



October 17, 2020

## **2020 Winter Assembly Cover Letter**

Today's agenda is a full one to close our year! We have approvals of our Primary Purpose Register and 2021 Events calendar to consider, along with a few business items to vote on. Our Registrars have brought a floor motion for consideration. A floor motion is handled differently than a regular motion that came out of committee in that the Assembly must first decide whether it will consider discussing the motion today, at the end of new business. Right after your breakout session and lunch, I will call for a motion to "decline to consider". That is process speak for "do we want to talk about it today or not"? If there is a motion, it is seconded and the group votes to hear and discuss it, we will discuss it after new business.

Today's agenda has all the same parts as presented in the preliminary agenda, just moved around a bit. I also detailed the agenda more to include to call things out such as voter eligibility and procedure. We all need these reminders as we move through each piece of business. I have also indicated how items will be considered – by simple majority or substantial unanimity (2/3) vote.

Thank you to Erik L and Christy B for being willing to lead adhoc committees. We have identified two key areas where research and recommendations are warranted to help us do our work more efficiently and effectively. I am excited and grateful for the work of these two groups – these are key areas of growth for us as an area. They are: 1. Adhoc committee on the future of area meetings and planning for "back to meeting" in person. You will hear a detailed report of work and recommendations today from this group. 2. Adhoc committee to establish document management platform and processes to share, store and archive area files. Group appointments are being finalized – this group will be starting in the new year.

We are making great strides to leverage virtual meeting technology. Yet, there is more we can do. How can we leverage it on an ongoing basis? In this coming quarter, I will be working with our service committees to create a calendar of committee activity. As I mentioned last meeting, it would be a good problem to have if we needed to activate more accounts to make this work for everyone. As we gain more experience doing this, let's continue to consider questions like these:

- How do our guidelines need to be updated to reflect current practices?
- How will we offer some guidance around contingency planning for conferences and area meetings?
- Which of our Area meetings can be conducted virtually? Would we consider a "hybrid" approach?
- Other ideas?

Once more, I'll call attention to this - we don't have hosts for our 2021 Big Book Conference or 2022 Spring Assembly Conference. How do we want to address this? What can the Area do to help inspire active participation, even in these unprecedented times? There is a bit of time on today's agenda to share how we're carrying the message in these times.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you all for your service to the fellowship.

All the best,

Carmela R, Area Chair