

January 10, 2022

TO: Charlotte Crabtree, Area 23 Chair
Janet Flikke, Area 23 Delegate

RE: Hybrid (Online) Area Assemblies Proposal

PROPOSAL: That the Area 23 Assemblies move to hybrid virtual (online and in person) Assemblies for all 2022 and 2023.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 22, 2020 assembly, Area 23 approved a proposal to hold assemblies and agenda meetings online through August 2021. Eventually, Area 23 approved a proposal to hold the remaining 2021 meetings online and the February 2022 assembly as a hybrid with both online and in-person assembly. Many of our AA groups have continued to support online participation with hybrid meetings along with resumption of in person meetings well over a year ago.

There are numerous benefits of continuing online assemblies simultaneously to in person assemblies. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Area can reach a broader audience providing the meeting to area participants who otherwise would not have been able to attend.
2. Area and overall group cost savings:
 - a. The Zoom license continues to be useful to the Area, Zoom does not charge per meeting used, so there is not an incremental cost to hold hybrid assemblies. In some cases, smaller rooms may be rented as well as online participants will not consume coffee and snacks, both potential area cost savings.
 - b. The cost per gallon of fuel is +\$3 and has continued to increase from May of 2021 to present. This could save some participants more than \$50 annually.
3. Individual time savings:
 - a. Area 23 covers a large part of the state of Indiana, and drive time can be +2 hours to reach destinations within our Area.
 - b. Except for Assemblies with Conference items, the average time spent on Area 23 agenda items is less than 3 hours. If these were in person, the Assemblies can span greater than 6 hours (not including drive time) which takes people away from their families and homes for a full day. Agenda meetings could be as effectively covered online as evidenced by the robust January 9th 2022 orientation, proposal and guidelines review.
4. The Area 23 Virtual Ad Hoc Committee developed robust processes and documentation to continue to host hybrid assemblies online. As well as many of our members now have experience facilitating hybrid meetings.
5. Reduces risk for our area members not having to choose to sit out of the whole

process if they might have been exposed to illness or unknowingly exposing others to illness, protecting themselves and others.

6. The added virtual option reduces risk to the area of additional interruption of assemblies or area business by additional unknown events.

Area 23 has software and hardware available (including that necessary to conduct elections), processes in place, and trusted servants willing to coordinate hybrid area business meetings. This includes the ability to broadcast images and audio of online participants to in person participants and vice versa.

This proposal is not at all suggesting that we eliminate in-person meetings, merely requesting us to include the virtual option for those who still want to participate but are not able to do so in person, for whatever reason.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Logan
Alternate Delegate

Alan Griffin
Past VAAH Chair

Christina Watts
Area 23 Secretary and past VAAH co-chair

Judi Bundza
Past VAAH Committee Member, current GSR for the Living Sober Group