

## 2015 Fall Committee Meeting

October 17, 2015

Lord of Life Church, La Fox, IL

(District 61, host)

**Call to Order** Robert called the meeting to order at 9:01AM

**Quite Time**

**Serenity Prayer**

**New Attendees** Russ

**AA Anniversaries** Nicole E, 25 years     Joe L, 14 years     Dan L, 5 years

**Twelve Concepts of World Service** Read by Lisa S

**Announcements for today** Joe L announced lunch orders are being taken and will be served at 11:30AM; if you haven't already ordered, please do so

**Approval of 2015 Spring Committee Minutes** Robert S called for comments or corrections; there were none. Summer Committee Minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report** Janet N, this report is being presented as of September 30, 2015. The following is our financial status as of this date.

	<u>2015</u>
Contributions/Income:	\$44,053.32
Expenses:	<u>\$46,456.64</u>
Excess of Income over expense	\$(2,403.32)
Current checking account	\$1,179.87
Current prudent reserve	<u>\$17,100.00</u>
Net Assets	\$18,279.87

**2015 Primary Purpose Register**, the 2015 primary purpose register thru September 30, 2015 is attached to this report. Actual expenses for each PPB and PPM are listed through September, 2015.

The Area sent a contribution of \$9,000 to GSO as approved by the September Assembly.

### **Can Contributions**

Pink Can Fund: has received a total of \$7,684.79 YTD in contributions. We have spent \$7,042.20.

Green Can Fund: no activity

**Finance Committee Report** Steve M, reported we met by conference call on October 11<sup>th</sup>, discussed PPM61 and PPM63 and whether they were complete or not. We thought that maybe they would be giving their reports at the Committee Meeting today and announce them that they were complete. Discussed the report on the proposed PPR for 2016. Very short discussion and was decided that the chairman of the finance committee should present the report. We also discussed the Present Register which showed us with an excess of \$1,179.87. Janet commented that some of the contributions received haven't made it on the Register yet. This was not discussed at or conference call. At the proposed PPR for 2016 meeting, our Corrections Chair requested \$600 to be part of the Illinois Sheriff's Association in October. Since there wasn't time before an Area meeting it was brought to us. The Operating Committee reviewed it and had passed it onto us. We did not have a Quorum at the time of 3 of us that were there said they were in favor of the motion. Our chairman, upon getting home, emailed the other two members of the finance committee asking them

to let him know their vote. They both supported the motion. We contacted our Area chair to let him know that the motion passed. . They are complete. PPR for 2016 and who will be presenting.

**Operating Committee Report** Chuck D, reported the Operations committee was asked by Dan L, NIA Corrections chair to review a request for funds to attend the Illinois Sheriffs' Association Conference as a vender. After some discussion we thought it best to pass the request on to the Finance committee.

**Delegate Report – Cheryl V** The 2014 Conference Reports have arrived! I admit freely that I looked at the pictures first. Yes, there are pictures in our report. I then took a moment to read the keynote address, delivered by J. Gary L., Northeast regional trustee. It was something that moved me at the Conference. I would encourage all to read it as it hits on several current and relevant topics. It was also interesting for me to read the report section on the Inventory questions from this year. In particular those questions that I participated and reported on. To see interspersed in the writing the various comments that came out of my group and how they were written so as to flow with all the other comments was humbling.

If this is your first look at a Conference Report, don't get so overwhelmed you put it down and never pick it up again. While there may be a few of us who read the Big Book cover to cover the first time we picked it up, probably most of us didn't. Read a little at a time. Look over the contents and pick something that sounds interesting. Was there a particular agenda item that interests you? Try looking in the Advisory Actions to see if anything came out of it.

It's rotation time for some of the Districts. If you are having elections in your Districts, please make sure you get updated information to Dawn for Fellowship New Vision (FNV) so that everyone is on the mailing list after the first of the year for the General Service Office (GSO) and the Area. I'd like to suggest that new DCMs and their Alternate's get Kelly, Robert & Marilyn your e-mail addresses as soon as they are elected to so I can get them on their lists right away. I'm guessing they would be happy to start including you now in communication also.

Speaking of rotation, I'm getting lots of e-mails from all the Areas that are rotating. What a pleasure to be able to reach out to newly elected Delegates and welcome them to this adventure. I was so amazed at the number of Delegates who reached out to me when I was elected. This year of course it is bittersweet. I got the wonderful chance of introducing Kelly & Robert to the Panel 64 & 65 Delegates. This communication went out as soon as I was home. I also updated the General Service Office (GSO) with all the election information on Monday morning as soon as I could scan it to send. This will allow our newly elected trusted servants to start getting communications.

