

2021 BIG BOOK CONFERENCE REPORT

TO 2021 AREA 20 SPRING ASSEMBLY

We had our first meeting on January 23rd. We have had two meetings up until now and will have our third next Saturday March 20th. Our first order of business was to vote that the 2021 Big Book Conference Hosted by District 11 will be a virtual event and to possibly have a live event if the situation allows. Followed by narrowing down available dates using ours and neighboring calendars and choosing October 30, 2021 as the date for the Area 20 Big Book Conference. Next, we had elections and everybody present was voted to a position or asked to help with a committee. We also came up with a Save the Date Flyer soon after that first meeting. At our second meeting we elected an Alternate Treasurer. Our Treasurer and Alternate Treasurer are up to speed with the Area 20 Big Book Conference Checking Account, and both are signatories on that account. This account is one of many necessary Guidelines updates we hope to be able to present to the Assembly when the Conference is complete. At our last meeting we used an altered version of Third Legacy Procedures to select our theme. We had 14 submissions, and after the first round we eliminated all the themes with zero votes. In the second round we had seven possible themes and we selected with better than 2/3 majority "164 & Much More" as the theme for our Conference. We have no guidelines or written past experiences for putting on a virtual conference, but our Committee is excited to tackle the challenges to be presented to us.

Past Area 20 Archivist Ray M. found some past Big Book Conference Flyers and Programs, and a couple Final Reports. We received contact lists from the two previous Conferences so our Committee Chairs can reach out for some past experiences.

Our Program Committee has asked William S. to be our Big Book Historian Speaker. He is an author on this topic and our Committee has asked our Program Chair to talk to him about not promoting his book during his talk. We hope The Program Committee comes to the table next week with a possible second speaker and a theme for the panels. Those panels will be filled per our Guidelines, and they were looking at past programs looking at what Districts participated most and least over the years trying to assure good rotation. We are also working on a Program that will include participation from our Spanish Speaking Districts. And the Program will also have Spanish Translation.

Our PI Committee has sent our Save the Date Flyer to District 11 and Area 20 Webmasters and will distribute to other neighboring Areas.

Our Literature Committee is now the Literature/Grapevine Committee. We don't want to have any unplanned downtime between panels, and we are hoping to use this Committee to fill any blank spots that may occur between Panels with some interesting Literature/Grapevine information.

We are looking at how to utilize all our Committees and our Committee Members in this new

virtual world. And to also keep everybody engaged up until the Conference. This may present an interesting challenge that we are up to. There are no Guidelines or written shared experience from Area 20 to work with, but we are ready to put in the effort to put on an interesting Conference for all of you to attend and enjoy.

We have asked some technology skilled people to join us at our next meeting.

AMOT Audio will be taping our Conference and has offered to take care of all our Zoom needs for that day. They have been taping and helping with Zoom Conferences, Workshops and Meetings since soon after this pandemic started. They have taped and assisted with hundreds of Conferences and thousands of meetings.

Because of things I've seen on Social Media, I asked our Committee what they thought about our event being posted/promoted on Social Media. I also asked Conference Liaison Erik to ask The Conference Advisory Committee about this topic. I believe the response was unanimous to stick to conventional methods of getting the word out on the Big Book Conference. Any of you that know me well would know these thoughts do not break my heart.

Upon the completion of this year's Conference, we hope to have a list of updates for the Big Book Conference Guidelines

Rich and Georgene

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