



2021 VIRTUAL SUMMIT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

From the Multiples of America Board of Directors

While we are so disappointed we will not be meeting in-person for our convention this summer, we are so excited to have the opportunity to conduct our business in an online format. Please be aware that our VIRTUAL SUMMIT will not be a duplication of the in-person convention experience. However, we believe it will be very memorable and allow for us to “connect” with one another and to determine the future course for Multiples of America.

Q: When is the virtual event scheduled?

A: July 31-August 1, 2021

Q: How much will registration cost?

A: \$30 for members, \$45 for non-members

Q: Will this be like our “in-person” conventions?

A: We will be using a Zoom format and will not be able to replicate all facets of convention; but we will be able to conduct the critical business of the organization together. We are also thrilled to have two special keynote speakers during our Summit event.

Q: Why couldn't we wait to cancel?

A: Additional contractual non-refundable payments were due on February 27, 2021. In an effort to be fiducially responsible, and with more unknowns surrounding COVID, we felt it was prudent to cancel “in-person” convention this summer. Much uncertainty continues to surround the entire hotel experience (adequate meeting space, limited/unavailable meal selections, and concerns about expected onsite services, etc.). Planning in this type of circumstance is extremely difficult and problematic. The hotel management continues to work within ever-changing requirements due to state guidelines, as well as their own corporate policies. At the end of the day, the health and safety of our attendees remain our top priority and were the determining factor in our final decision.

Q. What will happen with the deposits paid to the hotel?

A: The initial and renegotiated deposits paid to the hotel previously in 2019-20 (approximately \$20,000) will be credited towards a new contract for an in-person convention in July of 2022, if a contract is signed by December 1, 2021. This will be a decision handled by the incoming Board of Directors after they are able to assess the status of the pandemic and organizational finances.

Q: What options for virtual events were considered?

A: A variety of formats for our Virtual Summit were examined. With members across the country and recommendations for maximum screen time per day, timing is very challenging. Full virtual platforms with networking options, webinar presentation formats and Zoom calls were some of the options reviewed. The virtual platforms (i.e. Hubilo, Brella, etc.) are ideal for presentations and networking. However, they do not allow for direct verbal participation from delegates. Also, they are cost-prohibitive (\$20,000-30,000 for licensing and event management). Webinar formats are also designed for presentations and have limited ways to gain delegate input. To allow for delegate participation in the business meeting, and to recognize our financial limitations, Zoom will be used.

Q: What will our meetings look like?

A: Meetings will be streamlined to be as efficient and effective as possible. An electronic voting system will be in place to aid in this effort. Some of the traditional presentations may be available prior to the Virtual Summit. Voting for the elected officers, the proposed budget for 2021-2022, proposed bylaw amendments, EDGE Chairman, Scholarship Chairman, Nominating Chairman, and Committee, will take place during the Summit. Amendments to these items may be made and electronic balloting will be conducted as needed to determine outcomes. ONLY Delegates who wish to speak on the floor will be given directions on how to be part of the “virtual line” during the Virtual Summit. The “line” will be monitored, and the President will recognize each delegate wanting to address the assembly. Additional Zoom Forums (mini-workshops) will be held prior to our Virtual Summit to allow for discussion and address delegates’ questions and answers prior to the business meeting (see Zoom Forums question later in this document). Nominations for all elected officer positions, Scholarship Chairman, Edge Chairman, Nominating Chairman, and Committee, are being completed PRIOR to the Summit (see Nominating Process question later in this document).

Q: What will voting look like or how will voting be handled?

A: Much like last year we will have one delegate and one alternate per club. However, all voting will be handled electronically this year. Credentials are due to the Executive Office on June 1, 2021. Late credentials will be accepted no later than July 28, 2021, to allow adequate time for member verification. Each delegate will receive an email confirmation of their delegate votes. This electronic system will provide a secure, authenticated, and efficient method to conduct all balloted voting. To be eligible to vote, all delegates must be registered for the Virtual Summit and have credentials on file. When the President calls for a ballot on any matter, all voting delegates will be sent a direct link to their confidential electronic ballot via their email. The system provides for weighted voting (allowing different vote totals based on the number of credential votes for your club) – but, voters will only need to cast one ballot for their total number of votes. Immediately following the completion of each election, the results will be reported to the delegation and published for all delegates to view. Each delegate will be provided with a receipt for each ballot cast (and, this may be used by the delegate as verification of participation for their club).

Q: How will we conduct the Budget and Bylaws workshop to learn about the proposals?

A: We will be holding several additional Zoom Forums (mini-workshops) for delegates to meet to ask questions, offer input, and for discussion of the proposals. The Election Mailing (including the slate of officers, candidate statements, proposed budget, and proposed bylaw amendments) is scheduled for delivery in early May. These additional Zoom Forums are scheduled to be held in late May and during the month of June with a limited scope each time. For example, one of the sessions will be focused only on the proposed budget for 2021-22. Finalized dates for these Zoom Forums and topics to be covered will be shared soon. Delegates (including Past Presidents) may submit a reservation form via our website to speak on any of the proposals. A virtual line will be created from these reservations and the discussion will alternate between pro/con/questions from delegates only. Those with reservations will speak first. If additional delegates are wishing to speak, they will be included next. If time permits, other members may ask questions or give input during these informal meetings. A summary of any questions and responses given during the Forum will be made available afterward for a limited time.

Q: How will the Nominating Process work?

A: For Executive Committee candidates: The Nominating Committee will share their proposed slate of elected officers soon. Candidate statements will be included in the Election Mailing. Additional candidates wishing to submit their name for consideration by the membership may do so by June 10th (in lieu of nominations from the floor). This will allow adequate time for the Nominating Committee to verify eligibility prior to the voting.

For other elected positions: Candidates wishing to be considered for EDGE Chairman, Scholarship Chairman, Nominating Chairman and Committee, should submit their Officer Candidate Application (for Chairman position) or Volunteer Form (for Nominating Committee positions) to the Nominating Chairman no later than June 10th to be included on the ballot. All candidates will be contacted prior to the election for a candidate statement which will be shared prior to the Virtual Summit. All eligible candidates will be included on the ballot and will receive a confirmation of their intent to run prior to the Virtual Summit.

Q: Will there be a time for networking and socializing with other attendees?

A: We understand the value of connecting with other members from across the country in a more unstructured environment. However, recommendations from experts as we researched various virtual formats, indicated screen time should be limited to five hours or less per day to best engage our audience. With this limited time frame to conduct our business and the challenges of the Zoom format, holding a more spontaneous member-to-member exchange would be difficult for an organization of this size to do successfully. Unfortunately, this is one of the drawbacks of this type of meeting. This continues to show the value of in-person contact and we hope to be together next year.

Q: Will we have a memorial service?

A: We will conduct a virtual Memorial Service. It will be held at a different time, outside of the Summit meeting. With many experiencing loss this past year, we wanted to ensure an environment with ample time to both grieve and celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

Q: I will be a first-time attendee, first-time delegate, or am unsure about this new format and have questions about how to participate and what to expect?

A: Welcome! We are thrilled you are going to be able to join us. A separate Zoom Forum (mini-workshop) will be held in mid-July (finalized date to be shared soon) to provide an overview of what to expect and to answer questions you may have. Any registered delegate may attend. You may also contact our Executive Office at any time with your questions.

Q: When and how will I be able to register for the Virtual Summit?

A: Registration will be open on our website on May 1, 2021, and payment will be accepted via PayPal.

We look forward to having you join us for our first Virtual Summit on July 31- August 1, 2021. Please continue to watch for club mailings and postings on our website (www.multiplesofamerica.org) with updated details and information as well as any changes. You may reach out to our Executive Office info@multiplesofamerica.org at any time with questions. We greatly appreciate your patience as we navigate this new course and look forward to “seeing” you this summer. Until then, be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Your Multiples of America Board of Directors