



### **December 18, 2024 District 43 GSR Business Meeting Minutes**

District 43 DCM, Laura V., welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced herself, and called the meeting to order with a quiet time followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Laura V. read Zoom protocols to all attendees.

Julie S. read Tradition #12 – “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

#### **New Attendees**

Karla M., Alt GSR for Serenity Sisters

Frank B., New GSR for Spiritual Renegades

#### **Anniversaries**

Magic M., 34 years

Michelle H., 19 years

Dan B., 10 years

JoDonna G., 18 months

#### **AA Announcements**

None.

#### **Old Business – Laura V., DCM**

Vote was taken for approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s Report. Both were accepted with a 100% approval vote of those who voted.

#### **New Business – Laura V., DCM**

1. Open Positions – Alt. Secretary, no one stood for the position.
2. GSR Reports – None were given.
3. 2025 Budget – It is not normal to go into the new year without an approved budget. The Secretary sent this year’s proposed budget out on Monday, 12/16/24. It was important to

reduce some budgets due to a decline in contributions this year. It was not random slashing. If you didn't spend your budget, it was reduced where possible. Please take this budget back to your groups for discussion. We will vote at the next District 43 business meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Accessibilities**

#### **Renee L., Alt Chair**

I am waiting until January to begin doing things.

### **Answering Service**

#### **Chris D., Chair**

No report. Chris is currently on vacation.

### **Archivist/Archives**

#### **Patrick K., Archives Committee Chair**

We have a new committee member – Adam K.

### **Upcoming January Group Anniversaries**

Thursday Night Big Book Discussion – Formed 1989, 36 years ago – Meets at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Naperville IL

Wednesday Night Discussion Group – Formed 1991, 34 years ago – Meets at St. Elizabeth Seton, Naperville

Living Sober – Formed 1991, 34 years ago – Meets at Community Unified Methodist Church

Young Timers – Formed 2002, 23 years ago – Meets at WSFC

Bushwood Country Club – Formed 2002, 23 years ago – Meets at DuPage Unitarian Church Naperville

There is a Solution – Formed 2004, 21 years ago – Meets at WSFC

Living Sober – Formed 2006, 19 years ago – Meets at WSFC

Foxhall Group – Formed 2010, 15 years ago – Meets at Wesley United Methodist Church, Naperville

We held our monthly Committee meeting last week. We discussed, among other topics, the Winter Archives Corner, which deals with areas of cooperation between the 4 AA districts in DuPage County since the time these 4 districts were formed in the early 1980s. It includes reference to the annual DuPage County Open held in February. The Archives Corner will be posted soon on the District web site (if not done already). We encourage you to take a look.

For the Budget, we would like to keep to the same numbers as last year. Archives \$800 and Archivist \$500.

Our main topic was a discussion around Group Histories. We feel we have a lot of work to do regarding updating, verifying and maintaining our District 43 group histories.

A couple of areas we will be addressing

- 1) Verifying we have all the group histories within the district. New groups have formed, and some have closed. Our process for documenting new groups needs to be firming up as currently we get this information on a haphazard basis from different sources.
- 2) During Covid, there were a lot of changes which have not been documented. To this end we would like to create and add a supplemental page to each group history to cover these changes. For instance, some groups met online, then became hybrid or stayed online only, or split from the original meeting to form new meeting. We currently have 80 groups within the district, so this will be quite a project and we'll be looking for some support from our group GSR's and committee members to help us in this endeavor.

We continue to actively collect and preserve pertinent information relating to the history of District 43. Old flyers, directories, and other AA related materials that you are thinking about throwing out may be useful to Archives and we will gladly accept them. Pictures of your meeting place, inside and outside, are also desired. Call the Archivist at 630-903-7626 or email Archives via the District website ([archives@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:archives@aa-nia-dist43.org)) if you have anything that might fit the bill.

We'd also like to collect any relevant information from our service committees that goes beyond the monthly committee reports to help fill out the bigger picture of the service work done within our District. Examples could be committee meeting agendas; drafts/works in progress; correspondence with other districts, NIA20, and/or outside (non-AA) organizations; etc., but we'll leave particulars up to you who know best the work of your committee.