I had an interesting opportunity to participate in "Donuts with the Delegate" hosted by Dean B. from Area 8, San Diego/Imperial California. Dean arranged for the meeting to have conference call capabilities, and then got three of us to call in to the meeting. This allowed the people attending to here from myself, Bruce D. from Alaska, and Mary Clare L. staff member from the General Service Office (GSO). While it was not his intention, all three of us served on the Literature Committee. It was great to hear the other two talk about things that had slipped my mind in the few short months since the Conference.

I initiated in a Delegate's Sharing request regarding workshops and expenses. This was in light of some discussion we have had here in NIA about the same. I specifically asked these questions:

1. When it comes to workshops, what does the Area pay for? (rent, coffee, literature, etc.)
2. If it's an all day workshop, does the Area cover the cost of lunch? Or is that paid for by attendees?
3. Does your Area distinguish between an Area sponsored workshop and one sponsored by a District? If so, how? In the event of this distinction, does the Area provide any funding?
4. And finally, if an Area trusted servant attends a District workshop, what expenses are reimbursed?

As is usually the case, most of the answers were quite diverse. I found it interesting that a number of the Areas do not hold workshops outside of their regular Area events. These Areas also have multiple day events, similar to our combined Spring Assembly and Conference. A number of the response included mention of potluck meals, the majority responded that attendees either pay for their meals in a manner like we do at our Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings, or they are completely on their own. Those that do not as the attendees pay specifically for the food pass the baskets, sometimes more than once until enough money has been collected to cover the costs.

## Upcoming Events

The NIA Big Book Conference is on the horizon. Scheduled for next Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in Palatine, it will be hosted by District 21. One of the things that many of us are guilty of is waiting to register and not planning in advance. This makes it very stressful on the planning committees. They cannot guess how many people will attend. While “paying at the door” may seem easier for you, please consider that this committee needs to place orders for food based on what they guess will just show up. If you arrive late, you may not be able to buy lunch. And if we don’t get enough people attending and buying lunch, we may not be fully self-supporting.

The East Central Regional Forum will be held November 13-14 in Milwaukee. This is your chance to meet members of the General Service Office staff and General Service Board. It’s also your opportunity to ask questions. This is one place where it doesn’t matter if you are at the top of our inverted service triangle or down closer to the bottom where I currently sit. Any AA member can go to the microphone and say what they’re thinking. Online registration for all of the 2015 Regional Forums is available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) where the Regional Forum Flyers and Registration Forms can also be viewed and printed.

Planning is underway for the 2016 Panel 66 General Service Conference. They are looking for suggestions to list as potential ideas for the theme, presentation topics, and sharing sessions. I will forward out this memo to the Area Committee. These are needed by December 15<sup>th</sup>. I’d like to suggest that perhaps any District interested in participating add this to their agenda and give their GSRs the chance to participate in a small way with the conference. It appears that you can send your suggests in yourself, although if you wish to have me forward them I will be happy to.

We will be hosting the Illinois State Conference and East Central Regional Conference in August. I’m sure Carl will be having a report. Please consider volunteering to help plan.

Questions/comments: John C, is there an agenda or program for ECRF so people can know what to expect? Cheryl V, there is stuff on the web  
Urbano, the date is incorrect in your report; Cheryl noted the change to 2015 regarding conference reports

## **New Business:**

### **2016 Area Calendar**

The following host districts were identified

Winter Committee Meeting, D42

Summer Assembly, D43

Pre GSC W/S, D64 (Matt will ask and get back)

Summer Committee Meeting, D12

Summer Assembly, D43 (either archives committee or district)

Fall Assembly, D62

Fall Committee Meeting, D23

Winter Assembly, D22

Robert advised that dates approved by Lord of Life Church does not mean you need to host there. If date is to be changed, need to contact me to make sure there is no conflict. Robert will post preliminary calendar to the website.

### **2016 Area Primary Purpose Register presentation, presented by Steve**

Concerns discussed:

- A. NIA hosting the State Conference in contrast to attending the Sate Conference in other Areas. Shortage of AA Service Manuals
- B. One time supplies that may or may not be needed
- C. Past years expenses
- D. Effect of having a reasonable idea of expenses and how it affected our Prudent Reserve

**Bid for 2016 Big Book Conference**, Chris V, read a report on behalf of D41

Doug, DCM D71, we would like to place a bid for the 2016 big book conference. Official bid would be presented at assembly.

**Motion: Request for revision to the Bridging the Gap pamphlet**

Presented by Carol H,

Rich H seconds the motion

Questions/Discussion:

Rich H, our delegate will write a letter, correct? Cheryl V, I have asked Carol to write the letter, I will simply forward and sign my name.

Intent is for letter to be submitted on behalf of NIA if approved.

