

# Northern Illinois District 41 Messenger

District 41 of Northern Illinois Area 20  
Serving Addison, Bensenville, Lombard, Elmhurst, Oakbrook  
Terrace, Villa Park & Wood Dale



## INTERVIEW WITH OUR DISTRICT 41 DCM AT ONE YEAR

The District Committee Member role has a two-year term. The term is half over. We caught up with Chris. D after a meeting and asked him a few questions!

**Q. How has your role evolved over the past year?**

My role has evolved by helping me get more involved and helping me believe that I am making a difference in those around me.

**Q. Was the DCM role what you expected?**

Lol no! I had no idea I would be chairing the district meetings but was welcome to give it a shot.

**Q. What do you see as the greatest challenge as a DCM?**

Time management, in between my own program, meetings, raising a special needs son, and a job, it's hard to get to some of the bigger events.

**Q. What is the best aspect of holding the DCM position?**

I feel like I'm making a difference and being at the forefront of new service activities.

**Q. Anything you would like to add for our district about the upcoming year?**

More GSR's haha!

**Now for the fun questions!**

Favorite food = Dippin Dots

Favorite color = Majolica (look it up!)

Favorite movie = My cousin Vinny

Favorite AA = Saying 'shut up and listen'

Thank you, Chris S. We look forward to seeing you at the district meetings and continuing to carry the message in 2023.

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[dupage41aa.org](http://dupage41aa.org)  
[aa-nia.org](http://aa-nia.org)  
[aa.org](http://aa.org)

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**DIST. 41 ANSWERING  
SERVICE P.O. BOX 6365  
VILLA PARK, IL 60181**

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**Hotline  
630-833-7897  
773-202-5324**

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# Northern Illinois Area 20 ~ 2023 Spring Conference

## In the Spirit of Love and Service ~ March 10-12, 2023 ~

Co-Hosted by Districts 22 and 23

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg - 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 -  
(847) 605 1234

### Online Registration

[bit.ly/sprcon2023](http://bit.ly/sprcon2023)

Ends on February 10, 2023



### AA Speakers

Sloan B. from Waukesha, WI

Jeff V. from Fargo, ND

### On Site Registration

Begins at 3pm on March 10th,  
2023

### Al-Anon Speaker

Nora from Chicago, IL

GSO Speaker

Irene D.

### Reserve a Room

[bit.ly/nia20spring2023](http://bit.ly/nia20spring2023)

\$119.00 per night



### PANELS

ALCATHON

LITERATURE

ARCHIVES

BANQUET

DANCE

FELLOWSHIP

### Questions/Volunteering

Mike B - 224-575-0879

Ana Z - 773-653-0119

First Name Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address City/State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please Specify: AA  Al-Anon  Alateen  Guest

Registration: \$30  Saturday Boxed Lunch  \$15

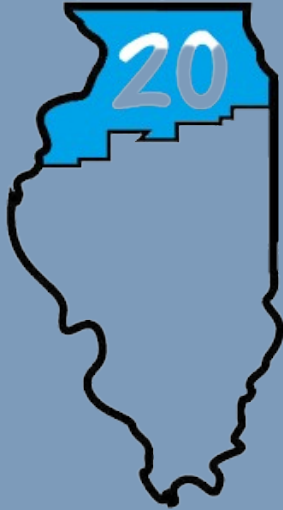
Banquet Dinner \$52 (Choose One) Chicken  Vegetarian

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 2023 Northern Illinois Area Spring Conference, PO Box 681491,  
Schaumburg, IL 60168

Make Checks Payable to: 2023 Spring Conference

Special Needs/Accessibility Services (please describe)



### MEETING GUIDE

Looking for an AA meeting -- Anywhere in the U.S.A.?

Get the AA Meeting Guide app

### DISTRICT 41 ARCHIVES

Are you holding on to materials from District 41 that could be added to our District Archives?

