

AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 15, 2020

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/386759333>

Open Meeting: 10:04 am with Serenity Prayer

Committee Purpose: This committee prepares the budget for the following fiscal year. This is done with the Budget Committee comprised of the Area treasure, Finance Chair and any assembly member requiring funding for approved Area service work. Also, we study and review the needs of the Assembly as a whole, as they relate to income and expense; with an aim to insure a healthy, but practical Area financial status that honors the intent of the Seventh Tradition of self- report.

Introductions: 10 attendees

Christina S. – Committee Member
Deborah B.-Committee Member
Doug C.-Committee Member
Doug D.-Committee Member
Elizabeth G.-Finance Alt. Secretary

Kris H.-Committee Member
Meece' T.-Finance Secretary
Michelle H.-Finance Chair
Rick M.-Committee Member
Ron S.-Area Treasurer

Tradition Seven: Kris H. - The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Kris introduced the idea that we as a whole Area should be paying attention to ‘Who’ we are receiving contributions from, it is not just the Area Treasurer’s responsibility; we can support our treasurer and help them make decisions if necessary. The Area Finance Committee is also responsible for paying attention to not just our Area’s finances, but all of AA’s finances. Kris referred to Bill W’s essay in Tradition Seven of the Twelve and Twelve book. We need to look at root causes for our intentions in budgeting monies. How is the financial health of AA.

Tradition Eight Volunteer: Rick M.

Secretary Minutes: Reviewed and corrected, will be sent to webmaster for posting and added to Drop Box.

Corrections made-

- Change Christina's last initial from A. to S.
- Reflect Gratitude Dinner funds disbursement details that were made available at the January 2020 Assembly
 - \$900 (\$500 and \$400) will be sent to two identified groups in District 40
 - Remaining \$1989 will be rolled into unrestricted funds with a footnote on the next Area Treasurer's Report explaining where this money came from.

Ongoing Business:

- Christina reported that the Committee Workshop Lottery is complete, has been added to the Drop Box folder and will be implemented at the 2021 Proposed Budget Meeting as well as included in the Budget presentation at April's Assembly.
- Christina S. will meet with DoubleTree to sign hotel contracts for 2021/2022 SETA Assembly. The DoubleTree hotel is approximately \$100 more than the Sheraton contract with a minimum total accumulated guest room night of 64. There is one complimentary unit for every 40-revenue producing guest room. This room may be allocated to the District hosting the hospitality suite or out of town guest speakers as the Area Alt. Chair and Area Treasurer deem appropriate. The added benefits of this venue are the main ballroom and break out rooms will all be on the same level, service by staff, more stability in scheduling (and cookies).
- Kris H., Meece' T., Betsy G. will divide talking points and participate in the power point presentation, "What does it Cost a person to be a Delegate?" Fully Funding the Delegate." This presentation will include a power point
 - the definition & description of the problem
 - define what fully funding the delegate means
 - the solution-including finance committee purpose, Area's P&P Manual Preamble, January 2020 letter from GSO with approximate cost of sending the Delegate to the Conference (approximately \$8,400) and the historical data over past 6 years.
- Michelle H. will present a brief budget report first and then the power point presentation and Q & A will follow for total of 45 min all together.
- Ron S. shared the P & P manual does state that any unrestricted funds at end of year is suggested to be sent towards fully funding the Delegate. GSO will be sending the 2020 Delegate cost letter prior to the General Service Conference.
- Kris H. suggested sending any additional Area funds to GSO as a way to fully fund the Delegate. This would be something to consider and may take some extra accounting measures. He went on to say, that it could be done effective and one can expect there

will be additional questions from the Area. Kris mentioned the importance of Area funds is to “carry the message” to the alcoholic.

- Doug C. reiterated the P & P manual and fully funding delegate.
- Kris H. mentioned putting together “pie chart” for Area to see % of distribution of contributions and be advised of where 7th tradition is being utilized overall.
- Meece’ T. will finalize power point presentation to be viewed at next month’s Zoom meeting.
- Michelle H. stated the “Budget Worksheet Line Item “motion passed unanimously at January 2020 Assembly. This line item would include Regional Forum Host and SWRAASA host.
- Michelle H. shared the Area 2021 Proposed Budget Meeting is February 29, 2020 1:30 – 3:30 PM, SBMC, 1200 Blalock, Suite #378, Houston, TX 77055. Ron S. will provide 2019 Actuals to Michelle by Sunday evening for the final preparations of the individual budget holder’s worksheets. Michelle H. will be sending the budget worksheets to the budget holders as soon as possible with a due date of Wednesday, February 26th. It was noted, the CFC committee deleted the last three year’s totals in their budget worksheets from their actuals. They’re working towards accuracy, balance and being current with their accounting totals as of 2019. Michelle will send an email to the CFC treasure requesting her to provide the past 3 years totals for the upcoming budget meeting.

New Business:

- 2020 Delegate GSC funding letter- Michelle H. shared the letter from GSO with committee, after reviewing and discussing the Area’s \$7772.89 in unrestricted funds from 2019 financial report the committee unanimously requested Ron S. to send check for \$6600 to GSO to fully fund our Delegate for 2020.
- Ron S. addressed the current Allstate Archives Repository insurance payment. He will follow up with Kelly from Intergroup to get clarification as to whether the Archives repository is under Intergroup’s policy or to continue with an individual policy. The committee recommended comparison shopping here, if Allstate offers a better policy then Ron will make the decision as to who to insure Archives repository with, if there are not contractual obligations with Intergroup.
- The finance committee will address the Convention Loss Funds in upcoming committee meetings to potentially address at the July’s Area Assembly.
- Christina S. suggested getting a line item as a savings plan for Houston hosting the 2026 SWRAASA Convention added to the front page of the Treasurer’s report for continuity in the Area Budget Package.
- The Finance GSC Agenda Items will be discussed at the March meeting with all feedback submitted to Area Delegate, Troy B-D prior to the April Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm– Our next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2020 at 10:00 am-12:00 pm via Zoom.