

January 15, 2025 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.

Julie R. read Tradition #1 – "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

Laura V. read Zoom protocols to all attendees.

New Attendees

Dave S., Brown Bagger Alt. GSR Caroline M., Swing Stepsisters Monday Nights Naperville Alt. GSR Bonnie K., Here to find out how to sign up for the Answering Service committee. Chris E., NIA 20 Accessibilities Chair

Introduction by Chris E., NIA 20 Accessibilities Chair

His position is about accessibilities to all in all matters of AA, in all forms. He discussed accessibility for those physically handicapped. Ramps, doors, room access, and accessible washrooms are important, but their effectiveness is primarily measured by the ability of the individual to navigate all these unaccompanied. Other accessibilities topics discussed were:

- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Raising awareness about having AA Big Books in large print at all meetings. The number of large print books needed for a meeting will depend, in a large part, on the attendees or location, i.e. a meeting at a retirement home would generally need more than most meetings.
- There are pamphlets available that discuss topics specific to African Americans, Hispanics, Hispanic Women, LGBTQ, etc. These pamphlets are made to have all meetings be accessible.
- WCAG checklist for website accessibility.
- Timely and accurate update of information on district websites.

- Helping members with children in attending meetings. For example, District 40 has a meeting in a church where they offer babysitting for a member so they can attend a meeting.
- A weekly Plain Language Big Book Study Group meeting is planned to begin on 2/16/25 at 7 p.m. Laura V. will pass the information along once the meeting setup is firmed up.

Anniversaries

Jeannie L., 33 years on 12/21 Patrick K., 10 years on 1/6

AA Announcements

None.

Old Business – Laura V., DCM

Vote was taken for approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes. Y 97%, N 3%, Passed. Vote was taken for approval of December 2024 Treasurers Report. Y 97%, N 3%, Passed. Vote was taken for approval of 2025 Budget. Y 94%, N 6%.

(Secretary note: These reports are included in this report as the final pages.)

Laura V. asked if anyone had any comments as to why they voted no. One person said they voted "No" as they did not receive copies prior to the vote.

New Business – Laura V., DCM

- 1. Open Positions Alt. Secretary. Karine M. stood for the position. She shared she is 2½ years sober, sponsored, and looking to learn more from the current secretary about the role. A vote was taken, and she was accepted with 100% of the vote.
- GSR Reports Dave S., Brown Baggers Alt GSR We are getting hacked a couple of times a month on Zoom and inappropriate, disruptive photos are being posted. He asked what can be done to stop this. One member suggested they change the password.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accessibilities

<u>Renee L., Alt Chair</u>

I am going to meetings to review accessibilities and ensure compliance.

Answering Service

Chris D., Chair

No one attended the meeting or submitted a report prior to the meeting.

Archivist/Archives Patrick K., Archives Committee Chair

Upcoming February Group Anniversaries

12 and 12 – 41 years Meets at St. Timothy Church in Naperville. How it Works – 26 years Meets at WSFC in Naperville Recovery Matters – 8 years Meets at DuPage Universalist Unitarian Church Serenity Sisters – 1 year Community UMC Center St., Naperville, IL

We held our monthly Committee meeting last week, during which we discussed several key topics, including the upcoming DuPage Open. Traditionally, Archives hosts a display table at this event. We have reached out to the event organizers and are awaiting confirmation on whether they would like to proceed with the display. If we receive approval, we are fully prepared to participate.

We also reviewed our group history project. Our goal is to ensure we have a complete and accurate record of all group histories within the district. As new groups have formed and others have closed, we recognize the need to streamline our process for documenting new groups, as currently, this information is gathered in a haphazard manner from various sources.

Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many changes occurred that have yet to be documented. We propose adding a supplemental page to each group history to capture these changes. For example, some groups transitioned to online meetings, others became hybrid, some remained online only, and some split to form new meetings. Currently, there are 80 groups within the district, so this will be a large project. We will be seeking support from our Group Service Representatives (GSRs) and committee members to assist with this effort.

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) 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.

That concludes the Archivist & Archives Committee's report for January 2025.

Bruce M – Archivist Jeff K – Archivist Alternate Patrick K – Archives Committee Chair Adam K. – Committee member

Keep in mind that ...

"Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition prese they forgot where they came from." – Carl Sandberg

Bridging the Gap

<u>Geoff B., Chair</u>

We have officially rolled out the 2nd month of servicing HAS (Health Alternative Systems) with volunteers for this month. They have indicated they are in need of volunteers, preferably a man and woman speakers for 10:00 AM on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday morning of the month, with occasional need in the evening as well. At this time, we are looking for volunteers in the morning.

BTG at RCA went as usual, and we have volunteers booked for the next two months. Bo, the director at the RCA treatment facility located in St. Charles / South Elgin area, share with me on Friday evenings they bring in an outside speaker to share their experience, strength and hope with the patients. They are looking into the feasibility of having outside districts, meetings, clubs, etc., committing to a month of responsibility for having speakers share at the meeting. The meeting is from 7-8pm on Fridays. The speaker should arrive at 6:30 p.m. The speaker shares their story for around 45 minutes and then the patients are given an opportunity to comment or ask questions. They are looking for speakers who are working a good recovery program and have around a year of sustained sobriety. We ask that the speakers' main message is how the 12 Step program has helped their recovery.

If this seems like a service activity that you might be interested in being a part of, please contact me.

There have been no calls received at this time regarding assistance getting to their first meeting.

(Secretary's note: You can contact Geoff at bridge@aa-nia-dist43.org.)

Corrections Bill N., Chair

Corrections is continuing to have their weekly AA meetings at the DuPage County Jail.

DuPage County Jail will not have any Open House events to recruit additional volunteers in the foreseeable future.

Events <u>Lisa M., Co-Chair</u>

District 43 Speaker Event Details

Below, and attached you will find the agenda for the event. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Julie S. or me.

District 43 Speaker Event

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 Location: CUMC, 20 Center Street, Naperville

Event Schedule

6:00 PM – **Doors Open** - Fellowship, snacks, and sweet treats. 7:00 PM – **Event Begins Promptly** 7:10 PM – **Speakers Begin**

Inspirational - 3-Minute Shares - Brief opportunities to share between speakers. **Featured Speakers** - 15-20 Minutes Each - Three speakers, each representing a different local meeting, will share their experience, strength, and hope.

3-Minute Share: Laura V. - A principle or tool that helps maintain daily sobriety. Featured Speaker: Jen K. "The Power of Fellowship: Finding Strength in Community"

• Explore how relationships in AA provide support and sustain sobriety.

3-Minute Share: Dave M. *An* "elevator speech" of hope for newcomers or those still struggling.

Featured Speaker: Eric "A Life Beyond Alcohol: Discovering Joy and Purpose in Recovery" –

• Reflect on how sobriety opens doors to a fulfilling and meaningful life.

3-Minute Share: Aaron V. *How sobriety has transformed your life and brought joy.* Featured Speaker: - Kathleen A. "Working the Steps: A Journey from Chaos to Clarity" –

• Share pivotal moments of working the Twelve Steps and their transformative impact.

8:30 PM – Raffle and Closing Activity **Raffle Prizes:** (2) prizes from raffle tickets., (3) based on AA trivia questions (participants can win only once).

8:30 PM - 9:00 PM - Continued Fellowship

Opportunities to Be of Service

Being of service is a cornerstone of recovery, and this is a wonderful chance to strengthen your connection to the program, give back to the fellowship, and have fun while doing it! We're asking GSRs to share this opportunity with their meetings this week and encourage attendees to involve their sponsees as well.

Donations for the Raffle

We've been fortunate to receive generous donations, including AA-related books, Grapevine materials, and other items. Thank you to those who have contributed so far! We're still seeking more raffle prizes to make this event memorable.

Examples of appreciated donations include:

- Gift cards
- Conference-approved books
- AA-related materials (e.g., Grapevine subscriptions, pamphlets)
- Small, simple items

Any donations, ideas, or suggestions are greatly appreciated!

Volunteers Needed

Service opportunities include:

- Bringing snacks, sweet treats, or sparkling water.
- Helping with event setup at 5:15 PM.

This is a great chance to pitch in, meet others, and make this event shine!

If you can Volunteer to bring food or donate for the raffle, or have event questions, please contact us for more details:

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

Come for the message. Stay for the fellowship.