## **Bridging the Gap**

### **Geoff B., Chair**

RCA is looking for a meeting group to sponsor a meeting once a month. The meeting would be a Friday 30-40 minute share and then take questions afterwards. He is also looking for help at Alternative Systems on Wednesdays at noon. He continues to work with the director at Suncloud on needs for Aurora and Northbrook. Naomi A. asked if this for all Suncloud locations. Geoff replied he will have more details at the next meeting. (Secretary's note: You can also reach out to him at [bridge@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:bridge@aa-nia-dist43.org).)

## **Corrections**

### **Bill N., Chair**

Corrections is continuing to have their weekly AA meetings at the DuPage County Jail on Monday evenings, 7 – 8:30 p.m. They currently have enough volunteers. They will not have any Open House events to recruit additional volunteers until possibly Spring 2025.

## **Events**

### **Lisa M., Co-Chair**

#### **District 43 Speaker Event Details**

- **Date:** Saturday, January 25, 2025

- **Location:** CUMC, 20 Center Street, Naperville
- **Schedule:**
  - Doors Open: 6:00 PM (Fellowship, snacks, and sweet treats)
  - Speaker portion: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
(with continued fellowship from 8:30 - 9:00 PM)
  - Raffle: 8:30 PM
  - Event Ends: 9:00 PM

**Speakers:**

- Three speakers, each representing a different local meeting, will share their experience, strength, and hope for 20 minutes each.

We look forward to an inspiring evening filled with fellowship, community, and shared experiences.

**Updated flyer:**

We are going to send out an updated flyer later this week once the event speakers are finalized.

**Call for Donations**

We are seeking donations for raffle prizes for the Speaker Event. Examples of appreciated items include:

- Gift cards
- Conference-approved books
- Other small and simple items
- We are also specifically requesting three AA Big Books for a special activity we are planning during the event.

Any donations, ideas, or suggestions are greatly appreciated!

**Exciting News: Formation of the District 43 Events Committee**

We are thrilled to announce the creation of the District 43 Events Committee! This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in service work to get involved. Joining the committee offers the chance to:

- Contribute to the district
- Have fun
- Build fellowship
- Meet others in the program
- Be of service

If you are interested or have questions, please contact us for more details:

- **Julie S.:** 708-363-0209
- **Lisa M.:** 630-210-6678

We look forward to working with you and making these events a success!

**Grapevine**

**Michelle H., Chair**

It is not too late to give the gift of Grapevine this holiday season! There are so many options - from providing a yearly subscription to sending a gift certificate to purchasing Grapevine

publications. And shipping is free through December 31st! Here are some links to help you get creative: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/gift-certificates>  
<https://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

As always, the Grapevine needs your help! Please consider submitting your stories about the following topics:

- Atheists/Agnostics in AA — Do you have experience staying sober in AA as an atheist or agnostic? What have been your joys and challenges? We're looking for a variety of experiences.
- Gratitude — What were you like before AA compared to what you're like today? How do you stay grateful each day? Share some stories that illustrate your journey with gratitude now that you're sober.
- Technology in AA — Online meetings, hybrid meetings, smartphones, texting, meeting apps, social media ... and yes, good old-fashioned phone calls. How has technology helped your sobriety and changed the way you connect with your sponsor, sponsees, and fellow Aas? Important: We're looking for your experience with each Step and each Tradition! Pick a Step or Tradition and share about it! We run one every month! We also need your jokes!

The December 2024 *Grapevine Magazine* is titled "The Gift of Sobriety" and this issue is filled with beautiful stories of sober holidays. For example, there is a story about a newcomer dad with no money who makes a holiday memory for his sons. Another story is about a woman who gets through her first sober December with the help of alkathons and the love in the rooms. And Tradition Twelve is highlighted in the article "Before I Speak or Act". A member writes about how service work helped him begin to feel a sense of purpose and direction. The Grapevine is always a terrific resource for finding ideas when leading a meeting!

The Grapevine joke of the month is called "Do the Math": One of my sponsees told me that she frequently stays at bars until closing time and at last call she would always order two drinks. I asked her why she ordered two drinks. She said, "I guess because I am an alcoholic and one is never enough." "No," I argued. "It's probably because you only have two hands!"

We Are Not A Glum Lot!!

**Groupvine,  
JoDonna G., Chair**

We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to all our amazing readers and participants who make GroupVine so special. A big thank you to Aaron V., Justin S., and JoDonna for their wonderful contributions to the December edition! We're excited to share more inspiring stories in the New Year.

A friendly reminder to our G.S.R.s: Please continue to print out each month's GroupVine and attach it to the clipboard.