Cheryl, the reason I am asking Carol to write is that I am in opposition to this. Cheryl read last year's report of the General Service Conference regarding this topic. As a member of the literature committee, I do not think it appropriate it goes to the literature committee. They have 4 pamphlets in complete review on the agenda and 2 additional advisory actions. Feel this would lose emphasis in this committee. I suggest BTG go out and determine what specifically is needed for corrections. It is easier to move forward when you come forth with specific recommendations. Better service by BTG committee to bring a more precise motion next year.

Carol, we were advised at the BTG Workshop that by including both Corrections and Treatment committees, we could provide additional reasons for looking at the pamphlet. I can put specific recommendations in the letter.

Gary, DCM D73, supportive of BTG as I am a beneficiary of it. Worked in county jail for 22 years. Cheryl did voice her opinion, but please go back to GSRs. In my district there is a problem of merging Treatment Facilities and Corrections into BTG. How would needs be met in your district? Need to approach carefully.

Rich H, BTG chair, remember, our job is to represent what we think is in the best interest of AA. We are asking for help to bring this together since there is not a BTG desk at GSO. We don't get to pick who we help.

Jeff G, still operate by inverted triangle where meetings and groups and members are at the top of the triangle. We should let the agenda make us decide why we want to do this. I agree I don't get to choose who I get picked to help. Need a broader process at conference level.

Terry W, we don't have what's going to be in the letter. Before you put NIA on the letter, we need to know what it's going to say. I would be hesitant to approve without knowing.

Dan L, letter will be presented at assembly. We put specifics in the motion. Not trying to rewrite, trying to make it better.

Larry S, Panel 56 Past Delegate, I agree with Rich; I don't care how busy literature committee is or what they said last year. Remember groups can ask the conference to make a change.

John C, Panel 58, Past Delegate, some good things being said. I am a true believer in informed group conscience. DCMs unless they wrote down verbatim, don't have what they need for an informed group conscience. Groups are going to be making this decision and we need to do this correctly.

Robert S, Carol will send revised motion and will go out to all of NIA with preliminary agenda in next 2 weeks

Carmela, Alt Registrar, it is exciting to be a part of this process. Question is do we want to actively participate in the spirit of this motion to approach, in a fresh light, BTG. Motions evolve and don't happen quickly. Caution that we don't spend time trying to get it perfect but put something forward with support of groups in NIA. Getting group feedback and discussing is better than whether it gets added to agenda.

Ray M, this body, as an assembly, has the responsibility to present a motion they agree upon. Responsibility of delegate to send letter. Support of motion is what we are looking for.

Barbara H, DCM D21, hearing that this is something to take to district as a topic of active discussion and talk to groups for input. Deadline is Dec 15<sup>th</sup> and the next assembly Dec 12<sup>th</sup>; that suggests input must arrive before the assembly.

How should we add opinions prior to whom should we direct our thoughts? Carol, I or another member of BTG would be happy to visit your district meeting to discuss.

Phil, Alt DCM D62, I'm confused. Difference between TF and Corrections. If I can't go into prison; it's hard to bridge the gap. If they can't tell someone where a meetings at, there's something wrong.

Rob M, Alt AS Chair, I've heard this body talk about BTG for over a year. Partially how we do 12<sup>th</sup> step work now. Although I was confused why we need BTG, reality is we need this. We're rehashing what needs to be done for a pamphlet that seems woefully inadequate. This needs to be put to fellowship for input.

Matt, DCM D64, is December 12<sup>th</sup> enough time to get information to meet the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline? Cheryl, timing will happen in time. Will be sent to three committee chairs and the conference coordinator. Trustees committee will determine if the motion moves forward. If moves forward, staff person will gather background information.

Joe L, DCM D61, we discussed BTG at our district meeting and I struggle in defining what it really is. Maybe we need to look beyond pamphlet to the guidelines. It would be helpful for me and my district members.

Carol H, not first time this was presented. I know there are a lot of questions, so I would be happy to visit your district. BTG workshop weekend celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> year this year. Don't let your lack of knowledge prevent you from moving forward.

Jeff G, when you started you asked for a second because Carol had presented on her own. What has brought Carol to do this if she hadn't gone through BTG committee? Carol, I presented to Robert and decided at Fall Assembly not to present. I was asked to do this by our BTG coordinator.

Robert, we need to wind discussion down

Larry S, I don't hear anyone saying much about a motion - we are talking about procedure. Who cares? BTG is a relatively simple process. The existing pamphlet doesn't say anything about corrections. At very least it should acknowledge there is corrections. This is not difficult. Let people who do the work do the work.

Eva DCM D91, we don't have any TF and our prisoners are from up here. We have lots of alcoholics in nursing homes. Nice to be included.

### **Motion by Corrections Committee to send literature to SIA 21**

Presented by Dan L

Question/Discussion: Chuck D, DCM D10, number of books are different, why is that? Dan L, noted difference between 2014 and 2015

Dawn B, why do we take care of their jails? Dan L SIA doesn't have same monetary abilities as NIA. NIA is blessed with more funding and our membership larger. Matter of supporting our sister area and their financial needs.

