

2020 AOD Meeting Report

On September 15th, 2020, the Assembly of Delegates (AOD) had their first ever virtual meeting. Al Varghese and Devin Klein attended this year's meeting as the elected Delegates for the AMTA-KY Chapter. The AOD meeting is annually held during the AMTA National Convention, however this year due to COVID-19 shutdowns and mandates, the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ was cancelled. The AODAC (Assembly of Delegates Advisory Committee) decided to hold its meeting virtually with the help of the HUB platform and GoToWebinar video conference. The "GoToWebinar" was used for the introductions, housekeeping stuff and eventually the large group discussions and finalizing the document that will be sent to Governance. For the small group breakout sessions, the simple route of a conference call was the means of communication. (The HUB is a platform on AMTA's Website where State Volunteers can gain access chapter resources.)

There were 74 delegates who were initially registered, but only 70 were signed into the GoToWebinar platform. A simple majority of 36 was needed to approve the motion. The Proposed Discussion Topic (DT) was "What do you think you needed to know that you didn't coming in to your AMTA various volunteer position(s)?" This topic was proposed by the Governance Relations Committee (GRC) chair, Dr. Ann Blair Kennedy. This year's DT was proposed as a tool to gather information relevant to their charge to look at volunteer training as it relates to the function of the Chapter Relations Committee (CRC). There were several volunteer positions held by many members of different chapters within and outside of AMTA. The discussion was primarily focused on the training received by members for the various position(s) and what specifically would have been beneficial for those position(s). Some delegates said that most learning had been through trial and error.

The Volunteer HUB which has as a discussion platform, stated that some members felt chapter specific training was especially important before National level training. The discussion forum generated several helpful ideas to help members understand current training in place and what needed to be done to enhance best practices for training. Some members mentioned video or power point presentations of AOD logistics. Succession planning was important to some members as they felt they were pushed into positions that they had to somehow fill for their chapter and had no prior training. It is quite important to know and learn how to fill a position when required and not feel incompetent or confused about responsibilities as a volunteer. Chapter trainings can definitely use skill sets in public speaking, listening skills, leadership, committee chair/organization task breakdowns. Members also felt a great need for training on how to use the HUB, Constant Contact, CVENT, Roberts's Rules of Order and even Facebook.

Several chapters struggle with volunteer recruitment. So, some suggestions during general discussions were on-line training, YouTube training videos and Chapter Presidents' checking in with their volunteers to see if they needed any adequate tools and resources to effectively fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their designated role as a volunteer and elected members. Short videos on what is to be expected in various positions such as board positions, delegate position(s), general volunteer work when there is no formal position, recognizing other roles that aren't board related, elected or appointed roles will be quite helpful in the event somebody has to step in to fill a certain position. Some members felt they needed a detailed timeline of events and deadlines at the National and State level that spans a two-year cycle.

The breakout sessions were helpful for Delegates to get to know one another and this was made possible by a conference call number and passcode that was emailed to Chapters Delegates. There were 7 groups and all of them had one group facilitator and a reporter. Each group had anywhere from 10 to 12 Delegates. The moderator allowed other delegates in the

group to ask questions and also have an opportunity to voice their chapter specific concerns in the allotted time of 2 minutes. The breakout sessions ended in about 30 minutes. When the AOD reconvened, the Delegates were asked to cast their vote online. 62 Delegates participated in the vote and 8 abstained. All 62 Delegates voted for the motion and so the motion passed since only 36 votes were needed to approve the motion. A report will be written by the AODAC which will include a summary of the meeting, discussion highlights and a finalized document for Governance. It will also be sent to the National Board of Directors (NBOD) and any pertinent standing committee chairs. Each Chapter Delegate will inform the Chapters of the AODAC report once it is posted on the AOD Forum on the Volunteer HUB.

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AMTA-KY Chapter