

Bylaws of Northern Illinois Area (NIA) District 10 of Alcoholics Anonymous

Article 1: NAME

NIA District 10 of Alcoholics Anonymous. (the district)

Article 2: PURPOSE

The general purpose and objectives of this organization are to help and support the Alcoholics Anonymous community in the NIA. Toward that end, District 10 shall be guided by the Twelve Traditions, the NIA service manual, and the AA Service Manual (GSO) while recognizing these bylaws take precedence over them.

Article 3: INDEPENDENCE OF MEMBER GROUPS

District 10 shall have no control over the internal affairs, management or conduct of any member group. The intent of these Bylaws is to gain strength and unity necessary to meet problems where group coordination is desired. The district always acknowledges the complete independence of each individual group.

We hope the member groups support in good spirit the activities undertaken by this District.

Article 4: MEETINGS

The monthly District meeting shall be on the fourth Sunday of every month. The annual meeting total shall be 11 with the November and December meetings being combined on the second Sunday of December.

The location of the meeting shall be posted on the district's website, district10nia.org. Any changes to the meeting location or time should be communicated to the members no later than thirty days prior to the meeting date.

Notifications shall be via email and the website or other media.

In keeping with the third tradition, attendance at these meetings is open to any person that has a desire not to drink.

Article 5: MEMBERSHIP

General membership in the district is open to any person that has a desire not to drink.

Article 6: DISTRICT OFFICERS

The elected officers of the district are:

1. District Committee Member (DCM)
2. Alternate District Committee Member (ADCM)
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

These officers and their alternates are elected by the voting members of the district, (Section 7), and are limited to a two-year term. Elections shall be held on the fourth Sunday of October in even years. Elected officers, committee chairs and their alternates shall assume their responsibilities on January 1 the following year.

A modified 3rd Legacy procedure in the afore-mentioned service manuals should guide the election process. (Appendix A)

Section 1: DUTIES

DCM: The district committee member (DCM) is an essential link between the group General Service Representatives (GSRs) and the area delegate to the General Service Conference. As leader of the district committee, made up of all GSRs in the district, the DCM is a liaison of the group conscience of that district.

The DCM chairs the monthly district meetings and attends Area meetings and events as the representative of the district.

Alternate DCM:

- Assumes the duties of the DCM in the absence of the DCM. The Alternate DCM also: Chairs the monthly Traditions meeting immediately prior to the district GSR meeting.
- Serves as the liaison between the district committee and the landlord. Coordinates rent payments for the meeting facility.
- Responds to "Contact Us" messages or directs them to the appropriate person
- Assures that the meeting door is opened and is locked at the end of meetings
- Coordinates district meeting setup, cleanup, coffee, signage and books for the Traditions meeting.
- Coordinates storage locker keys and access.

Secretary :

The secretary shall record all pertinent discussion and attendance of all the District Meetings. Meeting minutes should be available to district members and district groups via printed hard-copy, website posting or any other convenient media. The secretary's report will be approved by a simple majority vote of eligible members present.

Treasurer:

The District Treasurer is considered a fiduciary and shall keep safe all monies of the district. There shall be at least one co-signer for all the district's accounts. The fiscal year for the district will be from January 1 to December 31.

In accordance with AA'S seventh tradition, we are fully self-supporting through voluntary contributions from the district's groups and members. The treasurer collects, records, and deposits all contributions. The treasurer also records and pays expenses approved by the GSR's through an annual budget. The treasurer prepares a written report on contributions and expenditures each month and distributes them to the members of the district prior to the next meeting. The treasurer's report will be approved by a simple majority of members present.

Near the end of the calendar year, the treasurer will consult with the officers and committee chairs to determine the next year's spending plan.

Section 2: Removal from office

A "No Confidence" vote is a simple majority of eligible voting members present. An officer/chair/alternate may be removed for the following:

- Absenteeism - missing three consecutive meetings WITHOUT prior notification to another officer.
- Non-performance of duties (as outlined in Section A: DUTIES)
- Inappropriate behavior of an Officer.

Article 7: VOTING

Voting members are the districts officers, GSR's (general service representatives) or their alternates, and district committee chairs or their alternates. Each voting member shall have one vote.

All decisions shall be binding by a simple majority vote of the members present except where otherwise stated in the bylaws or service manuals. Voting procedures are to follow a modified 3rd Legacy procedure per NIA and GSO service manuals.

Article 8: COMMITTEES

All committee chairpersons and alternates are elected on the fourth Sunday in October every even year and serve a two-year term.

Members serving a full term may not be elected for a consecutive term in the same position. Persons wishing to serve shall “qualify” themselves by describing their previous service positions and length of sobriety (at minimum) to the group and it is recommended that the person have at least one-year of sobriety and or the consent of their sponsor.

Committee chairpersons should submit written and verbal reports every month at the district meeting.

Chairpersons should also attend Area 20 committee meetings, assemblies, and pre-general service conferences.

If a chairperson does not attend three consecutive District meetings without submitting a report or contacting the DCM, that position will be declared vacant, and the alternate chair shall assume the duties of the chair.

The standing committees are:

Answering Service	Grapevine
Archives	GSR Contact
Bridging the Gap	Literature
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Newsletter
Corrections	Public Information
Directory	Technology
Events	Treatment
	Website

Special Committees may be created and dissolved as needed. Refer to the service manuals for committee descriptions.

Article 9: AMMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership present, provided a vote on the proposed amendment has been announced at the regular meeting prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. In addition, copies of the proposed change will be distributed to members at least (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken. Distribution of the amendment shall include as a minimum: email to the registered members and posting on the website.

APPENDIX A

MODIFIED 3RD LEGACY VOTING PROCEDURES

Nomination Procedure

- Candidates who are eligible and willing to stand for a position are asked to identify themselves.
- Nominations of eligible and willing candidates are also accepted.
- The names of all candidates are posted on a board, flip chart, screen or piece of paper.
- Candidates present a two-minute service history.
- After everyone has given their service history, voting will commence.
- Candidates are asked to leave the room when voting is not by written ballot.

Voting Procedure

1. If only one or two candidates stand for the same position, a simple majority shall determine the outcome of the vote. The candidates exit the room while the vote is in progress.
2. If three or more candidates stand for the same position, the names of the eligible candidates are posted on a blackboard, screen or flipchart. All candidates exit the room. All voting members of the district cast written or verbal ballots, one vote per ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted. The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
3. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one- fifth of the total vote, their name is automatically withdrawn-except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
5. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
 - At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot.
 - If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and choice is made by -“going to the hat” – immediately.
 - If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
6. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be Made by lot 9(from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second place candidates remain.
7. Lots are then drawn by the secretary and the first person “out of the hat” is elected.