Cheryl V, would it be better for Dave at SIA to receive quarterly? Dan L, he was hoping to have by winter assembly.

Rob M, how much of this are they funding or is this all NIA paying for SIA institutions? Dan L, I cannot speak to that. I was asked to provide one case per facility. Asking for help in their shortfall.

Chris V, wonder if possible to reach out to PI person at GSO? Dan L, with quantity we're ordering, getting a break of \$800 and free shipping

John C, treasurer reported today and what committee is asking for. We don't have the money right now. Are we going to have money by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>? Judd W, if direction of assembly is to pay for this in December, quite likely it will come out of reserve.

Matt, why can't we pull from Pink Can? Dan L, NIA collects pink can contributions for our area and not SIA.

Robert, might consider to have an answer to specific answer to what SIA is doing.

Robert, we will break for lunch. Please get incoming DCM info to Dawn B.

### **Old Business:**

2015 Big Book Conference, Barbara, reported 147 pre-registered. I can take registrations today. Flyers are on the table that include a barcode to online registration. Final planning meeting tomorrow. Online registration closes Tuesday.

2016 Spring Conference, Terry reported, should be ready for online registration by November.

2016 State Conference, Carl T reported, our last planning meeting was held Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was fair, we still have a couple Chair and several alternate positions open. Our program committee has been busy contacting and lining up speakers. All but the GSO and AI-Anon Speaker have been confirmed. We hope to have a commitment for the GSO speaker from our new General Manager next week. Area AI-Anon Chair has provided a Convention Liaison as well as a contact for AI-Anon participation in this conference. I will be working in conjunction with the program chair to reach out regarding program, speaker, and other participation in the conference. Budget is being finalized now so conference fees can be set. Final flier is in Design with hope of having it ready for the Regional forum in November. We are planning to have our November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. This will include a walk-through of the facility to help

each of the current chairs in their planning. I am also communicating through our current delegate with the Conference Policy Committee regarding the need for a possible walk through of the facility according to the guidelines.

National AA Technology Workshop, John C reported, John C, was there any shared expense in other areas such as online contributions; John, there was a breakout session – it is an increasing difficult problem. More difficult to manage. Will continue to be discussed. Need for security on our website is lower than sites that include online contributions. See full report under Standing Committee Report section below.

**Officer Reports**

**Alternate Delegate** Kelly L reported, congratulations to all the members that were elected to their new positions at the Area level and thanks to all that stood for an Area position. I sent out the Contributions quarterly reports from GSO September 23rd and there were only two meetings that had group numbers but no district attached. That is down from the previous report which had thirteen. Maybe Robert and Chris can get them cleared or to the appropriate district. It was good hearing that some districts sent the reports out to all the GSRs and others had them available at the district meeting. A big thanks to all the district secretaries and DCMs that send me their district minutes, and especially since most of them are sent as a bcc. I enjoy reading what is going on at the districts and how well most of them are attended. November 7th will be the last Service Orientation workshop that I will be having with the help of other Area officers. District 61 is hosting the workshop; it will be at United Methodist Church of Geneva in Geneva. I will be attending the East Central Regional Conference November 13th -15th in Milwaukee WI. I am getting very excited about attending the Conference of Delegates Past and Present for the 5th time and be able to have the opportunity to participate.

**Alternate Chair** no report

**Secretary** Nicole asked all officers, the committee and DCMs to email or provide a written copy of their report.

**Alternate Treasurer** Judd W, presented a summary of contributions received from 1/14/2015 through 9/30/2015:

Date deposited	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Sum of Contribution amount
Group contribution	\$35,293.24
Pink Can contribution	\$7,684.79
District contribution	\$8,750.66
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$51,728.69</b>

**Alternate Secretary** no report

**Registrar** Dawn B, reported In FNV the Registrar can search for groups or individuals and do instant updates. It is no longer necessary to send group information updates to both NIA and GSO. All information update requests can be sent to the area registrar at registrar@aa-nia.org.

The new e-mail address for the Area Registrar is: [registrar@aa-nia.org](mailto:registrar@aa-nia.org).

PLEASE MAIL ALL CHANGES TO NIA20 REGISTRAR, Box 196, 684 S. Barrington Rd (4B Plaza) STREAMWOOD IL 60107.  
THANK YOU TO ALL DISTRICTS THAT SENT IN THEIR INFORMATION CHANGES

Requests input between 09/09/15 and 10/15/15

<b>Total Since 08/01/2015</b>	
Group information	4
New groups/Pending Active	2
Folded/Inactive/Unknown	2
Group contact information	7
District/Individual contacts	0
Area contacts	0
<b>Total updates</b>	<b>15</b>

We will continue to send welcome letters from the area to new GSRs. The packets include the following:

**Alternate Registrar** no report

**Chair** Robert S reported, since our Fall Assembly, I have attended the Finance Committee meeting that took place in preparation of presenting the 2016 Proposed Primary Purpose Register.

