

Convention Coordinator Report for the 2022 Spring Assembly Meeting March 21, 2022 Final Revised

Welcome to all who are attending the New York North Area 2022 Spring Convention and Assembly which is being hosted by District 14 from Rochester. Special thanks to DR Cindy R. and her fellow members for hosting this Assembly! Just a reminder, tomorrow morning, Sunday May 22nd there will be an Alateen Interest Meeting at 9:00 am on Zoom followed by Spiritual Speakers at 10:00 am also on Zoom.

The 2022 New York North Area Fall Assembly is scheduled for September, 16, 17, and 18, 2022. If the 2022 Fall Assembly is held in person or in hybrid form at a hotel or another such venue, there would be additional work needed to contract with a hotel or other large meeting location such as a church hall, and begin planning for the logistics of putting on an in-person convention. Either way we hold it, a Host District or Districts are still needed for the 2022 New York North Area Fall Assembly whether it will be held virtually, in person or in Hybrid form. What is needed from the host districts is to come up with virtual or in person or hybrid non-business-related programming such as a panel, workshop, or ice breaker event for Friday evening of the convention as well as to put together a Spiritual Panel of speakers from AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen for Sunday Morning. On Sunday Mornings, the Area Alateen Coordinator always hosts an Alateen Interest Meeting prior to the Spiritual Panel. If the 2022 NYN Fall Assembly is held in a Hybrid form as an in-person event at a physical location as well as being held on Zoom, then NYN would need the services of a computer and projection device or a large video screen to project the Zoom component of the meeting into the Assembly Room. NYN already has one laptop that the web page coordinator uses during the Assembly meeting to display the Delegates and Officer and Coordinator reports onto a large screen so those attending in person can see their reports and any accompanying power point presentations. A second laptop video screen may be needed for those members attending the Assembly in person to be able to interact with the members attending the Assembly over Zoom, and vice versa.

If your District is considering hosting the 2022 Fall Assembly, the 2023 Spring Convention and Assembly or the 2023 Election Assembly please remember that you do not have to do it all alone. As Convention Coordinator I have guidelines, past convention notes and other documents that I can share with you in addition to my own experience strength and hope and others who have worked on Conventions and Assemblies before. You are not alone.

Would your District please consider hosting the Fall Assembly 2022, the 2023 Spring Convention and Assembly or the 2023 Fall Election Assembly?

In my May, 2022 Northern Hi Lights article, I listed the past Fall Assemblies from 2007 through 2022 and which Districts had hosted them. Syracuse area Districts have hosted or co-hosted Fall Assemblies 15 times, Rochester districts have hosted or co-hosted twice, and the Districts in the Albany area have also hosted or co-hosted twice. I also listed the past Spring Convention's and Assemblies from 2007 through 2022 and which Districts had hosted them. The Districts from the Albany Area have hosted or co-hosted Spring Conventions and Assemblies 6 times, the Districts from Rochester have hosted or co-hosted 5 times, the Binghamton area Districts have hosted the Spring Convention and Assembly twice, and the Districts in the Buffalo area have hosted a Spring Convention and Assembly once during that time period.

If you look at the list of Spring Convention Hosts you will see a pattern. The Spring Convention location usually rotates between Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Rochester, and the Area North of Albany. This is also where many of our NYN groups are located and where many of our larger hotels and conference centers are also located as well. This pattern has been the same at least since at least 1993. It is not required that your District be in one of these areas in order to host the convention in one of these areas, but it helps to know what facilities are available there. Since the Fall Assembly is always held in Syracuse, the five Districts in Syracuse frequently host the Fall Assembly. The last time Syracuse hosted a Spring Convention was 1974. This was the first stand-alone Spring Convention for New York North. All prior Spring Conventions and Assembly Meetings from 1968 to 1974 were held in conjunction with A.A. during their Annual Convention.

I believe that this might be a good time for New York North to consider whether we can start holding in person events such as the AWSC Meeting and the Spring Convention and the Fall Assembly again. This past February 11, 12 & 13, 2022, the Salt City Mid-Winter Roundup, an Annual AA, Al-Anon and Alateen Convention in Syracuse, NY, was held in person for the first time since 2020, held just prior to the start of the pandemic. The event this year was somewhat scaled down from past Roundups, but over 800 members of AA and Al-Anon attended successfully and it appears to have been COVID-19 free. It was held at the Ramada Inn and Suites in Liverpool. There were in-person speakers as well as virtual speakers and the weekend also featured in person AA and Al-Anon panels and workshops. There was no Alateen program or participation at the Roundup this year. The Saturday Night Banquet and AA Main Speaker were attended by a little over 500 members. These figures are more than we normally have at our Area Al-Anon Conventions and Assemblies. I would like to request that a discussion regarding the issue of returning to in-person, or HYBRID, NYN Conventions, Assemblies and AWSC meetings be added to the Agenda for our May 21, 2022 Virtual Assembly Meeting on Zoom. While meeting virtually has certain advantages such as the convenience of attending meetings from our homes, what we have lost by not having in person fellowship and the larger attendance numbers and in person participation in an educated group conscience process is important too. It may be too late to consider holding an in person 2022 NYN Fall Assembly at least at a hotel, but I would like NYN to consider in person or Hybrid options for our 2023 events.

Love in Al-Anon Service, Jim M. Convention Coordinator