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

Grapevine

Michelle H., Chair

Did you know that the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour has exceeded 1 million downloads? Tap the podcast icon at the bottom of the app home page to join the fun! There is a new episode every week. Each week long-time AA members Don, Olis, and Sam interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. Special features will enhance each episode. Check it out at www.aagrapevine.org/podcast!

As always, the Grapevine needs your help! Please consider submitting your stories about the following topics (Same requests as last month):

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 particular Step or Tradition and share about it! We run one every month! We also need your jokes!

The January 2025 Grapevine Magazine is titled "God & Love" and there is a featured section called "Spirituality and Prayer," with powerful stories by members about their journeys with finding a Higher Power and the many ways they use prayer. Some of the highlights include "My First Spiritual Experience", where a member describes how when working with his sponsor, the words of the Third Step Prayer moved him to tears when he realized that he was asking God to help him so that he could help others. In another story, "Just the Right Time" tells about how a woman who was seven years sober found herself not praying and thinking that she was all powerful, only to realize that she needed her Higher Power to overcome a very strong desire to drink. And as always there are wonderful accounts about the monthly Step "Complete Defeat" (Step One) and Tradition "United" (Tradition One).

The Grapevine is always a terrific resource for finding ideas when leading a meeting!

With the 2025 budget now approved, we have more free Groupvine subscriptions to provide to meeting groups. Please contact me if your group would like one.

The Grapevine joke of the month - from the regular magazine section called At Wit's End - is called "Look Both Ways".

Q: Why did the drunk cross the street? A: He was looking for a geographical cure!

Q: Why did the newcomer cross the street? A: He didn't want to clean up his side of the street!!

Q: Why did the oldtimer cross the street? A: To make coffee on the other side!

We Are Not A Glum Lot!!

Groupvine,

Roxanne H., Chair, JoDonna G., Alt Chair

Roxanne - We are already getting volunteer submissions in the new year. JoDonna and I are trying to add some other features this year.

JoDonna - Here is the report from Groupvine - we would like to continue thanking those who make the Groupvine possible- if you are interested in sharing your story, please contact us..... we try to use a guy and a gal each month. We included a word search - you might want to prepare copies for your meeting participants.... Let us know how we can assist to keep everyone informed on what is happening in our district. The BEST district ever.....

Literature

<u>Julie K., Chair</u>

I have little to report this month but please stay tuned as two workshops are in the works. One workshop is about how to write your story and submit it to Grapevine or share it at a meeting. The other workshop is about the new conference approved literature, Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you are interested in service work, we will be reading pamphlets, looking for ones that may seem outdated or similar to other pamphlets.

Please remind your groups that there is so much literature and videos for us to put in our toolbox on AA.org. We are allowed to print one of each pamphlet. You can listen to the Big Book as well as The 12 and 12.

The new AA Plain Language Big Book sold out quickly. A new revised edition is coming soon.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service!

PI/CPC

<u>Liza D., Chair</u>

Additional pamphlets have been ordered for distribution to public and professionals. Our volunteer, Margaret T. was able to distribute some AA business cards and some pamphlets to the Naperville Police Department and the Naperville Fire Department. Their outreach person is supposed to contact her. Requested more flyers, which have been ordered as previously stated. Meeting with Stephanie H. scheduled for Sunday, January 19th. She has access to some Facebook ads, which were previously posted. We will look at these and either use them as they are or make necessary changes and then start running an ad on Facebook.

Technology <u>JoDonna G., Julie J.</u>

No report was presented or submitted prior to the meeting.

Secretary

Dan B., Secretary

I want to thank Karine for stepping up as the Alt. Secretary! For those of you that send in committee reports prior to the meeting, thank you for your assistance in clarifying your activities and requests as well as providing reference material in preparing the minutes. It is a great help to me if you keep your reports in a simple format that can be copied into the committee reports document with minimal post-copy editing.

Treasurer

Richie H., Treasurer

Although we didn't reach the 2024 budgeted contribution amounts, there were no cutbacks or impact on individual committee works.

Treatment

<u>Julie R., Chair</u> Literature The books and pamphlets have been delivered to Linden Oaks in Naperville and Plainfield.

Volunteers Needed

We take AA into treatment centers to ensure patients understand the AA option when leaving treatment.

GSRs, We dipped deep into our waitlist recently to fill a few spots, and we can always use more sub options. Please ask your meeting members to thoughtfully consider this impactful service opportunity.