I have secured a replacement member for the Electronic Equipment Committee to take Ed R's place until the end of the year – at least. Please thank Kevin B for agreeing to do this. He has been elected to be District 22's incoming DCM but hopefully he will be able to do both jobs.

I have begun putting together all my files to be turned over to Marilyn (our incoming Area Chair) and preparing documents to aid in the transition. I remember, from my first few months, the enormous task of filling the appointed positions. Please don't run when she comes over and asks to talk to you.

Since one of my first responsibilities, in my new position, will be to send out the agenda and background information to all the DCM's for the 2016 General Service Conference, I am asking all rotating DCM's to please let Dawn know as soon as possible of the DCM Elect's contact information so that we have that updated prior to the end of the year. I will also be coming around today and at the Winter Assembly asking for that information myself.

The Report & Charter Committee has been working, diligently, on revising the documents that make up the Area Guidelines. I was hoping that this would be completed by now but it is truly a daunting task. The goal was to be able to have one cohesive document that could truly be called the NIA Service Manual and it not be just a collection of the various individual documents that are our guidelines. I know that they have made a lot of progress and are close to having the bulk of the work done. I hope that this will continue with the next committee until complete.

We will be reviewing the proposed 2016 Primary Purpose Register. I caution you to not get into the "weeds" with the dollar amounts but to remember that these amounts are estimates for the purpose of calculating the Prudent Reserve, which is based on a percentage of the total of those amounts. The amounts do not mean that we have to spend that much or not go over the amount – they are just estimates based on past experience and current trends. Instead, let's focus on the activities and make sure that we have everything that we are responsible for doing and not anything that we think is not appropriate.

We have two motions on the agenda. The first is from a DCM (Carol H) about having our Delegate write a letter to the related committees at the General Service Office regarding the Bridging the Gap flyer. The second is from our Corrections Committee regarding sending literature to SIA Corrections for use in prison in southern Illinois. I have attached background material for both in the form of Appendixes. The background information includes previous requests for the same.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Answering Service**, no report

**Archives**, no report

**Archivist**, no report

**BTG**, Rich reported, the following activities since we last met on August 8<sup>th</sup>:

August 22-Participated in a Workshop in Oakbrook, District 42

August 28-30- Attended the Illinois State Conference in Normal Ill. And participated on a Corrections Panel

September 3- Attended Linguistic District 20 District meeting in Elgin with BTG Committee Member Bill B. and talked about Bridging the Gap and other opportunities to carry our message

September 19- Attended Area 20 Assembly

September 19- Attended All Chicago Open

October 4- Attended EDI Anniversary Luncheon in Streamwood, Got to know somebody I had met sometime back, and looking forward to some combined work in Service and Recovery with each other and the people we know

October 5- Attended Area 19 H&I Committee Meeting with new District 22 BTG Committee Chair Bill B. at Chicago Area Service Office. We listened to them talk about their committee and how it is structured and their activities. And we talked about our new BTG Committee.

October 9-11- Attended Southwest Regional Forum in St. Louis MO

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and be involved in this new committee. And looking forward to this Committee's bright future

**Corrections**, Dan L reported, since the Summer Assembly, it has been kind of quiet for the Corrections Committee.

Pat C., the current Alternate and Chair Elect, will be attending an Illinois Sheriffs Association (ISA) event for Jail Administrators and Deputy Sheriffs in Springfield on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. She will be joined by David G., the SIA 21 Corrections Chair. Together they will be manning a booth that will have the corrections display in the Vendor area. The committee recently purchased over \$300 worth of literature to have on hand for the different Jail Administrators and Deputy Sheriffs to look at and take if they wish too. The purpose is to raise awareness of the benefits associated with having AA meetings and literature available to inmates in county jails. This is the first step to becoming more involved with the different training seminars the ISA conducts each year. The goal is to become presenters at these seminars in the future.

There has been literature purchased and distributed for DuPage and Kendall County Jails, Sheridan Prison, and for the Kendall County Probation Department.

Please remember that the money used for literature in jails, prisons, and the judicial system as a whole is done with donations made to the PINK CAN. It is vital that everybody continues to donate and support the PINK CAN so literature can get to those in desperate need behind the walls.

