

## Northern Illinois Delegate Area 20 Highlights

Illinois (Northern): An attempt at describing the geography of the Northern Illinois Area could begin with a disclaimer that any AA member from the most northern part of the Area can drive to the most southern part of the Area in 4 hours. Our borders are Iowa, Wisconsin and our neighbors are Southern Illinois Area 21, and the Chicago Area 19. There are currently 24 Districts in the Area, 23 that have drawn distinct markings and boundaries. We currently have a Spanish Linguistic District which attempts to communicate with all of the registered Hispanic Groups or meetings in our Area. Our current database informs us that the Area has 1175 registered meetings and or groups. The AA Fellowship in the Area has approximately 24,000 in membership. Over the course of the last six years the Area has focused on changes to Budget and Disbursements to Area Trusted Servants, have Assembly approved guidelines on Trusted Servant Responsibilities, and for the past two years have had an ad-Hoc Committee in place looking at the Service Structure of NIA and how to attract more GSR's to the Area Assemblies and to service overall. The Area has recently started to conduct GSR and Service Orientation Workshops to be scheduled throughout the Districts. The Area Service Committees have been asked to focus on revamping the AA committee system by having Assembly agenda items referred to the specific committee for discussion and recommendation. Recent meetings between the three Areas of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Corrections has given rise to the "Spirit of Cooperation". The Area has an annual Spring Service Conference, and a one day Big Book Conference. Every third year we have the honor of hosting our annual Illinois State Conference. The Area has lent a helping hand to the young people in AA. In October 2007, the East Central Regional Forum, hosted by Area 19, was held in Area 20 - Arlington Heights, IL and 563 AA'ers found their way. With the assignment to the Public Information Committee, I hope to learn more about the 36 Principles on which we base our new found life. - John Conway