Registrar's Report

WELCOME DISTRICT 65!

As instructed as the last assembly, we have been working closely with several members of the Hispanic community to help set up a third Spanish district within NIA-20. To that end, I attended the inaugural district meeting for this new district on August 2, 2016 in Aurora, IL. At that meeting several existing GSR's from groups already registered in D20 requested that their meetings be re-districted into a new district (geographically centered around Aurora IL). I performed this request and created DISTRICT 65 and re-identified approximately 10 meetings into the new district. These meetings (which have all been in place for some time) currently meet in Aurora and West Chicago. Since the existing Aurora district is D-64, the new Hispanic district became D-65. I was advised that additional meetings currently held in Carol Stream, Bolingbrook and other surrounding areas may soon be added; and I'll make those updates when requested by the specific meeting GSR's. The new district also had elections and elected a DCM, SEC., and TRES. along with alternates for all 3 positions. The DCM and Alternate have been added to Area Committee roster. District committee chairs will be elected in the coming months. Please join me in welcoming DISTRICT 65 to NIA-20!

WHAT's YOUR STATUS?

Updates were sent to all of the districts following the last assembly and as is normally the case after such emails, I've received numerous requests to update GSR and district trusted-servant information over the past 6 weeks. All of those updates have now been entered into FNV and new rosters and GSR/meeting info sheets have been sent out where applicable. In particular I would like to thank districts 10, 11, 21, 23, 40 and 42 for their steadfast attention to detail; we appreciate all of the corrected information and you've kept us very busy! As for the other districts, please review the most recent files that were sent to you and advise us as soon as possible of any updates that need to be made so we can keep our FNV info current.

I often get asked to explain what all this talk about a groups' STATUS is, so I'll explain briefly. Whenever information on a NEW GROUP (a group not currently in FNV) is forwarded to me it is entered in FNV and the group is immediately given a "NEW" status. The group may have existed for several years or it may be brand new, but this is the first time the group is being entered into FNV. A group will stay as NEW for about a week while GSO reviews the provided information to ensure that

- At least one primary contact or a GSR is entered for the group
- The information is accurate and that the address(s) are verifiable
- The GROUP NAME adheres to GSO guidelines (I can get more info on that if you're interested).

Once the group (information) is deemed to pass these criteria the group is given a status of "Pending Active" at GSO. The group will remain in this state for about 4-6 weeks while GSO goes through the process of completing the entry information and then will issue a group number for the new group. Once the group has been issued a group number, the groups' status is shown as ACTIVE (meaning the info is verifiable and there is a primary contact or GSR attached). Should information later be provided indicating that the GSR or Alt. (or primary contact) is no longer serving in that capacity (and if NO REPLACEMENT is provided), the group is given a status of UNKNOWN. Any group in FNV without a Primary Contact or GSR is considered UNKNOWN. Alternatively, should I be informed that an existing group (Active or Unknown) no longer meets at all, that update is made in FNV and the groups' status changes to INACTIVE.

DOING THE MATH

Several (15-20) new groups have been registered over the past couple of months and the majority of them have now been issued new group numbers and have moved from "pending active" to "active" status, and are now included in the 1082 current active groups in our Area. At the current time, FNV is reporting that our Area currently has the following groups / statuses

- 2 new groups
- 5 groups that are pending active
- 3 groups that are pending inactive
- 1086 active groups
- and 235 groups that are still classified as unknown.

So, doing the math, AREA 20 has about an 18% unknown group percentage. I don't know how this ranks with other Area's but it seems high.

FNV also maintains information on an additional 825 INACTIVE groups in our Area. Historically, these inactive groups have been included with the information that is sent out to districts each quarter, however in the interest of saving trees I have gradually began to omit them and have instead only asked DCM's and secretaries to focus on the Active and Unknown groups (as well as the new groups). Future reports will indicate whether this has been successful or not and we'll be able to see if that 18% number declines.

Additional info from GSO also indicates that we have 42 inactive addresses (of over 1350) meaning that mail sent to those addresses was returned. This coincides well with the Concepts returns and continual updates after Concept mailings has helped keep this number low (42 of 1350 is only 3%)! The last concepts mailing had only 25 returns, not 42 because not EVERYBODY with an address in FNV gets Concepts, but it's a good check for the GSO reported number (of 42).

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Presented at the Summer Committee Meeting August 6, 2016
Chris DeGrane, Area 20 Registrar

Lastly (and most impressively), GSO is reporting that we only have 6 invalid emails. Only 6!! I don't think I need to do the math here, THAT'S FANTASTIC.

Mike and I are glad to keep the updates current and thanks to all the districts (and their secretaries) for their efforts.

Fellowship New Vision database

Fellowship New Vision database (FNV) was developed by the General Service Office and released for use by the areas in May, 2007. FNV is a web based tool and because of that, updates are immediate. FNV also provides each area, via their Area Registrar, access to update certain area information directly into the database. Because FNV is an online-real time database, what is entered by either the areas or the GSO Records department is available for immediate use.

Four times a year the Alternate Registrar will be sending to the DCM and the District Secretary a document of all of the groups in their district. The last column is where updates can be entered. GSRs can update group information by working with their DCM or district secretary or by completing a group information change form which they can find online at http://www.aa-nia.org/forms.html.

Group information includes group name, group number, area, district, history dates, meeting locations and times, and complete group contact information. *District information*, on the other hand, includes district service positions and contact information for those elected to those positions and *Area information* is similar to district information but at the area-level.

This information is the key to communication throughout the A.A. general service structure. GSO uses group information to send information kits to new GSRs, copies of *Box 459*, the GSO quarterly newsletter, and GSO quarterly reports. Similarly, the area uses the information to send to the group *Concepts*, the NIA newsletter, and area assembly meeting minutes. This information is also used by GSO to send information kits to District and area-level committee chairs to help orient them to their service positions and by area service committee chairs to communicate with their district counterparts.

Since we will be sending minutes via e-mail, please check with me or your DCM to be sure that your e-mail is correct in FNV.

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.

New e-mail address for the Area Registrar

The new e-mail address for the Area Registrar is: registrar@aa-nia.org. You can also mail changes to NIA20 REGISTRAR, Box 6621, Elgin, Il. 60121. **THE NUMBER ONE REASON THAT UPDATES ARE DELAYED IS BECAUSE ALL INFORMATION IS NOT INCLUDED ON THE SUBMITTED EMAIL**. When sending updates for groups or district positions PLEASE insure that all required information is included, meaning address (with Apt # if applicable), and correctly spelled street names and cities and accurate zip codes. FNV has a built in address verifier and if information is incorrect or missing it will not allow the update. Also, please make sure that if the information is handwritten that it is legible. Pic's of group changes forms or word (.doc) files are fine also. The database is very robust and includes methods to create many different types of reposts. Please let me know if you have specific information needs and I'll do my best to get you the reports you need. Remember, COMPLETE ACCURATE LEGIBLE INFORMATION makes for a happy registrar!

Thank you to NIA 20 for allowing me to serve as your Registrar.

Respectfully Submitted: Chris DeGrane & Mike Maguire

Information updates since 6/15/16

Requests input between 06/15/16 and 08/05/16

Total Since 06/15/2016	
Group information	17
New groups/Pending Active	11
Folded/Inactive/Unknown	7
Group contact information	13
District/Individual contacts	13
Area contacts	2
Total updates	*63*

Although we are a bit behind, we will continue to send welcome letters from the area to new GSRs. The packets include the following:

- a welcome letter from the area
- a snapshot of the group's information from FNV
- NIA contribution envelope