

## **Annual Session 2021 – tips for a great experience!**

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Hello from Michigan! The suggested topic for this month's article is "tips to prepare for a great conference experience." As I write this article, we have just received news that the Annual Session in 2021 will be fully virtual. In light of this change, it may be more important than ever to consider those tips!

So, while I will not be warning you about Michigan's unpredictable November weather, we do have some different tips to consider.



- 1) Attend the conference virtually! We will continue to have great learning and networking opportunities that you don't want to miss!
- 2) Clear off your calendar as though you were attending in-person. Conferences can be exhausting, and even more so if you are trying to multi-task doing your regular work at the same time as attending a virtual conference. And if there is one thing we have all learned, it is that we really do have a richer learning and connecting experience when we are fully engaged in the virtual environment.
- 3) Utilize the networking opportunities! Conference sessions are great, but the uniqueness of a conference is the opportunity to meet others from around the country.
- 4) Visit the exhibit booths and meet the vendors. Exhibit booths offer some of those one-on-one networking opportunities as they highlight what they have to offer!
- 5) Engage in the silent auction and the support of our charitable organization, Safe Haven. These are both opportunities for supporting NEAFCS and a local Grand Rapids non-profit, respectively.

We may not get to meet you in person this year, but we are excited to meet you in Michigan -- online!