

AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 10, 2021

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

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

Password: 136819

Open Meeting: 4:30 pm 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: 14 attendees

Betsy G. – Committee Member
Byron T. – Visiting Member
Catherine G. – Visiting Member
Christina S. – Committee Member
Doug C. – Committee Member
Doug D. – Committee Member
Elizabeth G. – Finance Secretary
Kris H. – Committee Member

Meece T. – Committee Member
Paul M. – Visiting Member
Ray F. – Visiting Member
Reino F. – Committee Member
Rita F. – Visiting Member
Ron S. – Finance Chair
Troy B-D. Committee Member

Secretary Minutes: Reviewed, corrected, and approved by the committee. The approved minutes will be sent to webmaster for posting.

Webpage Report: Current and up to date.

Ongoing Business:

I Budget Meeting Proposal – (moving budget meeting to Nov)

New Business:

I PI to talk about PSA – (\$ 3300.00)

Paul M. shared his research on Google Grant item on the conference agenda and if there were any grants or feedback on accepting non-profit items regarding price. According to this proposal, there would be no charge for advertising space. There will be a charge for labor to install, production costs material etc. This would entail being “nonprofit” status. Some

members may think we as AA should be paying our fair share – because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, we are a nonprofit entity, and we should accept the same kind of benefits the other nonprofit do. Paul M went on to say, spiritually that may not be the best way and we should pay a little bit because we are not like other nonprofit entities. He mentioned the production costs could vary a bit as Paul has not contacted the printers yet.

According to Clear Channel, the approximate costs \$3300.00. The breakdown is \$500 on installation, \$325 for printing on the vinyl. This would be for 4 PSA's bulletins 14 x 48. These are seen on the freeways in and out of the city limits. Paul M. shared the above information and layout with the Houston Intergroup and to both the Spanish Districts to see if they would have their phone numbers or web addresses. Kris H. stated that this proposal would not go to the floor at Sunday's Assembly as its not an emergency.

Paul M. showed the committee members the proposal in which he started this proposal last year before Covid and investigated the idea for the Area to fund outdoor billboards in Beaumont, Houston & College Station areas. The typical PSA runs around 28 days and there are 32 panels that will be moved around the city. The bulletins that are stationary have one message on it and could be moved to another location that is empty.

The digital bulletins will be shown all over the Houston area for 28 days unless someone else wants to rent the space. The bulletins are all inside the city limits whereas the digital bulletins are all outside. Paul M. mentioned that an AA group back East did an animated information on AA on YouTube.

Reino F. inquired if the \$3300 came out of PI budget would we need an increase in budget or would the \$3300 come out of the floor in "unrestricted funds" and would not affect the PI budget at this point. Paul M. mentioned the vinyl adds are reusable and will be given back to the Area when they are taken down. He went on to say, he would let the Houston Intergroup know when they go up to keep track of their call increases. Paul M. mentioned both District 31 did the vinyl PSA twenty years ago as well as District 40 did one several years ago.

Ray F. questioned would a "text" number that went directly to the Houston Intergroup be an easier alternative than dialing a long phone number whereas one is driving 60 mph. Paul M. mentioned there is value in having Houston Intergroup have a "human being" answering the phone will be invaluable versus text or recorded voice.

Meece' T. shared the length of the PSA billboard will not matter and she has taken a photo of the billboard. She encouraged the committee to address the tradition 7 issue and pay a small fee as this will come up for debate when we take it to the Area Assembly. Also, to consider both the digital and billboards step up our public service announcements especially now as people are struggling. She suggested addressing this in July's Area Assembly. Ron S. shared concerns about if Google Grants wants to give it to the Area this may be the better option as being a prudent choice.

Troy B-D spoke to how GSO handles and manages PSA at the level of TV Broadcasting – pay for the production, send out video clips to all the TV stations. The report from the Ad-hoc stated GSO received 22 billion dollars in free PSA's. Also, be mindful if someone does not charge anything, and we give money on top of that, it becomes a donation. It puts us in the realm of “affiliating” tricky situation. The above was supposed to be reviewed at the Conference and would include attachment with the total funding. Paul M. will contact Google and get back to committee with additional information.

Catherine G. spoke about upcoming holidays – Memorial Day, July 4th whereas more people will be out on the roads – will see the PSA's. The committee agreed to put this on the SETA agenda for July's assembly. Christina stated we cannot go back to change the 2021 budget and would make sense to include as an Assembly Action Item – comes out of the unrestricted funds and put on the Treasury report as an Assembly Action Item. We cannot change the budget for 2021.

Ron S. stated the committee can tell the Assembly we have the money and can take it to the floor. Troy B-D shared if we do not address this tomorrow then, we need to address this at the July Assembly. Ron S. will include this issue in the May & June Finance Committee agendas in preparation for July Assembly.

Catherine G. mentioned if the PSA & funding issue be brought to Assembly tomorrow. Ron S. stated PI will bring this request to the Assembly and the finance committee will state there is money in the budget for PI's request.

II Fully Funding the Delegate

Reino F. shared the GSO 's letter stating the \$1800 cleared the bank and would need an additional \$400 to fully fund the Delegate this year. Troy B-D made a motion that the committee send an additional \$400 to GSO – fully fund the Delegate. Motion was seconded. Reino will have the optioned to let the Assembly know for transparency in his report as will not be an issue to be voted on Sunday.

Catherine G. addressed the question as to do the groups & districts send more money to the Area to support “fully funding the Delegate?” Troy B-D shared it may be more beneficial to support the organizations, AAWS, Grapevine, GSO etc. chunks of money to support them. However, support the local Districts as well.

Reino F. stated the 2020 budget the actual amount of income was \$40,341 and the actual spent was \$25,448 and the budget was \$59,000. In 2019, the actual income was \$39, 511 and the unspent was about \$20,000. This is just information to bring back to the groups and there's money in the budget.

New Business: None Reported

Next Meeting: July 17, 2021 – 10:00 am via Zoom

Close Meeting: Responsibility Statement