We'd also like to give a shout-out to Laura V. and Jeanie L. for their invaluable assistance and guidance. We appreciate your support!

We hope everyone has enjoyed this year's GroupVine readings.

If you have any questions, comments, or are interested in contributing a story, please reach out to your G.S.R.s, visit the D43 website, or email us at [Groupvineeditor@gmail.com](mailto:Groupvineeditor@gmail.com)

Wishing you happy and healthy holidays!

## **Literature**

### **Luci B., Alt Chair**

The new AA approved literature, Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous, sold 70,000 copies in 2 weeks. It is currently sold out. New copies will include suggestions made at the 73rd GSC and include:

- On page 64, remove the sentence “It seems to control and punish people who are addicted to it” from the last paragraph.
- On page 9, remove the definition of "Addiction" from the Glossary section.
- On page 11, revise the sentence “Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for **Drug and Alcohol Addictions** in New York City during the 1930s.”  
To read:  
“Dr. Silkworth ran the Charles B. Towns Hospital for **alcoholism and drug addiction** in New York City during the 1930s.”
- On page 14, revise the sentence “I help people recover from their **alcohol** and drug addictions”  
To read:  
“I help people recover from their **alcoholism** and drug addiction.”
- "On page 139, revise the sentence “In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of **alcohol** and drug addiction.”  
To read:  
“In one of these cities there is a well-known hospital for the treatment of **alcoholism**.”

Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

## **PI/CPC**

### **Liz D., Chair, Naomi A., Alt Chair**

#### **Liza:**

We had a committee meeting on 12/8, in attendance was myself and our volunteer. The ALT chair wasn't able to attend. Discussed the PI portion of our committee with volunteer. Gave her some District 43 cards to hand out. Brainstormed the different types of places she could visit and drop off the cards. Reviewed how to approach people and what to say, according to A.A. guidelines. Gave her some pamphlets to hand out as well. I will be ordering more pamphlets from CASO.

### **Naomi:**

Working with Liza. Goal is to get more website view. Looking into using an old Facebook ad, should be about \$55 for 7 days.

Ashley – Please connect with me as I work in that field.

Liza – We are passing out cards and will have another meeting about the tech.

### **Technology**

#### **Brad T., Chair**

I am looking to resign my chair. I would like to have someone come onboard that I can train.

Julie J., offered to step in as Technology chair. We now have an open Technology Alt Chair position.

### **Secretary**

#### **Dan B., Secretary**

The Alt Secretary had to step down recently. Therefore, the position is open. This is a critical position in assisting me in taking the notes at the district meetings, providing backup if I am unable to attend a meeting, and other assorted duties. My term will end in December 2025. It's important to me, the committee members, and the district to have the Alt. Secretary trained in hopes that person will step up to be the next Secretary. This is a very rewarding position and I welcome anyone who may be thinking about it to contact me at [secretary@nia-aa-dist43.org](mailto:secretary@nia-aa-dist43.org). Please send me your name and phone number and we can arrange a time to discuss. You can also see the Secretary position description and sobriety requirements at <https://aa-nia-dist43.org/a-a-members/service/>. Thank you!

### **Treasurer**

#### **Kayla D., Alt Treasurer**

The Treasurer's Report, written report, and proposed budget are attached separately in the same email as this report. Please take note there is a new line item in the budget for 2025, DuPage Open Liability Insurance, which is a requirement of the church that all districts must pay.

### **Treatment**

#### **Julie R., Chair**

#### **Literature**

The books and pamphlets have been ordered and will be delivered to the treatment centers as soon as I have them.

### **2025 Budget Planning**

Submitted 2025 budget request to Laura on 12/12.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Great news! We filled the hot open spots that we had. And we had a few more that we filled from our waitlist. We continue to want to make our sub and waitlists more robust so that we can easily adjust schedules as needed.

**GSRs**, Please spread the word on the following list of current volunteer options. You can let folks in your meetings know that subs are regularly contacted to help out, and we just filled four spots from volunteers who needed to step back for now:

**LINDEN OAKS NAPERVILLE DETOX CENTER - 852 S. WEST STREET**

- Every Wednesday, 8 pm
- Every Saturday, 4 pm
- Every Sunday, 4 pm

**LINDEN OAKS NAPERVILLE IOP - 1335 N. MILL STREET**

- 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 12:15 pm Open Meeting
- 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10:50 am Bridge Group
- 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:15 pm Bridge Group

**LINDEN OAKS PLAINFIELD IOP - 24600 W. 127TH STREET**

- 2nd Wednesdays 11 am Bridge Group

Please contact Julie R. or Marie M. if you are interested in being added to the sub or waitlist.

