

CT AFG Convention Co-Chair Report to the Spring Assembly  
June 13, 2020

Good Afternoon Everyone,

The convention this year as we know, was met with a variety of challenges. First, the unexpected closing of the Red Lion Hotel and then the pandemic related to the Covid-19 virus. The convention was at first postponed and then cancelled. Reimbursement was offered to members and as Rick has reported, the committee has incurred a loss of approximately \$3,000.00 this year. In May, the Area World Service Committee supported a recommendation to continue the Convention Chair and Co-Chair in our current positions. As we look forward to planning for the 2021 Convention, we are met with a level of uncertainty regarding a number of key issues and it seems that this next year will be unique as it relates to planning for the 2021 convention.

Typically, the Convention Co-Chair kicks off the theme contest at the Spring Assembly and distributes flyers for the groups and begins to plan for the Serenity Breakfast. Also, the schedule for convention planning historically resumes in September and the committee selects the theme at the September meeting. While it is our recommendation to begin meeting in September, it appears that the committee may need to resume using a Zoom format. Additionally, the committee will need to decide whether to continue with the same theme, *2020 Vision of Hope* or start the process of choosing a new theme. Continuing with the same theme would allow for potential sale of the items purchased to sell at the convention, as well as usage of decorations already purchased, if held at a venue. Additionally, we will need to discuss the feasibility of planning a Serenity Breakfast and what that may look like, if the decision is to move ahead with the breakfast. For example, the Serenity Breakfast could be done in a Zoom format or held at a venue. If a venue format is chosen and allowed by the state, a social distancing seating format may need to be used and may limit the total number of attendees. We will also need to confirm whether current committee members are continuing on the committee and hopefully, touch base over the summer in a Zoom meeting.

As we move forward, we will need to take into consideration current restrictions or predictions of future restrictions as it relates to our current reality. That said, we want to be mindful of the financial implications of the decisions that are made. Moreover, any planning may be interrupted given the necessity of a future shutdown, if ordered again by the governor. In short, we do not know what things will look like as we enter planning for the 2021 convention. As it relates specifically to the theme contest, Serenity Breakfast, and contracting with a venue (if appropriate), we will need to wait to see how things develop in the state. As of communication with the hotel this week, the Hartford Farmington Marriott (located in Farmington) has the weekend of March 26-28, 2021 available for the convention.

Love in Service,  
Martha N.  
Convention Co-Chair