Calling all AA members that may have interviews, CDs, print materials or anything that is pertinent to the history of District 41. As Archives Chair, I will be undertaking the task of transcribing and organizing the history of our District. I am looking *specifically* for historical information for District 41. These materials will be "archived" and accessible to all members of District 41. *Contact the Archives Chair, Lael at [dupage41aa@gmail.com](mailto:dupage41aa@gmail.com)*



**I AM NOT A HOARDER THAT'S MY INVENTORY**

### DONATE TO DISTRICT 41 VIA VENMO

@District-41



**venmo**

Scan QR code for payment

### NIA 20 Winter Meeting

January 21, 2023

#### Description

This is a meeting of the Area Committee to review old business and prepare for our upcoming Assembly. Motions and business items for the Assembly are presented and discussed. Reports will be heard from Area Officers, Service Committee Chairs, Conference Chairs, and DCMs.

#### Attendees include:

DCMs and Alternates, Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairpersons and Alternates, Area Appointed Administrative Committee Members, and Past Delegates. Any AA member is welcome to attend Area Committee meetings.

#### Time

January 21, 2023 8:00 AM

#### Location

Lord of Life Church  
40W605 IL Rt 38  
Elburn, IL 60119



# One Tradition at a Time

*“I offer these suggestions neither as one man’s dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past.”*

— BILL W. WROTE IN THE APRIL 1946 GRAPEVINE ARTICLE

In April of 1946, Bill Wilson wrote an article for the Grapevine entitled “Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition.” He hoped to ensure the future of A.A. by addressing ongoing issues that threatened us at the group level. Bill had been made aware of the demise of another group of alcoholics and began to research the Washingtonians. The Washingtonians were a group of alcoholics recovering with each other’s help, much like A.A., in the mid 1800’s.



They grew in number much faster than A.A. Within ten years, with well over 100,000 members, their groups disbanded. Bill felt that A.A. was experiencing the same issues that led to the end of the Washingtonians and went to work to put a framework of directives in place to protect A.A. From December 1947 to November 1948, each Tradition was introduced, one by one, in the Grapevine. The Twelve Traditions were unanimously adopted at our 1st International Convention in 1949. It was soon requested that a short version be presented; thus, the Short Form and the Long Form of our Twelve Traditions came to be.

What if A.A. meets a similar fate to the Washingtonian Movement? Where would the alcoholic be if A.A. no longer exists?

## Tradition 1

### **Short Form:**

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

### **Long Form:**

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live, or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

Tradition One is the foundation of the Twelve Traditions: the Second Legacy of Alcoholics Anonymous. Much like Step One is weaved into all our Twelve Steps, Tradition One is based on A.A. unity and is the principle by which the rest of our Traditions can be practiced.

What happened to the Washingtonians? They failed to thrive because the common welfare of the group of alcoholics and their recovery was overshadowed by issues that we are all familiar with, resentment, fear, selfishness, and dishonesty. Individuals and whole groups were distracted by self-righteousness, outside political matters, and personal interests, creating friction that divided rather than supported recovering alcoholics.

# One Tradition at a Time con't

At the time the Traditions were written, our founders were concerned that this might very well be a possibility for A.A. In 1941, a Saturday Evening Post article written by Jack Alexander created a huge interest in A.A. and sparked a rapid increase in membership. Personalities without boundaries, even with the best intentions, were creating conflict within our membership and threatening A.A. Our founders went to work to bring a sense of order, a principle of peace, and a directive to let our individual wants and ideals take a back seat to what was best for A.A. and the still suffering alcoholic.

As you review the remaining eleven Traditions, you can quickly see how Tradition One, concentrating on A.A. unity, is present. Throughout these Traditions, we as individuals are blended within each one to unite and protect us from, well, ourselves. We practice unity to recognize one ultimate authority. We believe that the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. We are united by remaining autonomous on all issues unless it directly impacts A.A. We are united when we remember the group has one primary purpose-to help the suffering alcoholic. As you review the Twelve Traditions, you will hear the call and need for unity suggested by our founders.