***Cornell Abraxas Interventions - Woodridge***

Per Mike H, "Everything is good with Cornell".

Julie R

Treatment Chair

773.860.4361

[juliej0904@gmail.com](mailto:juliej0904@gmail.com)

Marie M

Alt Treatment Chair

630.251.1026

[Mpearls80@icloud.com](mailto:Mpearls80@icloud.com)

**Webmaster**

**Jeanie L., Chair**

The website is up to date. Any holiday meeting changes should be sent to [web@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:web@aa-nia-dist43.org). It will take changes 48 hours to update to the meeting guide app, so please send them as soon as possible.

I received a call from a librarian in Addison about how to find a meeting in DuPage county. You can search the District 43 website in the Meetings area to find a meeting in your town. If there are none, click on the neighboring district links listed on our website.

**LCM East-/West**

**Kathy S.**



The LCM Committee exists to support the DCM and to help foster a connection between each group and District 43, in order to effectively carry the message to the alcoholic. Our committee consists of Mary Ellen G., Renee L., Kathy S., Brad T., Aaron V., Laura V., and Diane W.

Our Committee has been working on the following projects:

- Distribution of DuPage County AA information cards and meeting guide booklets
  - If your meeting or committee needs information cards or booklets for newcomers please email Kathy S. at [LCM@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:LCM@aa-nia-dist43.org).
- Carrying the Groupvine and other D43 flyers to meetings.

## LCM WSFC

### Kim R.

Kim was not at the meeting. However, she told Laura V. there was nothing new to report.

### Stephanie H., DCM Alt.

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Naomi A. – The Cultural Connections: Discerning Independence meeting at WSFC on Friday's at 7 p.m. is struggling to make rent. This BIPOC-focused meeting has monthly rent of \$80. Please consider attending, all are welcome!

## District Committee Member (DCM)

### Laura V., DCM

**Budget Discussion:** The 2025 budget will be distributed to groups to vote on. Remember, it's the groups' money that we're spending here at District. They need to approve how we're spending their contributions.

**Preliminary Agenda Items:** The 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference is already right around the corner – April 2025. Our Delegate, Erik L, sent the agenda items that the 92 delegates at the conference will be voting on during that conference. This will be sent to you with all the other fun documents you receive every month from our Secretary. PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THESE TO YOUR GROUPS so we are all well informed about what's happening in our fellowship.

## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES:

- **Winter Assembly Meeting:** December 14<sup>th</sup> at Lord of Life Church in Elburn.
  - **GSRs:** you do NOT want to miss this one! There is a **very special event happening there called GSR SCHOOL** complete with diplomas, a special gift, and a wealth of knowledge! (Secretary note: As this meeting was already held and others showed interest at the District meeting, Laura V. noted she thought this would be offered again in the future. She will talk to Aaron V. and send out more information when this class is offered again at Area.)

### Recent (Past) Events:

- I've spent quite a bit of time this month on the phone and on Zoom with various district members working to prepare the 2025 budget. Thank you to everyone who provided their input and expertise, especially John O and Kathy S, and everyone who answered my calls or texts as this was put together.
- At Area, we voted on two motions:
  - 1. Motion to Require NIA Trusted Servants to Use Designated Microsoft 365 Email Addresses for NIA Correspondence - PASSED
  - 2. There was a Floor Action to reallocate funds to Archives so they can move their storage unit to be more accessible - PASSED

Contact me if you want more information about these motions.

### Reminders:

- **January 25<sup>th</sup> Speaker Event:** Our Events Chairs, Lisa and Julie, are planning our first ever Speaker Event at 20 N Center Street in Naperville from 6-9pm.

**DCM 43 Committee Positions Still Available:** Alt Secretary. You'll get to work closely with me and Dan. We have a lot of fun! 😊 Spread the word. We also now have the Technology Alt Chair open. **Chairpeople:** *As we enter our second year of our 2-year rotations, consider getting your Alts more involved in the work that you do, to ensure a smooth rotation of positions.*

Laura V, DCM, then closed the meeting with A.A.'s Responsibility Statement – “I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”