

August 10, 2021

2021 Summer Committee Meeting Cover Letter

Wow – I cannot believe we are coming together to plan for the fall already! What a great trip so far, Panel 70! I am grateful to each of you for your service, humility, and laughter, in these times of constant change.

Of course, I have our upcoming elections on my mind! Thank you to Robert S for publishing the Special Edition of Concepts last month with a focus on our upcoming elections. Coming to where and how we want to serve or continue to serve is no light matter. Please move into this next election in prayerful contemplation about where you can bring your gifts to serve us here in NIA20, if that is where you feel called to serve. We will work to bring you the best virtual election experience possible. Thank you to Robert S for working with us to prepare and trial run whatever process we land on. We are starting that work now.

During our Summer Assembly, we discussed quite a lot about two key areas: the future of our meetings, whether they be in person, virtual or some combination therein, and a motion around our Spring Assembly Conference. Here are some concerns and thoughts about each:

- **Our Area is very much in need for folks to serve on our Technology Committee.** Members can be appointed from anywhere inside our NIA 20 fellowship. Ideally, not from our already established elected committee – the role of this committee is ever-growing and for it to be collateral duty for seated trusted servants is a lot to ask. I am concerned that without an established group of folks dedicated to the below items, we will not be fully prepared to support virtual accessibility for future area events.
 - o Zoom Acct meeting and calendar management
 - o Zoom meeting and events production support
 - o Partnership with Electronics committee to ensure we have what we need
 - o Ongoing research to help us stay connected to tech trends in AA
 - o Offers recommendations to the Area to make changes, upgrades, purchases, etc.
- **The adhoc committee on the future of area meetings and planning for “back to meeting” will benefit from expertise in the areas of both technology and accessibilities.** Please consider reaching out to Erik L or any member of that committee to offer support and ideas. Of course, rising concerns about COVID variants is also a large part of any consideration we may have for the balance of this Panel 70 rotation and likely into the next.
- While our Summer Assembly did respond most favorably (50%) to a hybrid assembly format in September, it became clear through much discussion that we were not ready to go to a hybrid format for our Elections Assembly and that an in-person Assembly would diminish participation this year, all things considered, especially given the pandemic. **Consequently, we landed on a fully virtual Fall Assembly.**
- **Offering a virtual option for attendance at Area events should be a matter of accessibility, not convenience.** The Area does need to consider whether it wants to try to go hybrid and IF it can be done within our current setup. Moreover, now that we have an Accessibilities chair, this work could be done in partnership with Mike H and anyone else in the districts who serve in Accessibilities roles that might be able to help. **Given that, we need to take care to ensure we**



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have the right things in place to be accommodating to a virtual audience, as needed. We are simply not there yet.

- **We will call for formal bids for our 2023 Spring Assembly Conference at our upcoming Fall Assembly.** Not simply for interest, for actual prepared bids. Please consider preparing a full bid for the 2023 Spring Assembly Conference to present at our Fall or Winter Assembly. This could provide ample time for folks to come together and prepare a proper bid. As always, our Conference Advisory Committee is here to help.

As many of you remember from our Summer Assembly in June, we discussed at length a motion related to our Spring Assembly Conference. Thank you all for the feedback, attempts to edit the language and the persistence to hang in there whether you were in favor or not in favor. The collective conscience made it clear that the motion would go back to the CAC (Conference Advisory Committee) for further review. After consideration of Assembly sharing, for and against, this committee meeting agenda will have a new, simplified motion from the CAC to clarify the expectation of what will be done when there is no bid presented to the Area by a certain date. Perhaps it is time for NIA 20 to seriously consider the question – do we actually WANT a Spring Assembly Conference going forward, given these recent years of rushing to plan and regular let down when bids don't come forward in a timely manner. I urge us all to consider what we can do to lead our area to its next chapter as it relates to this event that we have waived on plenty in recent years.

We also have work underway by our second adhoc committee on document management and archival and we hope to have a system and some tutorials in place by the end of this rotation. The two online digital workspace contenders are Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive. More to come here. This work is another area where more technology committee members could be extremely helpful.

I look forward to our time together in service, as always.

Thank you all for your dedicated service to the fellowship.

All the best,

Carmela R, Area Chair

2021 Summer Committee Meeting agenda (prelim)

August 14th, 2021

Virtual meeting via Zoom

This anonymity protected agenda is posted on the NIA website. However, we do encourage the use of full names when speaking at the “virtual” microphone. This meeting will be recorded, as usual, for reference and use by our recording secretary.

