



### **March 19, 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 period of quiet time, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Chris D. read Tradition #3 – “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

Laura V. read Zoom protocols to all attendees.

#### **New Attendees**

Ebone A., Alcoholic

#### **Anniversaries**

None

#### **AA Announcements**

None.

#### **Old Business – Laura V., DCM**

Vote was taken for approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes. Y – 100%, Passed.

Vote was taken for approval of February 2025 Treasurers Report. Y 100%, Passed.

#### **New Business – Laura V., DCM**

The Technology – Alternate Chair is open. We do need someone to step up for this position in the event Julie J., Chair, is unable to attend this meeting. This position would then be able to host this monthly Zoom business meeting, launch the polls for voting, and assist with any technological issues. GSR’s, please bring this back to your groups.

Karine M., Alt Secretary – NIA Area 20 and meetings are already getting their picnics organized and choosing dates. Can the district picnic planners check the district website and see if they have a date in mind? Can we get these picnic dates on the district website calendar?

Kathy S., LCM - East/West – I have several years of AA Grapevine copies I would like to donate.

Bill N., Corrections Chair – I can provide these to the inmates at DuPage County Jail. However, any literature brought to the jail can't have any staples. These must be removed prior to entry to the jail.

Kathy informed Bill they do not have staples and will drop them off to him at an upcoming meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Accessibilities**

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

Renee had nothing new to report this month.

### **Answering Service**

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

Nothing new to report. Calls are coming in and being picked up promptly.

### **Archivist/Archives**

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

### **Upcoming April Anniversaries**

Here is the list of group anniversaries for next month based on District 43 Archives current info:

#### **Thank God, It's Friday – 44 years**

Meets at – DuPage Unitarian Church, 1828 Old Naperville Road, Naperville

***This is the oldest active group in District 43***

#### **Center St. Blue Book – 41 years**

Meets at – Community United Methodist Church, 20 N Center St, Naperville

#### **Brown Baggers – 37 years**

Meets at – Naperville Women's Club, 16 S. Washington St, Naperville

#### **Hobson's Choice Men's Big Book Study – 12 years**

Meets at – Hobson Road Community Church, 2531 Hobson Road, Downers Grove

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The Archives Committee met last week and discussed current projects, including:

1. Replaced broken glass on “Dr. Bob’s Farewell Talk” picture frame (this is used as part of the Archives Display at the DuPage County Open and other places).
2. Finalizing a short-form “group history Covid supplement” to gather info from District groups about what they did during the Covid pandemic. (This project is in keeping with this month’s 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the initial “Covid Lockdown”.)
3. Many of the original group histories that we currently have on file should be reviewed and updated to reflect changes since the history on file was prepared. We encourage GSRs to review their current group history (contact Archives) and help provide updates.
4. We discussed how to store and display “physical artifacts” in the Archives Collection, such as a brick from St. Thomas Hospital in Akron (where Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia worked tirelessly to help over 5,000 alcoholics recover), which closed in 2022 and was demolished last year. Thank you, Gene K, for that donation!
5. The Spring Archives Corner should be ready for posting on the District website soon.

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; but we’ll leave particulars up to you who know best the work of your committee.

That concludes the Archives report for March 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**  
**Geoff B., Chair**

Geoff was not able to attend the meeting and did not submit a report.

**Corrections**  
**Bill N., Chair**

Correction meeting at DuPage County Jail at our Monday night meeting is in the process of reviewing our meeting format. We will be having a meeting in the very near future to have the inmates vote on specific changes. We are reading the 12 & 12 book now but could be choosing something like Reflections next. We are waiting until we have 12-15 people in attendance. The members voted on watching an alcoholism-related movie and we will be showing the movie "Flight" next Monday. After that, we will be showing a Bill W. movie.

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

Upcoming Event: AA District 43 Bingo Night

A Night of Fun, Fellowship & Inspiration!

Date: May 26th, Saturday Evening

Location: C.U.M.C., 20 North Center Street Naperville

This free event is open to everyone, including kids! Whether you're in recovery, supporting a loved one, or just looking for a fun, sober night out. More details and event flyer coming soon.

The event flyer is attached in this email for distribution at your meetings and will be posted on the NIA District 43 website.

**Grapevine**  
**Michelle H., Chair**

The new 2025 Grapevine catalog is here! There are 28 pages of materials to explore including books, audiobooks, eBooks, specialty items, and more!

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog>

As always, the Grapevine needs your help! Please consider submitting your stories about the following topics: (Some new ones!)

- Sober Holidays— What are the ways you stay sane and grateful during the holidays and New Year's? How do you navigate holiday parties and family gatherings?

- Stories for Day Counters— What are the things that helped you most when you were very new to AA? What are some tips that helped you when you were new? Which suggestions helped you most?
- Getting Through Tough Times— A serious illness, divorce, the death of a loved one, a house fire, loss of a job, bankruptcy...How have you stayed sober through adversity? Tell us how the program and fellowship helped you.