**Concepts**, no report

**CPC**, no report

**Electronics Equipment**, Keven B will be appointed the new Electronics Equipment chair through the end of the year

**Grapevine**, Jim H, reported good news for all those who do their Christmas shopping early, the Grapevine will be offering free shipping again this year. The Free shipping dates are 11/1 – 12/31. This is a good deal for those of you who haven't got a copy of *Language of the Heart* yet. Even better news if you want to get a copy of the newly released *Forming True Partnerships*. Speaking of partnerships, the topic of the November Grapevine is Relationships in Sobriety. Anyone who is dissatisfied with the content of the Grapevine, here is your change to change that: We are no accepting stories for our issue about "relapsing" (due November 10<sup>th</sup>), stories about the joys and challenges of "getting involved in General Service" (due December 5<sup>th</sup>) and our issue on "fun in sobriety" (due January 5<sup>th</sup>). Dust off your typewriter and have at it.

**Literature**, no report

**PI**, no report

**Report and Charter**, no report

**Special Needs**, Urbano reported, first of all I want to thank you for letting me serve. I was one of the 5,000 volunteers of the International Convention in Atlanta, of course in the special needs booth.

I have been in touch with John R from Shorewood, WI, an alcoholic with 22 years of sobriety, hearing impaired and blind with low vision and cochlear implants. He is looking for AA meetings or treatment with sign language interpreter in



other areas. I did share with him our 3 meetings within our area. He wants to travel to a meeting in Rockford. He is involved to help the hearing impaired community. They have AA hearing impaired meeting on an OOVOO on webcam on every Sunday and Thursday night at 7PM CST. Also, Deaf Recovery Community (DRC) on Facebook has over 200 members. Sounds of Sobriety (SOS) online email group was formed to help us who have hearing loss (deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing) to find a place to recover from alcoholism. For many, face to face AA meetings no longer work. All members of AA or those who think they may have a problem with alcohol are welcome. SOS online group-subscribe@yahoo.com

**Treatment**, Weezie reported, On September 22nd, Dan L and myself did a workshop in D41 (Villa Park). Amy L, our new treatment chair was also present. Although it was a treatment workshop, most of our focus was on BTG. The throughout was small but the enthusiasm was large.

On October 10th, Dan L and I were in Sterling at D73 to do another workshop. Attendance was very good. Although they only have a couple of outpatient facilities, they have quite a few correctional facilities, including Dixon Correctional Facility and the Thompson Federal Prison. From the Treatment side, I spoke about the importance of the BTG program, at the treatment center that I go to in Rock Island has a lot of people from their district. On several occasions those people are released back to D73, have asked for BTG services and no one to give them to.

**Web Administrator**, John reported, in this report I've only included some highlights of the National AA Technology Workshop I attended in the first weekend of October and some early results of that experience. We'll see those results continue to develop and evolve for some time to come. I believe they will have a profound effect on at least the web-related technology in Area 20 and perhaps more than that. I will give an expanded report at the next assembly so that the GSRs can make their groups aware of the great value of that workshop. Please note that Jeff S. from district 90, Jeane M. from district 41, Magic M. from district 43 attended as did one other Area 20 webmaster whose name I did not record but from whom I await email contact. My apologies to any that I missed.

An interesting trend came to light early in the workshop: in response to rapidly advancing technology many districts, areas and intergroups have created technology service committees under which they have placed their website operations.

Much of the workshop value came from incredible networking and brainstorming opportunities. As a direct result of the conference the following items emerged.

- We formed a website administration committee consisting of me, Ben M. (alternate website administrator and district 61 webmaster), Jeff S. (district 90 webmaster) and Earl N. (district 10 webmaster). Our goal is to form an area-wide webmaster support group so that we can collaborate effectively.
- We identified the current functions of the present Area 20 website. We decided to convert the website format to WordPress, which among other things will make it responsive, i.e. automatically adaptable to smartphones, tablets and computer screens alike. Earl's terrific work on the District 10 site will be part of the new design approach. The WordPress conversion will also make our site more sustainable, i.e. more easily passed along to future trusted servants with less than professional skills.
- Jeff S. is developing a "Keep it Simple" website package available for easy adoption by anyone in AA, and Alternate Ben M's district 61 site will be the first test bed.
- Area 20 may be one of the first to participate in a 12 Step Meeting Finder project destined to be available on any CMS-based website as well as a free standing smartphone app.

In a deeply moving presentation a small group of deaf AAs illustrated the need for making ASL interpretation more widely available by turning the audience into recipients of the translation while they told parts of their stories. A leader of that group told of being accommodated very well by our own Urbano after getting no assistance from a nearby area.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the NAATW. Look for more detail at the next assembly, when I'll update you on the highlights mentioned here and will have a comprehensive written report.

**Conference Advisory Committee**, no report

## DCM Reports

Dist 10, Chuck D, reported district meeting attendance has been averaging 45. There is one chair position open and a few co-chair positions to fill. Discussed a motion for the district website to use area guidelines or as close as possible. GSR workshop is being held on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:00PM in Grayslake. Fall breakfast with D12 was held a few weeks ago and was a success; we covered all expenses. Treatment – outside centers ask us to bring meetings but then they don't return calls to our treatment chair.