## Traditions Checklist

If you are wondering how you are doing in terms of Tradition One, here is a checklist offered to help by our Grapevine:

**Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.**

1. Am I a healing, mending, integrating person in my group, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I attend AA meetings or read enough AA literature to keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting and giving the help of fellowship?

The Traditions were created to keep "me, my, and I" out of it. When people within an A.A. group unite, we gain protection, purpose, and companionship. The Twelve Steps relate directly to the person and their recovery, and The Twelve Traditions offer our group guidance on how to ensure we stay in the "we and us with God" in relation to our community, institutions, our public climate, and to each other.

Submitted by Lora B.

# AGENCY OF THE MONTH - ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY - ELMHURST IL

The Elmhurst Public Library in Elmhurst, Illinois, contacted District 41 in Area 20 by way of the district 41 Webmaster in August 2022, regarding being ‘Agency of the Month’ for September 2022. This query was forwarded to the DCM and other available committee chairs.

It was, we believed a wonderful request to help “Carry the Message” to the public. The library’s social worker contacted us regarding this new program of providing information pertaining to local community groups. We discussed the anonymity tradition with her.

She informed us of what the library would provide (space, current books, and marketing assistance with posters) and what District 41 would be responsible for (poster content, literature (Big Book and 12&12) pamphlets, and Grapevines. The photo above shows the display on the second floor. Other pamphlets and meeting directories were placed on a general community pamphlet wall.

The Literature Committee and other committee chairs and members assisted with coordinating these efforts. A special shout out to Ed, District 41 Literature Chair, for planting the seed pre and post-Covid restrictions with the library staff.

We didn’t know those conversations and donations of Big Books and Grapevines would bear this fruit a few years later.

Thank you, Elmhurst Public Library!

Respectfully submitted,  
District 41- NIA 20  
630 750-5486



# FROM THE CPC CHAIR

Greetings to All!

I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday season!

My name is Jan S. I am the new CPC Chair for Area 20. I am excited about carrying the message and hoping I can find some enthusiastic people willing to join in.

The CPC Committee, or “Cooperating with the Professional Community,” is the AA committee that lets professionals in your community know what AA is all about. We are not 12-stepping, but we are presenting AA to many professionals involved in law, medicine, education, faith, unions, governments, schools, fraternal organizations, and many more.

We need District CPC chairs as well as a whole lot of volunteers. We need to get out to the high schools in your district to “Carry the Message.” The AA website has many resources available, including all literature.

For the position of Chair, ideally, you have a year of sobriety and are familiar with the traditions. You will also be able to:

- 1) Attend your district meeting regularly
- 2) Contact professionals for opportunities
- 3) Attend CPC-related workshops, the NIA assemblies, and committee meetings.
- 4) Recruit volunteers with ideas and training
- 5) Comfortable with AA presentations
- 6) Always in training

For the position of Volunteers, you as well should have a year of sobriety and be familiar with AA Traditions. You will also be able to:

- 1) Accept opportunities that may come your way.
- 2) Attend CPC-related workshops
- 3) Attend your District meetings monthly
- 4) Comfortable talking in person to various professionals to explain what AA does and doesn't do.
- 5) Have creativity at your events.

The bottom line is that we need enthusiastic people to let the professionals know all about AA and what it has done for you when needed.

So, welcome the season and join us. Nothing better than celebrating the planting of an AA seed.

Please contact me and any questions. Be well.

Yours in service,

Jan S.

