



Region 5 Convention

A Vision For You

2020

Chair's Report:

I hope you can all see clearly now after a very successful convention on October 10th, 2020. We had 392 individuals register and had as many as 217 attend a session at one time. Many people came and went in the day long program. Technology worked well. Breakout sessions after the keynotes were a hit! I am grateful and blessed for all the individuals that gave service. More detail on lessons learned going virtual is forthcoming.

Our journey started after the 2019 Milwaukee Convention. We started to hold monthly meetings to plan the 2020 Convention. Our planning was focused on a face to face convention to be held at the Holiday Inn in Independence OH. Chairs for each committee were selected and work commenced on the face to face convention. Then Covid hit and uncertainty on holding the convention occurred. We started to hold convention meetings virtually. Registrations were slow and our membership became concerned about holding the convention in person. Committee members changed over the concern of their own health and wellbeing. However, the remaining members were committed to the convention and trudged forward. Publicity continued and a face to face program was drafted and approved by the board. Negotiations continued with the hotel to establish if the convention could/should be held in person. Finally, in late August, the hard decision was made to switch to a virtual convention. This set a whole new plan into motion. We announced that we were holding the convention virtually. Help and advice came in from California who had recently held their convention virtually. I really appreciated the mentoring the chair and tech daddy from California offered from their lessons learned. From August on, all emphasis was placed on how to hold the convention virtually. Our tech daddy (Joel) researched and educated the committee on the best practices of zoom. We drafted a new position of co-host and developed guidelines on their job responsibilities for

monitoring and managing a zoom meeting. Registrations started to pour in. Excitement began to soar! Speakers were vetted both for their program but also their comfort level using zoom and speaking online. Publicity increased their outreach to all Regions to encourage all interested in recovery to join our convention. We had members from all of the country and world join us!

Then, after restless nights and anxiety filled days, the day came!! What a success it was!!! So much experience, strength and hope was shared and received by all in attendance. It goes without saying that we all missed our routine face to face convention – but if we had to miss it, I am so grateful that with today's technology we could still share this journey together!

In grateful service,

Pam P.

2020 Region 5 Convention Chair