



May 16, 2020

2020 Spring Committee Meeting Cover Letter

What a long, strange trip it's been comes to mind. How are you feeling? It got to be mid-May in a heartbeat and here we are at our first virtual Area Committee Meeting. I'm excited to get time to talk with you about how things are going around the area in general, what concerns there are and how we can help each other. Today's agenda makes a way for sharing and ideas. The business will come. I know several committees are buzzing and planning.

These recent weeks have not been easy or normal on many fronts. We can't get eyeball to eyeball, see the distress or joy on each other's faces as easily, hold hands to pray ...no hugs. Not to mention, the concern for our own health and that of others. Losses, scares and ongoing worry. Through it all shines our firm resolve to serve - in our meetings, communities, districts and in our area. God is moving in big ways through us.

Overall, it seems we now talk more, meet more often, and share new experiences regularly. That speaks volumes for a positive outlook for our future. We took up our virtual coffee pots and have become part of a re-uniting of our fellowship on a whole new level. My own recovery network has grown by leaps and bounds, in a matter of weeks. Oh, what a fascinating forward to the fifth edition there could be!

I'd like for us to think about we unite, how we communicate with each other, how we teach each other new things. These are things I am working to improve for myself. I am a doer and so when I get an idea, I'm off to the races, more often than not. How can I pause, invite God and others in, share the load, try something new, make some mistakes, push aside my ego? I'm hoping to open the doors of communication through regular meetings of Area Officers and various committees. Not meeting overload - a more intentional way of working together.

One way I'm thinking about how we might attract others to learn with us is through standing committee "spotlights" at area assemblies. Can we make a way for folks to come to us not only to listen, discuss and vote, but to be actively learning as well? Kind of a workshop within an assembly? I put it on our agenda today to discuss further - would love to know what you think.

The work doesn't stop - it gets different. Harder, even. And we get stressed and grateful sometimes all in the same breath. My hope is that we continue to treat each other with compassion and assume positive intent. Stress levels are high and learning curves can be steep - patience and tolerance is our code. Lord knows we are no strangers to perseverance during trying times.

Above all else - thank you. For your examples of commitment and service to this program I know we all love so much. It is nothing short of a privilege to serve with you.

All the best,

Carmela R, Area Chair