

District 7 Report for Fall ETAAA, Nov 7, 2020

Along with the masses, District 7 members have been grappling with decisions in response to the effects of the pandemic. Many virtual meetings continue. Some meetings have returned to face to face. Others have been using other options such as meeting outside or becoming hybrid. Our archivist, John R, suggested creating a record of how our District is responding to the pandemic and lessons learned. We are going to address these lessons learned by forming a “calamity” work group that will create practical procedures for dealing with major disruptions (i.e. pandemics, unrest, hurricanes, floods, fire, destruction of property etc.) to one or more meetings in our district.

District 7 discussed the Fall Assembly at our July 18 quarterly meeting. After considering the facts that the Marriott is still at reduced capacity, our planned speaker from WSO was furloughed, there are continued uncertainties about the pandemic and many members are concerned about or unable to participate in gatherings, District 7 formed a thought force to come up with options for the Fall Assembly. In addition to five District 7 members, it included Heather N from District 5 and Jennifer S. from support District 8. At an August follow-up District 7 Assembly Design meeting, the thought force presented their suggested option that the assembly be held virtually.

This information was presented at the AWSC virtual meeting on Sept 12, 2020. The AWSC in response, reached consensus that the meeting should indeed be virtual and simplified to a clean business meeting with elections on Saturday only, leaving that Friday night open for any AWSC needs or last minute run throughs. It was determined important to seek input from the GR's on this decision, so the DRs reached out to their GR's, asking for comment with a Sept. 16th response deadline. The response from the GRs was vast majority being supportive of a virtual fall assembly.

District 7 created a new simplified online registration form in English and Spanish and has been working closely with the AWSC to determine best practices for the technical aspects of the assembly. Fliers, also in English and Spanish with the new schedule and links to the registration forms are in the Beacon and on the Texas and Houston AIS websites. Registration will be free this year. but since there will still be expenses associated with setting up the webinar and Spanish translation, contributions will be gratefully accepted via the District 7 Venmo account: **@East-TX-AI-Anon-District-Seven** or via check made out to **AI-Anon District 7**, mailed to PO Box 3603, Conroe, TX 77305-3603. This will enable us to return all the seed money to the Area.

DRs will assist GRs with questions regarding registration and voting, so District 7 GRs and members are encouraged to contact Allyn D for assistance. Some GRs are thinking about forming small “watch gatherings” to assist those who are not as tech savvy or have limited access to internet.

Finally, but importantly, District 7 held its own virtual elections on Sunday October 11, 2pm at which we filled all panel positions. Our finances are healthy, thanks to the generosity of district 7 meetings. All our current AMIAS have recertified and there is also interest in initial certification. There is good energy and collegial spirit of collaboration going forward.

Many thanks to those who have served and for all that was done in preparing to host the Fall Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as DR these past three years and into the next. WE have accomplished and will continue to accomplish much **“Focusing on Recovery”!**

Allyn D., District 7 Representative