Secretary section of the motion. The alternate delegate asked for the withdrawal of the motion so the delegate responsibilities can be revised. He does not think the delegate should have this responsibility. A motion and second was made to re-commit the motion to Report and Charter Committee. After discussion the motion to re-commit was withdrawn by a unanimous simple majority vote. Another motion was made to add "other languages" as well as removing "if necessary" from the Secretary portion. This motion was not accepted by the Chair. Finally, a request to withdraw the motion was made. The author accepted and withdrew the motion.

Floor motion:

Motion to Fund Area Committee Chairs with Committee Displays

The Alternate Chair motions that all NIA fund the creation of displays by 11 committees, including the Concepts Editor and the Technology Committee (if they choose), but not including Website administrator.

Background

Prior to Covid, most, if not all, committees in NIA had displays that were brought to all assemblies and workshops (if that committee was included).

The displays have not been used during the current rotation, and at this time, may be out of date.

A second was made to hear the motion. A \$50 maximum per chair was added to the motion. This is a one-time PPM.

The motion passed 46/2.

At this point, Rob passed the meeting over to the Alternate Chair to continue the agenda, who will be serving as the Area Chair next rotation.

Conference Reports:

2023 Big Book Conference - No Final report

2024 Spring Assembly Conference - Sara and Raul

The website is up. Hotel is ready for reservations. A link will be sent to add the conference to the NIA website for reservations and registrations. The website address is niaspringconference.com

2024 Big Book Conference - Kim S

District 70 is excited to host the BBC in Rockford. We have tremendous support from our local groups. We would like to see at least 350 in attendance. In September and October, we had informational meetings. In November we began the "official" Planning Committee meetings with a few elections. In December we filled all positions and alternate positions with the exception of Printing Chair. The committee will meet on the first Saturday of each month at 10 am. We have a flyer with locations. I have met with staff from different venues in our area. We have narrowed it down to two of the larger churches that can facilitate our needs. We have chosen the date, November 9, 2024. When we meet in January, we will vote on the place and theme.

Committee and Administrative Reports:

Due to time limitation all Committee Chair and Administrative Committee Reports should be written and submitted to the secretary to be included in the minutes.

Archivist – Cheryl V

I think it is important to report that the Bylaws have been completed and will be signed after the meeting. During the break-out meeting I mentioned that we have not had an NIA Archives Committee Chair for the entire Panel 72 rotation. Nor do we have one currently for Panel 74. I would like to see that change..... please. We had three District Archives Chairs in our breakout: Sean, D10 Lael, D41, and Bruce, D43. It was great to hear what they are doing in their districts. This effort includes digitizing efforts. For those Districts that are hosting NIA Spring Conference Assembly or the NIA Big Book Conference, please reach out early if you want NIA Archives to be present. Please be aware that the Archives room must stand alone and not combined with other activities. In addition, it is required that the room must be locked when someone from the committee is not present. I ask for early contact because it is necessary to coordinate what items will be pulled from the storage unit in Elgin, along with coordination of picking up the items to be delivered to the conference, coverage of the rooms, and packing up and returning the items to Elgin. As a portion of the responsibilities of the Area Archivist, I have been updating the Assembly Actions which are kept on the NIA 20 web site. This document lists all actions that have been voted on at Assemblies. One of the items that I've been attempting to complete is to clean-up verbiage for consistency, along with reviewing minutes to verify that the notation accurately reflects the motion. This is an ongoing effort that happens after every Assembly. I understand that NIA has a new OneDrive. I am looking forward to moving all the digital archives to that. I will be working with Bryan to implement this effort once he's ready to take it on. Until that time, I'm working on getting files sorted and renamed in a common format.

Bridging the Gap – Jim T.

