NIA Accessibilities Committee Chair Report   Summer Assembly 2024

❖ I attended the Spring Conference and moderated a panel on accessibilities, co-hosted the Pre-GSC Workshop zoom meeting for Treatment, Accessibilities and Bridging the Gap, attended the District 40 meeting in March, was a presenter on an accessibility panel in District 70 in April, attended the East Central Regional Conference in June. I will be attending the IL State Conference in August.

❖ I have started a monthly zoom meeting for the NIA Accessibilities Committee on the first Tuesday of every month; our first meeting is July 2 at 7pm. Flyers are on the table at the Assembly.
   Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 834 1687 9125   Passcode: access
   https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83416879125?pwd=gnzek2rAjQZnUhZaUhlvVVyYdH3O3Q.1

❖ I would love to run a workshop in your district, or even just come to your district meeting - just let me know! There are a lot of topics under the accessibilities umbrella, so I can present on specific topics or give a broad overview. I have reached out to a few other area committee chairs to see if we can plan a multi-committee workshop – an even greater opportunity for your district to learn about several topics at the same time!

❖ I will share some information about mini-projects that can be done to make our program more accessible in my reports. There are two projects I want to recommend to all the districts in this report to cover the first and second quarter of the year:

1. Updating your websites to keep them current. The same applies to our Northern IL Area website, too. For example, if you have your district meeting minutes on your website or event flyers, *and they are out of date*, it can lead people to think that all of the information is out of date and not reliable. It is worth considering if your website has too much information that it can't be kept current. We want to be sure that people looking for meetings can trust the source of the information.

    If you are one of the five districts that does not have a website, and would like help to create a simple website, please let me know – I have reached out to the Technology Committee to find a way to help

2. Regarding meetings, does your district include on your website if the meetings are wheelchair accessible or have wheelchair accessible bathrooms? You should list both! People using the meeting guide app can sort with filters to find meetings that fit their needs, but only if your district website includes those filters. Every district utilizes some filters, but only 12 of the 21 sites list wheelchair accessible meetings!

    What makes a meeting wheelchair accessible? It can be thought of as three main components:
    1. There is clearly marked handicap parking in the parking lot with an adequate access aisle.
    2. A person in a wheelchair can get into the building and into the meeting room by them self.
        a. No steps or thresholds that restrict a person in a wheelchair
        b. OR has a ramp/elevator over any of these barriers
    3. There is a wheelchair accessible bathroom that a person in a wheelchair can get to by them self with 60" wide room or stall, with horizontal grab bars, toilet with adequate clearance to maneuver around, and adequate clearance to use the sink while seated.

    A meeting place can be **wheelchair accessible** (points 1 and 2) but not have a **wheelchair accessible bathroom** (point 3). It is important to distinguish both criteria in your meeting lists on your websites.

    For the full Accessibilities Checklist for Meetings and Groups, click here to download from aa.org

Respectfully submitted,
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