



June 2, 2021

2021 Summer Assembly Cover Letter

Well, here we are, nearing the half-way point of our 2nd year, Panel 70! Can you believe it? What a rotation this has been, for all of us, eh? The words challenging, rewarding, sane, insane, busy, quiet, humbling and grateful all come to mind. There has been much change in this last year and a half and, at the same time, much has stayed the sameby and large we still meet with our homegroups, work with our committees, and serve the still suffering drunks...in both old and new ways. As we move into a new phase of our development and likely a new phase of the pandemic guidelines for our state, things will change yet again...

You will hear a report from our adhoc committee on the future of Area meetings. While we anticipate the ability to start to meet in-person again later this quarter, we have much work to do to execute a plan. That said, **we want to be sure we know what you want** – meeting in person AND maintain a virtual presence or something else? Please bring up your questions and ideas to that discussion.

Our 2nd ad hoc committee on area documents management and archival will also share developments.

The nature of what we're trying to accomplish with both our future meetings and upgrading our internal processes **requires folks who are interested and capable to serve on our technology and equipment committees**. We need servants who can help us manage Zoom accounts and requests and serve as meeting producers. We need partners to help us run hybrid meetings, if we so choose, and we'll need expertise on the process side to help us navigate and administer document management and archival repositories. **PLEASE spread the word** out to all servants in your groups and districts – we need support here.

Today we will also hear the post General Service Conference report from our Delegate, Marilyn. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the items we spent so much time preparing for and discussing earlier this year.

Also, on the agenda, 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, discuss, and vote on these items.

REMINDER: 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 happens on the first Thursday of each month, hosted by our Area Grapevine Chair and participating Districts. DCMs have begun meeting and so have Area and District Treasurers! Let's keep it up....

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 still concerned that we are seeing a big dip in some areas of service committee work – how can we raise our activity?

Thank you all for your dedicated service to the fellowship.

All the best,

Carmela R, Area Chair