If you have received and read the latest issue of CONCEPTS and read the BTG article therein, this report will be a bit redundant. The new **BTG 2.0 Plan** is up and running thanks to excellent cooperation from the following Area Trusted Servants: Dan M. Answering Service; George P. Corrections; Bryan D. Tech Committee; Kevin A. Treatment; and Rob M. current Area Chair. Some of the newly created **QR-coded** book labels, and business cards, (see attached) have already been given to Bill N., D-43 CF Chair, for distribution at DuPage Co. Jail. Thank you, Bill! If you are a GSR or DCM, please tell your District TF, & CF Chairs to contact their Area Counterparts for more info on how to get, and use, these new **QR-coded** materials to help newcomers find their way to our doors. **DCMs:** It would be very helpful to those newcomers if all District TF & CF Chairs showed up to the 2024 NIA Spring Conference and Assembly and attended the BTG workshop on Saturday March 2. It is not possible, nor practical, for BTG to try to open new "*BTG only*" meetings at every facility. Since there are already AA volunteers going there on a daily basis the new **BTG 2.0 plan** seeks to utilize them to carry the BTG message as well. All AA members participating in those facility-held meetings, should be given, and trained in how to present BTG information along with their usual recovery message. New BTG materials are being prepared and may be requested by your local District TF or CF Chairperson through their Area counterparts. Once the volunteers get the BTG materials they will be able to present and include the BTG message that tells newcomers **what AA is, and what it is not**, at those in-facility AA meetings.

Service Manual Custodian – Cheryl V.

The changes approved at the Fall Assembly have been added to the Service Manual at this time. In addition, the NIA, Ltd. Bylaws have been updated and turned over to the officers to sign. Once signed the original will be turned over to the Archivist after scanning. Any motions that are approved today by the Assembly will be added to the manual within a week of this meeting. At present we have not printed the Service Manual. This is, in part, due to waiting to make e-mail transitions to the Panel 74 trusted servants. I understand we may be transitioning to a "permanent" generic e-mail address for the seated Delegate. Should that happen, this will be updated on the inside, back cover of the Service Manual. My hope is that we will be able to finalize the "current" manual so that our new Area Chair can print in time for the Winter Committee Meeting in January.

CPC – Jan S.

At this time, I would like to present an overview of the actions/activities taken by the CPC for the year 2023.

1. High School Students
2. Addiction Counseling Students
3. College Nursing Students

4. Illinois Medical Society - provided text for Newsletter.

5. National Conference

6. Recovery Month – September

7. 2 Health Fairs

The committee hopes to continue this path to develop further relationships. Total Expenses 587.00. Attended Spring and Summer AA Conferences as well as We Are Not Saints, All Area Assembles, All Service Committee Assemblies.

Officer Reports:

Alternate Delegates Report – Erik L.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt.-Delgate-Report-Winter-Assembly-12-9-23-1.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alt.-Delgate-Report-Winter-Assembly-12-9-23-Spanish-1.pdf>

Area Chair – Rob M.

I attended the State Conference and participated on the Archives Panel. I visited D42 and the ECRF. It was an amazing event. AA is in really good hands. \$1,000.76 were my expenses.

Alternate Area Chair – Dawn B.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Alternate-Chair-Report-Winter-Assembly-2023.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/Winter-Assembly-2023-Sp.pdf>

Registrar – Chris E.

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/08-2023-Winter-Assembly-Registrar-Report.pdf>

<https://aa-nia.org/wp-content/uploads/08-2023-Registrador-de-la-Asamblea.pdf>

Alternate Registrar – Kim D.

Here's what I have been up to since the fall committee meeting.

- Emailed Group Contacts By District to DCMs
- Input new GSRs from the fall committee meeting into Fellowship Connection.
- Prepared forms for the Winter 2023 Assembly.

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: \$167.70. Expenses since the last report: 47.16.

Secretary – Sue M.

Please email or give your reports to me for inclusion in the minutes. I have one more reimbursement request to submit making my total expenses for the year to be \$1,047.81.

After open Mic, a motion to adjourn was made by Aaron and second by Lorrie. The meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue M.

NIA 20 Secretary

Next Meeting is January 20, 2024, at Lord of Life Church.