NIA 20 CPC Chair

Jan41452@gmail.com

# NIA 20 Events Calendar for 2023

Event 2023 date(s)	Host / Location	Notes
Winter Committee Meeting + Service January 21 Orientation Workshop*	Districts(s) 10 Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL East Central Region Area 53	
Conference of Delegates Past & Present** February 10-12	Columbus, OH Districts(s) 22 & 23	
Spring Conference March 10-12		Hyatt Regency, Schaumburg, IL
Spring Assembly + Board Meeting* March 11	Districts(s) 42 Districts(s) 11	
Pre-General Service April 1 Conference Workshop*	Brooklyn, NY	Breakouts the week before
72nd General Service April 23-29 Conference**	Districts(s) 64 Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL	Century Center
Spring Committee Meeting* May 20	Districts(s) 23	120 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Summer Assembly + Board Meeting* June 17	East Central Region Area 22 South Bend, IN	
70th AA Indiana State Convention and East Central Regional Conference June 23-25	Districts(s) 22 Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL Area 19 Schaumburg, IL	
Summer Committee Meeting* August 5	Hyatt Hotel Districts(s)	
50th Annual Illinois State Conference August 18-20	Districts(s) 21	Elections
Fall Assembly + Board Meeting* September 16	Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL Districts(s) 61	
Fall Committee Meeting* October 7	Lord of Life Church Elburn, IL East Central Region Area 54	
Annual Big Book Conference November 17-19 Independence, OH November 4th	Districts(s)	Double Tree by Hilton
East Central Region		

## Forum

\*Dates sent to Lord of Life Church and confirmed in-person availability for all events for the year. For Assemblies, church serves only as a backup. Ideal is for Assemblies to be held in hosting districts.

\*\*Dates sent to NIA20 though some trusted servants, as outlined in our Duties and Responsibilities, are expected to attend, and may be reimbursed.



**AA-NIA 20 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETING &  
SERVICE ORIENTATION WORKSHOP  
HOSTED BY DISTRICT 10**




**SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST  
8AM COFFEE 9AM MEETING**

**LORD OF LIFE CHURCH  
40W605 IL-38, Elburn, IL  
60119**

**ZOOM LINK;**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcuuorzksE9JjR9ihVvTdzEfDnNBxVk5P](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221111111)**

**ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT  
[aa-nia.org](http://aa-nia.org)**



# Winter

## *GSR Workshop*

January 19, 2023, 7 PM

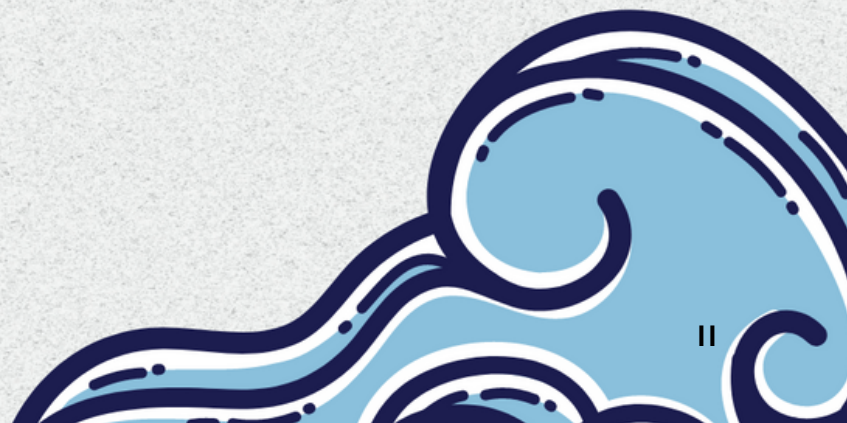
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Zoom ID 935 237 0149  
Password GSRs

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We will be going over the GSR duties  
and answering any questions!

Questions? email Dawn at [alt-chair@aa-nia.org](mailto:alt-chair@aa-nia.org)



# SERVICE ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

WHEN: JANUARY 21ST, 2023  
AT THE WINTER COMMITTEE  
MEETING - 10:30AM - NOON

## For Incoming GSRs & DCMs

An opportunity for incoming GSR's and DCM's to learn about their role in Area Service. This workshop is designed to answer questions about the GSR and DCM position and discuss how we do our Area business.

In Person:

Lord of Life Church, Elburn, IL

Virtual:

ZOOM MEETING – DETAILS ON NIA WEBSITE



Workshop to Cover:

Role of the GSR

Role of the DCM

Shared Experience by  
a Panel of Trusted  
Servants:

Ray M. – Past  
Delegate/Archivist

Sid B. – D11

Sarah B. - D21

Aaron V. – D43

QUESTIONS: CONTACT  
ERIK L. 630-809-7789