More upcoming topics: Sober Travel, Sponsorship, Getting Into General Service, Dealing With Loneliness.

The March 2025 Grapevine Magazine is titled “Sober & Out”, and it features seven powerful stories of sobriety and hope by our LGBTQ+ AA members. And as always there are wonderful accounts about the monthly Step and Traditions: “My Best Friend” (Step Three) where a member realizes that her Higher Power is her partner for life and “An Evolving Desire” (Tradition Three) where a newcomer realizes how beginners meetings changed his thinking.

And don’t forget to check out the latest podcasts from THE AAGrapevine HALF-HOUR VARIETY HOUR! There is a new 30-minute podcast every Monday. What a great way to kick off your week! For example, this week (Season 8 Episode 10) Olis and Sam interviewed Chris S. from Massachusetts who shared how alcoholism consumed his thoughts and attitudes and actions. “Alcohol is the great taker - it took my dignity, my self respect, my moral, and my ethics”. There is also an “Ask It Basket” section where members can send in questions and the answer is provided. This week a question about the AA PreAmble was addressed. [www.aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast)

The Grapevine joke of the month - from the regular magazine section called At Wit’s End - is called “You Can Bank On It”:

Q - What’s the difference between an alcoholic and a certificate of deposit?

A - At some point, the certificate matures and earns money!

“We Are Not A Glum Lot!!

**Groupvine,  
Roxanne H., Chair; JoDonna G., Alt Chair**

GSR's: please continue to have your meeting members know that we continue to look for members' interest in featuring poetry and anyone who would like to feature a story in a future Groupvine.

Also, my position will be ending in December. Please spread the word that if anyone has interest or questions about being of service for this position to please email me at [groupvineeditor@gmail.com](mailto:groupvineeditor@gmail.com).

## **Literature**

**Julie K., Chair; Luci B., Alt Chair**

Here are three proposed agenda items for the Pre-GSC that we have been discussing:

**1. Consider a request to update the book Living Sober.**

The book was written in 1975 and has had seven revisions up to 2018. The Literature committee is being asked "to explore the idea of a substantial overhaul/upgrade to this vital book..." Changes might include online meeting format, etiquette and security, resources in social media, specialized groups such as women's, men's, LGBTQIA, etc. Is your group in favor of the suggestion to AA to revise the book Living Sober? What changes would make this book more relevant?

**2. Discuss Plain Language Big Book review process.**

In Jan 2025 at the General Service Board meeting, the Literature Committee discussed creating a process to revise the Plain Language Big Book. There is a high volume of proposed changes. Since this book is a translation, substantive changes may require outside input to ensure accuracy. The suggestion is to categorize the proposed changes into editorial or substantive. Proposed editorial changes would not go to the conference, whereas proposed substantive changes would go to the GSC. This proposal also suggests postponing any changes to allow more time with the book. How does your group feel about the proposed process for revising the book? Should the changes be delayed to allow more time with the book? How should the need for updates be balanced with translation costs and workload?

**3. Consider request that a Super Majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founders Literature.**

This would require a Super Majority (3/4 of voting members) to pass any future motion to change or amend the founder's literature. What does your group think about the proposed procedures for changing the founder's writings?

Please share this information with your groups and forward any information to Luci and Julie so that we can pass it along to our delegate. There is more background information that I can pass along for each of the proposed agenda items if clarification is needed.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service,

Luci and Julie

[Literature@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:Literature@aa-nia-dist43.org)

**PI/CPC**

**Liza D., Chair**

We were supposed to start running ads on Facebook, however we have run into a problem.

Our volunteer had the ad set up to run daily for the rest of the month, however she received a notice that it violates some Facebook community sharing rule. We are working on getting this fixed.

We also received an email from an individual looking for assistance and provided them with some useful information.

## **Technology**

### **Julie J., Chair;**

We are looking for an Alternate Technology Chair! This person will be a back-up for me to help run the Zoom meetings when I'm not available. I appreciate your support! Other than that, I have nothing new to add.

## **Secretary**

### **Dan B., Secretary; Karine M., Alt Secretary**

Dan B. - 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.

Karine M. – We have been looking at using Zoom AI to capture audio summaries of this meeting for note taking purposes. It is already being used at Area 20 and District 40 business meetings.

Dan noted that the current version provides a highly summarized transcript with little specific information and is of limited use. Laura V. said we would continue to investigate this potentially useful tool and report back.

## **Treasurer**

### **Richie H., Treasurer**

Please see separate Treasurer's report and summary of activity. Both items are separate attachments to the email in which this report is distributed.

