

AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21, 2020

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

Open Meeting: 10:07 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
Betsy G. – Committee Member

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

Tradition Eight: Rick M. - Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.

Coming of Age has a better treatment of the traditions, distinguishing 12 step work vs. professionalism. The differences between being hired for 12 step work and being hired for counselling, an attempt to define roles of paid members. Rick included examples from Traditions four and six, specifying that the traditions should not be taken individually but in their entirety.

Tradition Nine Volunteer: Meece' T.

Secretary Minutes: Reviewed and approved by the committee, will be sent to webmaster for posting and added to Drop Box. The Secretary and Alt Secretary were asked to review/update the Finance Committee's website.

Ongoing Business:

- The Power Point Presentation “What Does It Cost A Person To Be Delegate?” was finalized with the following changes:
 1. Answer the three Frequently Asked Questions
 2. Add updated Delegate’s worksheet
 3. The Presentation will be placed in Dropbox for additional feedback and posted on the Finance Committee’s website by 03/30/2020
 4. The Presentation will be made by Meece’ T., Betsy G. and Kris H. during July Area Assembly following the Proposed Budget (15 minutes)
- The Marriott has waived the fee for Area Assembly cancellation due to the Coronavirus constraints per Christina S.
- Proposed Budget Meeting Feedback
 1. Overall the meeting went well, great improvement from prior years.
 2. No sense of dread heading into the meeting
 3. The need to fight for individual budget items gone (spirit of Unity)
 4. The Area beginning to trust the Committee
 5. The meeting was efficient and effective and there were no questions afterwards.
 6. The Proposed Budget Packet has been placed on the Finance Committee website
- Suggestion that the Proposed Budget packet sent out by Rick S., as a friendly reminder, directing any questions to the Finance Committee. Kris H.
- Suggestion that the supporting spreadsheets be removed since the committee has gained the Area’s trust. Betsy G.
- The disclosure of the spreadsheets was how we acquired said trust. Christina S.
- Agree we keep the spreadsheets as continuity to transparency. Ron S.
- Committee agreed to continue to attach supporting documentation as a means of affirming the trust gained in the spirit of transparency. Michelle H.
- Motion to send our Delegate informed and not instructed via Zoom meeting April 4,, 2020 at 10am; sign-on instructions will be sent via email through SETA Announce, along with the Proposed Budget reminder and unofficial Treasurer’s Report. Rick S.
- Delegate Funding Lessons Learned
 1. Wait until after the proposed budget Meeting. Michelle H.
 2. Ron S. did not agree because the funds come from prior year unrestricted funds, not funds from the proposed budget year.
 3. Christina S. agreed the issues were “apples and oranges.”
 4. Kris H., apologized for in sighting fear, the concern was based on issues during he 2017/2018 years when the Area was forced to use “restricted funds” or Prudent Reserves on several occasions. Historically the Finance Committee met only during Area Assembly, thus, the decision to fully fund the Delegate was made

after the proposed budget meeting. The intent of holding off on the decision wasn't suggested to move away from the Policy and Procedures but to ensure all bills are paid for that year.

- Intergroup Insurance Policy update Ron S.
 1. The policy was set up to pay out directly to Intergroup, Ron S. felt that it was not worth going to the Area with a motion to change the Payee.
 2. Kris H. agreed, that if any damages occurred it would be prudent to trust Intergroup to disburse funds as needed. The Area's loss would probably be irreplaceable.
- SWRAASA Funds
 1. Setting money aside to host SWRAASA annual line item
 2. Ron S. asked if the \$1989 from the defunct Gratitude Dinner could be rerouted to this project?
 3. According to Kris H., the Finance Committee does not have the authority, however, a motion to the Area could reroute said funds.
 4. Rick M. specified, the motion passed with specific language regarding the disposition of the Gratitude funds; being deposited into the General Fund.
 5. The Committee will prepare a motion to redirect funds for October Assembly. Michelle H.
 6. Kris S. suggested that Finance Committee members who attend SWRAASA plan to stay late because the business meeting will be held Sunday afternoon.

New Business:

- Convention Loss Reserve
 1. The Finance Committee will file a motion to drastically reduce this fund due to the many safety nets that are currently in place to avoid losses incurred in prior years. Michelle H.
 2. Kris H. suggested that we obtain historical convention data
 3. Betsy G. stated that 5 years of records for the conventions should be retained and the remainder are turned over to archives.
 4. Ron S. advised that the records were retrieved from archives because they have been submitted to them immediately after each convention instead of being retained.
 5. Kris H. will secure information from archives from prior 20 years, create a spreadsheet to use as background information for said motion.
 6. Betsy G. will research if there has been a past motion that places a CAP on Convention funding; specifically on the Convention Loss Reserves.
- Corrections Convention Contract
 1. The Committee reviewed the contract (standard Double Tree)
 2. Rick M. inquired if the room block of (40) was standard.

3. Michelle H. read from pre-asked and answered questions sent by Tammy Z. and the question was asked if the convention exceeded the (40) room block would additional rooms be available at the same group rate and the answer was yes. Michelle also advised that the committee should always check food/beverages in addition to room rates on every contract.
 4. Michelle H. will sent email to CFC Conference Chair Tammy Z. with the committee's support of this hotel contract with a suggestion to keep F&B requirements in mind.
- GSC FINANCE AGENDA ITEM(s)
A3 – Consider draft language for virtual basket to be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

Doug D. shared his home groups approach to the virtual basket, a business card with contribution information.

The Committee decided unanimously that the verbiage should be included in this pamphlet.

A1 and A2 – Consider a revision of the pie chart in same pamphlet to increase GSO's portion of the pie.

The Committee voted (6) YES, (1) NO and (3) Abstained; to retain the percentages on the pie chart. We didn't address a revision of percentages on the pie chart.

ITEM B – Review Self Support Packet

The Committee will review individually, however, there were some suggestions made that obtaining this packet has become increasingly difficult. The packets should be available to order by the case.

Doug C. proposed that the Area's move to paperless should increase their ability to purchase literature.

- Action Items
 1. Update the Tracker Michelle H.
 2. Review and update the website Meece' T./Elizabeth G.
 3. Email Tammy Z., CFC contract approved
 4. Betsy G. will research CAP on Convention Funds

5. Ron S. will send Unofficial First Quarter Treasurer's report via SETA Announce because of the cancellation of April Assembly
6. Kris H. located a motion that passed April 2006 placing a \$15K CAP on Convention Funds
7. Ron S. will transfer SETA Convention Funds from the General Fund to himself (SETA CONVENTION TREASURER) so that \$2500 may be given to Debbie (SETA CONVENTION CHAIR).
8. Betsy G. was concerned about the SETA Federal Tax ID being posted on the Treasurer's website (NEW BUSINESS APRIL 2020)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm— Our next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2020 at 10:00 am-12:00 pm via Zoom.