[Use this link to pre-register for the meeting.](#) Once registered, you will receive meeting access details.

Time	Item
8:00am	Registration, fellowship
9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order • Quiet time • Serenity Prayer • Announcements for today • New attendees • Anniversaries since June 26th Summer Assembly • Approval of minutes from Spring Committee Meeting on May 1st. These were e-mailed to the Area Committee on...
9:15	Delegate’s report (Marilyn F)
9:30	Officer reports (3-minute limit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate Delegate – Chris D • Chair – Carmela R • Alternate Chair – Erik L • Registrar – Carol H • Alternate Registrar – Rob M • Secretary – Christy B • Alternate Secretary – Karen F
9:50	Treasury reports (10-minute limit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer report – Dawn B • Alternate Treasurer report – Allen J
10:10	Administrative, appointed and Adhoc committee reports (3-minute limit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area document management and archival adhoc committee – Christy B • Archivist – Cheryl V • Concepts newsletter – Robert S • Conference Advisory Committee – Committee Chair or member • Electronics Committee – Joe B • Finance Committee – Karen F (talk about fall plans for PPR review?) • Handbook Custodian – Cheryl V • Operating Committee – Chris E • Report & Charter – Committee Chair or member

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology Committee – Rob M• Webmaster – Earl H
10:30	Conference reports (10-minute limit) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Big Book Conference (Rich H, Georgene R)• 2022 State Conference (Charles H, Michael L)
10:50	Take a break (10 minutes)
11:00	<u>Ongoing Business</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bids for 2023 Spring Assembly Conference - <i>The bid should be prepared and submitted 18 months prior to the conference at the NIA Fall Assembly. The bid shall include a detailed budget and other details concerning the Conference location or facility. We will accept bids at the upcoming Fall Assembly.</i>2. Discussion – Fourth quarter Area meeting planning (15 minutes) - 1 minute per share at the virtual mic.
11:20	<u>New Business</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updated motion by the Conference Advisory Committee regarding cut-off date for acceptance of bids for the Spring Assembly Conference. Details forthcoming on final agenda.
11:45	DCM Reports (District Highlights) – 26 Districts (3-minute limit)
12:30	Open microphone (one-minute limit) <p>This is your chance to go raise your hand and share about things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something going on in your local community you want to invite us to.• Something about your group, district, or committee work.• Recognize or thank someone for their service.• Any other AA or NIA related announcements.
	Let's adjourn! 😊 Responsibility Statement <i>I am responsible...</i> <i>When anyone, anywhere,</i> <i>reaches out for help, I want</i> <i>the hand of A.A. always to be there.</i> <i>And for that: I am responsible.</i>
<i>The principal function of Northern Illinois service area 20 is to be a forum for effective communication between the Groups and the General Service Conference through its Delegate. NIA assists its Districts, Groups, and members to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers by conducting workshops, sharing sessions and seminars in all fields of general service along with other service activities.</i>	

Report of the Area Chair

August 14th, 2021

NIA 20 Summer Committee Meeting

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Panel 70 Area Committee,

As we draw closer to our Fall Assembly elections, a few things have come up. I'll be working with our most recent Past Delegate, Robert S, as he will be facilitating our Elections next month. Given we will be in a fully virtual environment, we have work to do to fine tune how that elections process will work best for us. We have examples from other areas to draw on as well as our own ideas.

Some things I've been up to:

- Host meetings of the Area Officers – carries on monthly.
- Adjusting our 2021 Calendar as needed. Updates have been made recently.
- Working to find servants to sit on our technology committee. We are in need.
- Joining District meetings to share experience, strength, and hope and NIA 20 updates.
- Continue to support requests for our NIA20 Zoom account – by districts and various committees, to set up and help produce their events, as needed.

What's coming up:

- Officer meeting and Fall Assembly meeting prep – next Officer's meeting is 9/1/2021.
- Preparing to participate in a panel at the IL State Conference later this month.
- Fall Election assembly – preparation and mock virtual trial run to ensure process works and we can maintain voter and process integrity.
- Focus on key areas:
 - Technology committee - Zoom support, building committee
 - 2022 and 23 conference planning support
 - Active committees – using our Zoom account(s) to meet + build area calendar

Expenses to date: \$631.70

2/23/2020 report total = \$631.70

- PPB04 Winter committee meeting \$30.24
- PPB09 CDPP \$601.40

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela R

Area Chair, chairperson@aa-nia.org