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

Marie M Alt Treatment Chair

Webmaster Jeanie L., Chair

The website is being updated with events and meetings. Any needed changes or postings can be sent to <u>web@aa-nia-dist43.org</u>.

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 <u>LCM@aa-nia-dist43.org</u>.
- Carrying the Groupvine and other D43 flyers to meetings.

LCM WSFC

<u>Kim R.</u>

There is nothing new to report from LCM WSFC.

Stephanie H., DCM Alt.

Happy New Year!

District Committee Member (DCM)

Laura V., DCM

Preliminary Agenda Items: The 75th 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.

Recent (Past) Events:

I attended the NIA Area 20 Winter Assembly in December. Due to a personal matter, I could not arrive until the afternoon. Fortunately, I am blessed with a wonderful Alt DCM who attended the morning session on my behalf. TEAMWORK!

Reminders:

- January 25th 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. There are SIX amazing speakers specifically from our District! You do not want to miss this.
- 51st Annual East Central Region Conference of Delegates Past and Present: I attended this last year, and it is one of THE best conferences I have ever attended. It is a simulation of the General Service Conference so the delegates

can be prepared for the real thing! It is open to all AA members and is absolutely incredible. February 7-9th in Champaign, Illinois.

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.

District 43 will present a GSR School session, hosted by Aaron V, NIA 20 Alternate Chairperson. He will cover the many aspects of GSR responsibilities, resources available to the GSR for their meeting, and other important information on how best to serve your meeting. The GSR School was held at Area 20 in the near past, given high marks by the attendees, and is in great demand. If you are a new or existing GSR or considering the position for a meeting, you will want to attend this fun and informative meeting. I'll be sending out the time and location as soon as it becomes available.

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."

Meeting Ended

(Treasurers Reports and 2025 Approved Budget are on the following pages)

Treasurer's Report December 2024	Northern Illinois Area 20 District 43					Appoved		Variance	
Income	Current Period			ear to Date	_	024 Budget	-	2024 year	
Group Contributions	S	1.257.30	\$	10.866.37	\$	13.360.00	\$	(2,493.63	
Dupage Open Ins.	Ŷ	-	*	557.00	ľ	-	1	557.00	
Total Income	s	1,257.30	\$	11,423.37	\$	13,360.00	\$	(1,936.63	
Expenses	Current Period	.,		ear to Date	2	024 Budget	Ť	2024 year	
Committees									
Answering Service /Phone line	s	184.51	\$	2,174.51	\$	3,000.00	\$	825.49	
Archivist District 43		-		170.85		500.00		329.15	
District 43 Archives		-		287.83		800.00		512.17	
Bridging the Gap						200.00		200.00	
Corrections				-		1.305.00		1,305.00	
Events						1.100.00		1,100.00	
Grapevine				324.00		400.00		76.00	
Groupvine		-				90.00		90.00	
Literature						50.00		50.00	
Meeting Directories				970.91		1.005.00		34.09	
Meeting Rack Cards				164.68		450.00		285.32	
Public Information/CPC (Advert)				350.51		2.500.00		2,149.49	
Accessibility				-		50.00		50.00	
Treatment Centers						150.00		150.00	
Webmaster				359.28		400.00		40.72	
Secretary				-		50.00		50.00	
Treasurer						50.00		50.00	
Technology				70.35		70.35			
LCM- East/West				65.00		229.65		164.65	
LCM- WSFC				-		50.00		50.00	
Dupage Open Ins.						-			
Zoom Subscription		-		159.90		149.90		(10.00	
Total Committees	s	184.51	\$	5,097.82	\$	12.599.90	ŝ	7,502.08	
Facilities & Equipment	4	104.01	¥	3,007.02	÷	12,000.00	Ť	1,002.00	
District 43 Meetings	s		\$		s	180.00	s	180.00	
Archive Storage	•		ľ	180.00	ľ	140.00	ľ	(40.00	
Total Facilities & Equipment	\$		\$	180.00	\$	320.00	ŝ	140.00	
Operating	¥.	-	¥	100.00	Ť	020.00	Ť	140.00	
Banking Fees	s		\$	24.00	s	25.00	s	1.00	
Post Office Box-yearly PO rental	*		Ť	200.00	•	194.00	ľ	(6.00	
Postage				-		15.00		15.00	
Printing & Copying						-			
Supplies- Checks/Miscelleaneous				265.00		121.00		(144.00	
Total Operating	¢		\$	489.00	\$	355.00	\$	(134.00	
Travel and Meeting	*		*	400.00	*	333.00	Ť	104.00	
DCM & Alt. DCM	s		\$		\$	85.00	\$	(85.00	
Total Travel & Meeting	*		\$		\$ \$	85.00	\$	(85.00	
Total Expenses		- 184.51	\$	5.766.82	چ \$	13.359.90	\$	7.423.08	
Total Donations		1,257.30	۶ \$	11,423.37	ې \$	13,359.90	\$ \$	(1,936.63	
Net Balance		1,257.30	<u> </u>	5,656.55	۶ \$	0.10	3 5		
Net Balance	\$	1,072.79	\$	3,030.55	¢	0.10	3	(9,359.71	
Current									
U.S. Bank Account - Available Balan	ce		\$	10,730.28					