Richie – I was going to bring up a motion that we move to the app previously discussed that would facilitate payments and banking. I talked with others who are familiar with the app about pros and cons of using the app. One of the big negatives of using the app is that all funds of all users are kept in one bank account. I have decided to not move forward with a motion for moving to the app. I will make a motion at the next meeting that we make a contribution to the Area (NIA 20) and the GSO. However, there is a typo in my report. I will

make a motion that we contribute \$750 to Area (NIA 20) and \$750 to GSO. Please take this information back to your group and we'll vote on it at next month's meeting.

## **Treatment**

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

#### Two Items of Note

1. At the end of February, Edward-Elmhurst went under an organizational restructuring. It impacted the Linden Oaks treatment centers where we volunteer in a few ways:
  - Our primary contact over all 3 sites was let go as her position was eliminated.
  - There are now 3 primary contacts, 1 for each site.
  - The Detox unit that we volunteer at on West Street now has both adult detox and adult mental health in the same unit.

I am contacting each of the 3 site leads and confirming they are good with our program and the meetings we lead with Linden Oaks patients.

#### No Volunteer Impact

There is no impact on our volunteers who go every week to each of the 3 sites. They can continue to show up, tell their story and spread hope to the patients at Linden Oaks.

2. The 4:00 pm start time on Saturdays and Sundays had a minor impact as a result of a change in visiting hours the hospital made.
  - I found out that visiting hours for the adolescent unit were changed to start at 4:00 pm every day to spread out the flow of visitor arrivals impacting the parking lot and the lockers at check-in.
  - It has been taking our volunteers more time to check in and they need to arrive closer to 3:45 pm.
  - I'm talking with the West Street supervisor about possible options. We may leave the timing as is and volunteers need to arrive by 3:45 pm to ensure the ability to enter on time.

#### Cornell Abraxas Interventions - Woodridge

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

Julie R

Treatment Chair

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Marie M

Alt Treatment Chair

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**Webmaster**  
**Jeanie L., Chair**

Some committee chairs are telling me they are not getting emails that were submitted to them through the District 43 website. Please remember the email address listed on the website that people will use to contact you are forwarders only. When someone uses that email address, it will forward to the email address you previously submitted to me. If you have not sent this address to me, the website email address will not forward the message. The easiest way to check is to send an email using the address listed on the website. If you do not receive anything, either the address you provided is incorrect or you did not submit an email address to forward to. If you are not receiving the emails, please send me an email [web@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:web@aa-nia-dist43.org) identifying yourself, position, and your email address to be linked to the committee email address on the District 43 website.

The Web Admin team has been using Sitelock Prevent for our website security. It costs \$239.88 per year. We have also added a free version of Wordfence for Word Press security. After discussion both within our committee and with an AA member who works in IT security, we have decided to end our Sitelock Prevent use and upgrade to Wordfence Premium, which is \$149 per year. It will be a savings of \$90.88.

Jeanie L attended GSR School, at which a calendar for Northern Illinois Area 20 was distributed. The four quarterly Assemblies and the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop were listed and highlighted as events that GSRs are strongly encouraged to attend. Those assemblies and the workshop have been added to the District 43 calendar with a notice that reads "Attention GSRs". Thanks to Kathy S for that suggestion!

The website calendar has been updated with events and the March Groupvine.

The description of the Groupvine has been changed slightly on the website at the request of the Groupvine editor to more accurately reflect the newsletter.

If you have an AA event that is of interest to District 43, please send the information to [web@aa-nia-dist43.org](mailto:web@aa-nia-dist43.org).

I just received an email from a nursing home rehabilitation center looking for information on setting up a meeting, AA information, etc. I am not sure which committee to forward this information to.

Laura V. told Jeanie to send the email request to the PI/CPC committee.

## **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.**

I haven't been to the WSFC since 1/1/25 due to a broken foot. I'm better now but I am looking for an alternate to assist with this position. I will talk with Kathy S., LCM East/West to see what she is doing with her committee.

## **DCM Alt.**

### **Stephanie H.**

I don't have anything to report.

## **District Committee Member (DCM)**

### **Laura V., DCM**

#### **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES:**

- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: the Pre-General Service Conference Breakouts! Dan sent an email titled "PGSCW Recap from Spring Assembly" that you should all have. We do these to gather feedback that can then be communicate at the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop.
- April 5, 2025: The Pre-General Service Conference Workshop! This is when the fellowship shares our opinion with our Delegate so he knows how to vote at the Annual Conference.

#### **Recent (Past) Events:**

I attended the....

- Spring Assembly on March 1, 2025 – we voted to contribute \$200 to International for the hospitality room.

- GSR School which was a huge success! “The 40s” (D40, 41, 42, and 43) worked together to put on this event which about 60 or so people attended! Aaron V (Area Chair) and Lisa S (Alt Delegate) led the presentation for us.

Reminders:

- Share the 2025 Agenda Items with your groups! They are in your email and if you haven’t received them, please stay after the meeting ends for a minute or two so I can get your email address and send it to you
- DCM 43 Committee Positions Still Available: Technology Alternate

***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.”

Meeting Ended