



May 1, 2021

## **2021 Spring Committee Meeting Cover Letter**

Spring has surely sprung in Northern Illinois! Lots of busy service bees are buzzing around making things happen! Thank you all for your commitment to service in Area 20!

The General Service Conference was held beginning on the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> and lasted a good long week. Please extend a warm Thank You to Marilyn for her dedicated service. I can't wait to hear about the happenings! Marilyn will provide some key highlights at this Spring Committee Meeting and a more complete report at our upcoming Summer Assembly on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

I am pleased to see such great activity by our adhoc groups and our Conference Advisory Committee in recent weeks and days. As a reminder, the two adhoc committees underway to help us meet some key needs are:

1. Adhoc committee on the future of area meetings and planning for "back to meeting" in person. Led by Erik L, our Alternate Chair. Their work continues toward a safety plan, assessment of needs for back to person and hybrid meetings. The group is being asked to target our Fall Election Assembly as our first back to meeting event. More to come.
2. Adhoc committee to establish document management platform and processes to share, store and archive area files. Led by Christy B, our Secretary. This group is just beginning to form – we will hear a first report from this crew at this event today.

On the agenda today, you will see **TWO MOTIONS brought forth by our Conference Advisory Committee** to address a key need for guidance around two NIA 20 sponsored events – Our Spring Assembly Conference (hosted annually by NIA 20) and the Illinois State Conference (Hosted every 3 years by NIA 20). We get the chance to ask questions and discuss these ideas today, in preparation for the broader group conscience to be heard through discussion and voting at the Summer Assembly.

Our NIA 20 Grapevine Committee, along with District Grapevine servants continue to host monthly workshops. NIA Treasurers have started to do the same. DCMs have talked about something similar. There are many events on our Area Calendar – check them out. One example is an all areas meeting about accessibilities that happens twice a month. Another is on May 15<sup>th</sup>, a Bridging the Gap workshop, hosted by an area on the east coast that we could attend and learn from to do our own.

**SERVICE COMMITTEES:** Please make use of our Zoom account(s) and let's get some committee meetings and workshops going across the board. I am concerned that we are seeing a big dip in some areas of service committee work – let's find ways to get more active!!

You may remember a recent survey that went out after our Spring Assembly. I have collected some initial data and will prepare a report in advance of the Summer Assembly for you to see. I look forward to incorporating real time feedback into our future agendas where possible.

Thank you all for your dedicated service to the fellowship.

All the best,

Carmela R, Area Chair