

2021 OHIO AREA CONVENTION REPORT TO SPRING ASSEMBLY

May 15, 2021

Please note that the Planning Committee has decided to hold only a 1-day Convention on June 26, 2021. Since the Ohio Area Assembly does not have a designated Zoom link to use for the Convention, I will try to request that our Area web support staff create a new Convention Zoom account. I have currently been using our new Youngstown Districts Zoom account. The Area also does not currently have an online payment option such as PayPal to collect donations, so I have been working with our Area Treasurer, Merri G., on that matter too. She has set up a separate Events checking account that still falls under the umbrella of the main Ohio Area checking account, but this will allow us to track our Convention income and expenses easier. Only our Conv. seed money is held in this account to date. Our Planning Committee structure has changed since going to a virtual platform rather than face-to-face at Holiday Inn, and the GRs in Districts 4 & 9 have collaborated on several issues. The original volunteer treasurer had already processed her AMIAS Background Check but will not be handling the traditional registration fees and expense reimbursements due to the current Zoom platform and the new Area Events checking account. Monies will be processed through the Area Treasurer. The Co-Chair had to step down due to personal matters, and the Program Chair had to step back due to family medical matters. I began to wonder whether HP wanted this Conv. to happen at all. But there have been enough amazing developments to convince me that it must be a "GO" ... especially when I discovered that it was the 70th Anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups. Additionally, Stepping Stones Foundation granted me a one-time special permission to use one of Lois' own pencil drawings on the flyer. Despite the uncertainty and the challenges we have faced, God has brought together a fantastic combination of dedicated Al-Anon personalities, talents, enthusiasm and levels of recovery to provide the necessary help, hope and energy for this planning process to continue. God is good!!!

Our Districts Webmaster set up a Convention email link on our Districts webpage for communication to the Chair and others as follows:

2021ohioareaconvention@al-anonohiodist4-9.org

The Convention Program Planning Committee has held weekly meetings each Sunday with a diverse group of local Al-Anon members. An overview of our actions include:

- Date – June 26, 2021 for 1 day only from 8:30 AM – 9:00 PM.
- Theme – Stepping Stones to Recovery...Celebrating 70 Years of Finding Healing & Hope
- An Announcement to post on the AFG of Ohio webpage to publicize the Conv., which would include links for Registration, PayPal, Agenda and Raffle Items.
- Drafting a Google Form for Registration which will include individual preferences for Breakout Sessions to determine the number of breakout rooms needed and the Zoom technical assistance required.
- Decision to use PayPal to collect a small registration fee and Raffle donations to cover basic Conv. costs since this is not a for-profit Area event.
- Developing a Program Agenda and offering an Agenda link detailing the speaker & session options.
- Drafting an email for Shelly to send to all DRs to identify Zoom saavy members in their Districts as tech support staff to assist with breakout rooms, presentation of materials/videos, and to insure a safe, smooth functioning Conv. environment and to protect our members' anonymity.
- Raffle item(s) are permissible online and I am determining the best virtual approach to offering them.
- Inclusion of optional WSO audio resources documenting the history of Al-Anon as well as a Stepping Stones virtual tour/presentation.
- Additional activities to enhance the celebration of Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary this year.

The Committee continues to meet every Sunday evening until we have completed the planning for the 2021 Conv. I am most appreciative for their enthusiasm, honesty, diversity, and the wealth of ideas offered to make it a good recovery experience for all. Respectfully submitted, Cheryl B., Conv. Chair