Dist 11, no report

Dist 12, Ken reported, at our last district meeting we held our committee chair elections and filled all but one committee chair. Our next district meeting is October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4PM at Vista West Hospital in Waukegan. All are welcome to attend.

Dist 20, no report

Dist 21, Barbara H reported, District 21 (Palatine/Rolling Meadows) has twelve to fifteen attendees at its monthly district meeting. In my last report, I told you that we were discussing whether to create a new committee for Bridging the Gap or to combine BTG with another committee. To date our only decision has been that we do not yet want to create a new committee. So it is a bit unclear, at least to me, how BTG fits into our service structure.

Planning for the Big Book Conference on October 24 (next Saturday!) has been a major focus in our district. We are excited about the lineup of speakers and panelists. As of about 9:30 this morning we have 141 registrants. It's not too late to add your name; I am accepting checks and cash today. Or you can register online or by mail. Flyers are on the table.

We will be rotating service positions in January 2016, so we will be having elections at our November district meeting. Right now all committees except Grapevine have chairs, and no committee has an alternate chair. I have distributed a flyer describing the service positions to GSRs and committee members. (Many thanks to Nicole for creating this.) I have not yet seen this flyer in circulation at any of my meetings, so I will be encouraging people to make use of it at our district meeting this Tuesday.

Dist 22, no report

Dist 23, no report

Dist 28, no report

Dist 40, Chris reported, we are excited there are two new meeting in D40; an open meeting Thursday night and a closed meeting on Saturday morning. We have been asked to bring a meeting to the Winfield Woods Healthcare facility in Winfield. D40's Holiday Party will be held December 13<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church in Wheaton from noon til 4:00PM. Our elections are coming the end of the month at our District meeting. I am hoping we can fill some of our committee positions. We have had people interest in taking those positions. We are looking to host either an assembly or committee meeting next year for NIA.

Dist 41, no report

Dist 42, no report

Dist 43, no report

Dist 51, no report

Dist 52, no report

Dist 61, Joe L reported,

1. District 61 officers and committee persons will rotate out of their positions at the end of the year. Elections will be held at our District meeting on October 30, 2015.
2. District 61 with the support of NIA 20 is hosting a workshop. The A.A. Home Group – Where It All Begins. How a group functions. How to get started. Saturday November 7, 2015 in Geneva, IL (see accompanying flyer).
3. Our District Registrar, Betty F. reports that district contact and meeting information is current, including the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) data provided to the Area 20 Registrar.

4. Our Corrections co-chairs Chip F. and Bee U. have noted that there have been a few changes at the Kane County Adult Justice Center including cut backs in staffing. There are quite a lot of "lock downs" now, which limit the amount of people that can attend/get to meetings. More books and pamphlets were purchased and distributed, but probably not enough. We may need to increase budget for future to be able to supply enough materials to inmates. Lory C. stated that the Corrections Committee donated ten Big Books to the Fox Valley Transitional Living Center (a work release program for approximately 130 women, serving up to the last 2 years of their sentences at this facility in Aurora). Lory was able to take 3 women to the District 61 Picnic. One of the women was able to contact a family member (she has not seen her children in over 2 years) so they were able to connect and share the afternoon together. She was extremely grateful to be able to attend and get away from the facility and interact with other people. They all made the comments of how nice the party was, nobody was drinking/drank; there weren't any fights or drama! It was really a great experience for all of them.
5. Thanks to Gerry H. and Brett O. for stepping-up to fill the Special Needs committee chair and alternate chair positions.
6. Our Treatment chairs Bill C and Julie H report that the Bridge to Shore meeting held at noon on Wednesdays at St. Marks' continues to be active. It's a great place for people in treatment programs, people recently released from treatment programs, people who have had recent relapses, and newcomers. The Back to Basics Program continues at CDH on Monday's at 7:00pm. The sequence of 4 different sessions starts on the first Monday of the month. This meeting goes through all 12 steps in 4 weeks. It is a great introduction for newcomers, and patients from BHS attend. This is a great refresher for those who have been around a while. The Back to Basics program is available for any meeting which may be interested in changing up their format. This is a one month commitment; speakers will come to moderate the sessions. This may be good for any group which is struggling with attendance or looking for something new.
7. Our Literature chairs Judy H. and Al S. stated that they have newcomer packets available. Suggested group donation is \$5.00 per packet. Only 100 packets remain of the initial 500 packet order. Most groups in the district now have packets.
8. Rich Z., our Public Information chair, met with many of the libraries in the district and was able to leave A.A. literature and meeting schedules at most. In addition, he was able to leave A.A. information with the Kane County Circuit Court, Kane County Jail, and Juvenile Justice Center.
9. The District 61 pig roast and picnic held on August 8 was a tremendous event! More than 250 member families and friends attended. Great music provided by two different bands, wonderful food, children activities, fellowship and reunion.
10. District 61 GSR's continue to discuss Bridging the Gap at home groups to understand if a district committee is needed.
11. Average attendance at our monthly District 61 Service Meeting: 33 (Jan-Sept) 12. District 61 groups have contributed \$3,402.45 to NIA 20 YTD. The District has contributed \$1,500.00 to NIA 20 YTD. Our treasury balance, after reserve, for the period ending September 25, 2015 is \$2,059.00.