 U.S. Bank Account - Available Balance
 \$ 10,730.28

 Prudent Reserve (1/2 of Approved Budget)
 \$ 6,680.00

 Surplus / (Deficit) After Prudent Reserve
 \$ 4,050.28

Group Number	Group Name		
104272	Sunday Night Big Book group	\$	100.00
	7th Tradition from swinging step sisters	\$	50.00
606539	Thursday Night Discussion Group		867.30
95215	Beginner's Sampler Group	\$	100.00
647960	Friends Of Bill Group	\$	140.00

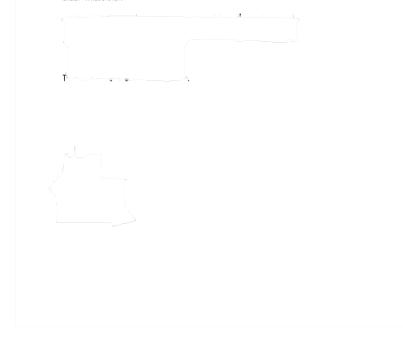
January 15, 2025

NIA Dist. 43 Treasurer's report:

Bills paid in December:

We received contributions of \$1257.30 during the month of December and our expenses were \$184.51 which include payments to AT&T in the amount of \$45.51, SAS \$139.00 which leaves us with \$4050.28 above our prudent reserve.

Please remind everyone that contributes via Venmo to include their Group name and Group number under "What's it for?"



Treasurer's Report 20 Proposed Budget Northern Illinois Area			
District 43			
Income	2	025 Budget	1
Group Contributions	\$	11,091.90	1
Dupage Open Ins.	•	•	
Total Income	Ŝ	11,091.90	1
Expenses	_	024 Budget	1
Committees			1
Answering Service /Phone line	\$	2,500.00	
Archivist District 43	-	500.00	
District 43 Archives		800.00	
Bridging the Gap		100.00	
Corrections		500.00	
Events		1.100.00	
Grapevine		400.00	
Groupvine		130.00	
iterature		50.00	
leeting Directories		600.00	
leeting Rack Cards		400.00	
Public Information/CPC (Advert)		1,000.00	
Accessibility		50.00	
reatment Centers		800.00	
Vebmaster		400.00	
Secretary		50.00	
Freasurer		50.00	
echnology		100.00	
CM- East/West		250.00	
CM- WSFC		50.00	
Dupage Open Ins.		557.00	New Expense
Zoom Subscription		159.90	and any office
Total Committees	\$	10,546.90	1
Facilities & Equipment	Ŧ		1
Archive Storage		140.00	
Total Facilities & Equipment	\$	140.00	1
Operating	¥	140.00	1
Banking Fees	\$	25.00	
Post Office Box-yearly PO rental		194.00	
Postage		15.00	
Supplies- Checks/Miscelleaneous		121.00	
Total Operating	\$	355.00	1
Travel and Meeting	φ	333.00	1
DCM & Alt. DCM	\$	50.00	
Total Travel & Meeting		50.00	1
			4
Total Expenses		11,091.90	4
Tetel D (
Total Donations Prudent Reserve		11,091.90 5,545.95	4

Please note: The title states it is the proposed budget. This was voted on and accepted at the 1/15/25 meeting and is now the approved budget.