

## Covid and Annual Meetings

### NDTOA advice on Township Annual Meetings and Covid

Do your best to hold the township annual meeting on the third Tuesday in March as NDCC currently has no allowance for holding at another time. Postponing or rescheduling often results in a poorer turnout than if held on the initially designated day. In order to lessen the worries of the Covid issue, hold the meeting in the largest meeting room you can find in order to allow distance between attendees, such as a community center or other large meeting room in the township or an adjacent township, or in a large farm shop, or even outdoors (isn't the weather usually nice in March in ND?). Wherever it is held it should be announced that state guidelines for Covid at the time will be adhered to. If you are unable to hold the annual meeting on the prescribed day, a special meeting will need to be called (see NDCC 58-04-02 and 58-04-19). There is talk of allowing participation via electronic means but that is not legally allowed, yet. It may be possible for someone to listen in via speakerphone and provide comments to the meeting, but would not be able to vote on an issue that requires a secret ballot, such as the election of officers. Remote electronic attendance may not be so easy to set up in many locations.