Dist 62, no report

Dist 64, Matt reported, Dist 64 has been active. All positions are filled, except CPC. Around 12-15 GSR attending. We have been having healthy discussion around the 7th tradition, 12th concept and 2nd warranty. Been fun. We have decided to pick a tradition and concept to discuss each mtg. A committee chair will make a presentation as it relates to their committee.

We are starting our ad for answering service/website in the Orange Peele Gazette and The Voice. With the GSC right around the corner. We are going to put on a mini mock GSC. Everyone's going to get involved from GSR's, committee chairs, group committee representative, home group members and members. We want to have an interactive fun "getting it down to right size" look at the Conf process. It will be fun and informative for me as well, since I am still learning. I will be asking for this body's experience both past and present... Ah Whoo Ah Whoo!!

Dist 70, no report

Dist 71, Doug reported, one new meeting was added to our schedule, bringing our list to 46 meetings a week. We have 14 GSRs that report regular, covers about 1/3 of meetings. We have been putting together the Big Book Conference bid.

Dist 72, Steve reported, this Wednesday we will be having elections. We have a new group that started 6-8 weeks ago. It is a Grapevine meeting in Elizabeth, IL. Starting to get people to help on the Spring Assembly; haven't had a meeting

yet but have attended the Spring Assembly Conference committee meeting in September and learned what we are expected to do. Our last district meeting was attended with 4 GSRs and a report from our Grapevine meeting that they have elected officers.

Dist 73, Gary reported, group/meeting frequency numbers basically unchanged. AA meetings in Thomson Federal Prison going weekly for over a month now. Area Finance Committee met at Twin City Group in Sterling, 9/26. BTG workshop hosted by D73 and Area 20 Treatment Committee had 19 participants from 7 districts, including 71, 72, 73, 90 and others. Elections were held 10/16. Names and information will be forwarded to the NIA Registrar soon. D73 Fall Round Up Dinner is November 19<sup>th</sup> at Loveland Community Building, Dixon. Black Hawk Group Dinner is October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Farm Bureau Building. Polo Faith & Fellowship Dinner will be December 9<sup>th</sup> at Polo Town Hall.

Dist 79, Jaime reported, greetings to all. The district has 8 groups, of which 6 have GSRs and attend the first and third Thursday of each month at district meetings, a Thursday is to exchange information and another Thursday is to study the manual. We have committees treatment centers, correctional facilities, public information, literature, the vineyard, and a committee to carry out our annual meeting of district and that has carried out for the fourth consecutive year the Vineyard and flatters AA literature in Winnebago County Jail and in institutions and clinics in the past month the message is transmitted in Hispanic newspapers. Some customers at ministries and lawyers send their AA meetings elections of 2016-2017 servants were carried out. They were as DCM Luis J, secretary Eva M, Gabriel S. 1 esorero Oscar V alt Julian's coordinator Arthur G Vineyard. The new DCM invite new coordinators of service committees. Thanks for listening. God bless you all.

Dist 80, no report

Dist 90, no report

Dist 91, Eva reported, CORRECTIONS: The approval has come in for 2 more people to go into Henry Hill Corrections Center. 1 is now going, the other has moved away.

CPC: Currently putting AA pamphlets in the waiting rooms at the hospitals.

2016 SPRING CONFERENCE: Still meeting and things are moving along.

ELECTION RESULTS: We have the following positions covered: Phones, Secretary, Treasurer, CPC/PI, Bridging the Gap, Corrections, have all been covered. None of the other committees have been filled and usually aren't filled. We have an Alternate DCM who will chair the District Meetings, but is unable to travel because of health reasons. No one has stepped forward to be the DCM. We will keep trying. Main reasons given are the travelling or work interfering.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Due to the success of last year's Chili Cook-Off fund raiser, the District will be holding another one this February. This helps fund expenses that are not covered by the group contributions. We are always running very close to our Prudent Reserve. We want to thank Corrections and Treatment Area committees for their help in keeping us able to spread the message with literature. We do not have a Treatment Center in our District, right now the meeting in the Nursing Home is doing very well. A new meeting has started up in Wyoming Illinois. This is the only meeting in Stark County at this time.

### **Open Mic**

### **Close**

A motion was made to close

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM