

BYLAWS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA (NIA) DISTRICT 10 OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

ARTICLE 1: 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 that these bylaws shall guide district operations and may expand upon service manuals, without contradicting AA's core Traditions.

ARTICLE 2: 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 3: MEETINGS The monthly District meeting shall be on the fourth Sunday of every month. There shall be 11 district meetings annually, with the November and December meetings combined and held 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 shall be communicated to the members no later than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date. Notifications should be via email, website, or other appropriate media.

In keeping with the Third Tradition, attendance at these meetings is open to any person who has a desire not to drink.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP General membership in the District is open to any person who has a desire not to drink.

ARTICLE 5: DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1: Elected 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 (see Article 7) and are limited to a two-year term. Elections shall be held on the fourth Sunday of October in even-numbered years. If

positions are not filled on this election night, they may be filled at a later scheduled meeting. Elected officers, and their alternates shall assume their responsibilities on January 1 of the following year.

A modified Third Legacy Procedure outlined in the NIA and GSO Service Manuals shall guide the election process (Appendix A).

Section 2: Duties

DCM: The District Committee Member is a vital 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 officers, GSRs, committee chairs and/or their alternates in the District, the DCM is the liaison of the group conscience of the 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.
- 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.
- Ensures the meeting door is opened and 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 discussions and attendance at all District meetings. Meeting minutes should be available to District members and groups via hard copy, website posting, or other convenient media. The Secretary's report shall be approved by a simple majority vote of eligible members present.

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

In accordance with AA's Seventh Tradition, the District is fully self-supporting through voluntary contributions from groups and members. The Treasurer collects, records, and deposits all contributions; records and pays expenses approved by the GSRs through an annual budget; prepares a monthly written report on contributions and expenditures; and distributes the report to District members prior to the next meeting. The Treasurer's report shall be approved by a simple majority of members present.

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

Section 3: Removal from Office A "No Confidence" vote shall be a simple majority of eligible voting members present. An officer, chair, or alternate may be removed for:

- Absenteeism: missing three (3) consecutive meetings without prior notification to another officer.
- Non-performance of duties (as outlined above).
- Inappropriate behavior of an officer.

Any member subject to removal shall be informed in writing (email is acceptable) and given an opportunity to address concerns before a vote is taken.

ARTICLE 6: VOTING Voting members are District officers or their alternates, GSRs 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 these bylaws or service manuals. Voting procedures shall follow a modified Third Legacy Procedure as per the NIA and GSO Service Manuals.

ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES All committee chairpersons and alternates are elected on the fourth Sunday in October in even-numbered years and serve a two-year term. If positions are not filled on this election evening, they may be filled at a later scheduled meeting. All committee chairpersons and/or their alternates should attend all area assemblies and committee meetings.

Members serving a full term may not be elected to a consecutive term in the same position. People wishing to serve shall qualify themselves by describing their previous service positions and length of sobriety. It is recommended that a person has at least one year of sobriety or the consent of their sponsor.

Committee chairpersons should submit written and verbal reports each month at the District meeting and are encouraged to attend Area 20 committee meetings, assemblies, and pre-General Service Conferences.

If a chairperson does not attend three (3) consecutive District meetings without submitting a report or contacting the DCM, the position shall be declared vacant and the alternate chair shall assume the duties.

Standing Committees:

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

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

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present, provided that the proposed amendment has been announced at a regular meeting prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

Copies of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to members at least two (2) weeks prior to the vote. Distribution shall include, at a minimum: email to registered members and posting on the website.

APPENDIX A: MODIFIED THIRD LEGACY VOTING PROCEDURE

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 visibly.
- Candidates present a two-minute service history.
- After all candidates have spoken, voting commences.
- Candidates leave the room if voting is not by written ballot.

Voting Procedure:

1. If one or two candidates are nominated, a simple majority determines the outcome. Candidates leave the room during voting.
2. If three or more candidates are nominated, written or verbal ballots are cast. Tally is posted. First to receive two-thirds is elected.
3. After a second ballot, candidates with less than 1/5 of the total vote are withdrawn—except the top two candidates.
4. After a third ballot, candidates with less than 1/3 of the vote are withdrawn—except the top two.
5. After a fourth ballot, if no one receives two-thirds, the lowest vote-getter is withdrawn—except the top two.
 - Chair asks for a motion, second, and simple majority to proceed with a fifth ballot.
 - If motion fails, names go “into the hat.”
6. After the fifth ballot, if no candidate wins, top two go “into the hat.” In the case of a tie for first, all tied candidates go into the hat.
7. The Secretary draws lots, and the first name drawn is elected.

Approved July 27, 2025