

AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2020

10:00 am-12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

Open Meeting: 10:28 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

Betsy G. – Committee Member

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

Troy B-D. - Delegate

Tradition Nine: Meece' T. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Tradition Ten Volunteer: Deborah B.

Secretary Minutes: Reviewed with corrections and approved by the committee. It 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.

Webpage Report: Meece' T

- Meece' will post March 2020 official minutes & PowerPoint to the webpage.

Ongoing Business:

- The PowerPoint Presentation will be presented at July's Assembly and will be placed on webpage for Assembly members to view at any time. Kris H., Meece' T. & Betsy G. will present this in July.
- The Proposed Budget is prepared and posted on the webpage.
- The brief assembly Zoom meeting focused on "How are contributions being affected by the virus."
- Intergroup Insurance Policy Update – will wait for Ron S. to present next month.
- Tracker updated – Michelle H. will update and send to Committee members.
- October Motion Package
 1. SWRAASA funds – Kris H. stated that only 60% of the Alt. Delegates were at the SWRAASA meeting this time. There are several proposals for changes in P&P.
 2. The proposal for every area to contribute \$500 year for the SWRAASA host (total \$11,000 did not pass and registration will increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00. The total expense is around \$25,000.
 3. Troy B-D addressed was there an increase in the current amount of \$2,500 "seed fund," as it may not be large enough. Kris H. stated the accounting of the "seed fund" has not been clear and there was no further discussion to change it. Kris H. will make a proposal at next SWRAASA meeting for more uniform accounting procedure. Troy B-D addressed if the \$25,000 be passed back and forth from SWRAASA to SWTA? Betsy G. shared there is accountability as one Area passes funds to the next Area. Area 67 would know about it if funds were not there. Kris H. mentioned SWRAASA & SWTA funds usually are not present on Area's treasure reports.
 4. Kris mentioned how the members of SWRAASA host city, Amarillo went from fear to faith as they navigated necessary arrangements securing the venue etc.
 5. Michelle presented making a motion for annual SWRAASA Host funds "How much each year or quarter to put in SWRAASA HOST fund" to prepare for 2026 SWRAASA in Houston. Christina S. suggested using the unrestricted funds to be utilized as "savings account" on a line item and each year and put this in the budget in 2026.
 6. Betsy G. mentioned the situation when last time Houston hosted SWRAASA the Alt. Delegate had a free lunch for all attendees and was a costly learning lesson.
 7. Christina S. shared concerns about possibly going into prudent reserve this year as donations are down. However, waiting until 2026 to fund SWRAASA, the Area may have to come up with \$15,000 lump sum. Rick M. mentioned October is typically hurricane season and in the event of hurricane Houston hosting SWRAASA, may be costly as well. The question was raised regarding the hosting cities of Branson & Corpus Christi, did they pass any excess funds along down the line to the next hosting city. Kris H. suggested it may have been passed down and not accounted for in final treasury report.
 8. Kris H. mentioned there is a \$7,500 - \$10,000 addition to the previous host Area's report representing excess funds & seed money and he was only given the final reports from the different Areas. The goal is for the Area to avoid "fear and panic" in hosting SWRAASA in 2026. Kris H. will put together a motion for 2026 SWRAASA and bring it to the committee next month.

- Convention Loss Funds
 1. Michelle H. addressed why does the Area have a large amount of funds in the “Convention loss funds?” Is there a “convention loss fund cap? “ Betsy G. shared the motion from April 9, 2006 (a separate restricted fund should be established with convention moneys for a suggested cap of \$15,00). The motion Betsy G. put together in Ad Hoc committee passed and whereas it revised the wording in the P&P manual.
 2. The committee discussed making a recommendation and lowering the suggested cap from \$15,000 to \$5,000 - \$10,000. Rick M. suggested to revisit this in 5 years or drop it to \$7,500.
 3. Betsy G. provided history of this motion. The concern was about a couple of members felt like if the Area were to use the convention funds in our budget, this could be possibly using “non-AA contributions” because of the Alanon members who attend the convention
 4. Rick M. stated if P&P specifies \$15,000, this would require a motion to change the P&P. Kris H. mentioned the treasury has treated this as a set number.
 5. Doug C. addressed the 2020 – 2021 budget total expenses are \$26,000. This would include registration, miscellaneous, total committee expenses & total convention expenses etc. and may be due to having a brand new hotel & accommodations.
 6. Rick M. raised the question as to what the financial obligation to the hotel would be if a natural event occurred. What would be the average amount owed to the hotel and do we need to look at the “loss reserves” for cancellation.
 7. Troy B-D shared that there needs to be stipulation for clearly stated cancellation policy procedure in all our contracts.
 8. Michelle H. shared a sample of a cancellation policy statement from the Doubletree’s Contract that stated “Rights for termination of cause” statement in a standard contract.
 9. Kris H. will look at putting together a spread sheet of the convention’s final net from the past conventions’ treasury report.
 10. Troy B-D addressed not seeing any specific language on the convention “loss reserve” in the P&P. However, according to P&P (page 20 - 6F) states the Area finance committee will bring any recommendation to the Area for approval.
 11. The committee agreed to get a sense from the Area regarding what figure would be appropriate to lower the \$15,000 “loss reserve.” The committee will present the facts to support the change in P&P before making changes. This can be revisited in next 4 – 5 years.
 12. Troy B-D addressed the importance of “well-functioning” finance committee and the more transparent the committee is with the money the better it will be for the Area. This would be beneficial to be clearly stated in P&P. Kris H. suggested to make a motion to lower the \$15,000 instead of changing the P&P.
 13. Christina S. will write the convention “loss reserve” motion and add the \$7,500 figure in the footnote of the treasure report if it is approved by the Area. Kris H will put together a motion for 2026 SWRAASA. Lastly, the committee will review the P&P for posting financials & treasure’s reports on the website.

New Business:

- Zelle Contributions & Questions

