

Finance and Budget Ad-hoc Meeting July 2023

July 13, 2023

Present:

Chair: Reino F.

Treasurer: Catherine G.

Alt. Treasurer/Secretary: Alicia M.

Past Delegate: Troy

Past Delegate: Deborah

Past Delegate: Kris H.

Past Delegate: Paul

Reino opened the meeting at 8:01pm with serenity prayer & read purpose of finance committee. We went around the room and introduced ourselves.

Reino gives everyone the run down on how the meeting will go. Basically, everyone gets a chance to speak about their ideas or questions.

Catherine states that the data she has in front her money going in vs money going out. She can see what committee is really doing the work and which aren't. We should look at shaving the budget this year and next year. Normally we get one Zelle contribution every 45 days after assembly. After this last assembly we received 2. People do pay attention. We should really look at rewriting the treasurers' report so that the body of the assembly can understand the report.

Deborah doesn't have much to add. She would like to understand the treasurers' report better so there has to be a simpler way to do it. Do we really have \$52,000 in reserve? Budget goes on different committees. We need to cut committees who are not activate. Do the work or budget will get cut. Multi-lingual has spent money but doesn't have receipt. They may need help with the expense report.

Paul agrees with Catherine and Deborah. Biggest feeling coming out of adhoc is to cut administration cost bloat. Cut expenses not trying to raise more money. Immediately reduce the load we must pay look at the chart. We were formed to support our delegates. Can we do one day assemblies to cut costs? Believe we can change to a calendar year. Try to continue with the pilot budget for committee budget holders. Must change the structure. We are so bloated down we must look at P&P to see was we are locked in with. Let's divide into small groups to look at the P&P to what must be paid.

Troy states he absolutely agrees with Catherine that the treasurer report could be presented in a way that normal people can understand it. Can we draw a line in the sand, so we have money for the budget? The fiscal year should be calendar year. Worry and concern has been dealt with list of actions to see which one we would recommend removing or need to change. Not comfortable fixing budget for committees.

Reino states he won't let that happen. Budget holders will need to adjust their budgets. Finance committee can just offer recommendations. P&P says we have ability to modify committee budget. We can see if we need to do that.

Kris H. states that he is surprised by the negative comments about the treasurer's report. It's been in place for about 15 years and has been explainable. To his knowledge there is only one account since Chase Bank made us get rid of our interest account because it looked like we were doing illegal things.

Catherine yes, we just have one account.

Kris H. ask are we going to be in the entertainment business or the coffee business? Don't need a banquet budget hoping chairs will step up we've lost lots of money due to coffee. We need to get the budget approved so the treasurer can pay the bills come January.

Catherine states that we are paying our bills.

Kris H. states that we have to have a '24 budget to pay bills for the next year. We can cut \$15,000 out and present a closer budget to past years. We may not be able to send committee chairs to conventions this year. When looking at lodging for Area everyone gets 2 nights. Why? We voted to start including intergroup liaison into lodging the justification of that is they give a 2-minute report. No one gives a 2-minute report. These are just entitlements. Even GSO doesn't pay for extra room nights. That is on the individual not the fellowship. Will send out to everyone was mandated we pay not only by P&P but also by area assembly floor action. Reino states our budget was about \$59,000 last year and we spent about \$52,000, that's 88% and the average is usually 35-50%. I have read P&P notes about what is mandated. 76/24 pie chart concerned about intergroup liaison. Only 1 liaison last October gave a report. Beaumont liaison never sent in receipt. For the Regional Forum we pull out of hat for 3 extra people to attend with the Delegate, Alt Delegate, and Chair. That is \$1650. Couldn't find anything in P&P about paying for committee chairs to attend their national conventions. We need to really for actual amounts.

Troy doesn't agree with Kris about convention and lodging. Supporting 2 nights is ridiculous. When Troy was alt chair, he was told they didn't do business in January. Why are we spending that kind of money if we aren't doing business? We should be mindful of what that does to prudent. The way we are doing it now & explain the treasurer's report.

Catherine states you can pull last year's expense. How much of their budget was spent last quarter.

Deborah states we can cut that \$7500 in half and its \$3250 and just pay for Saturday night so people will be there Sunday. The total spent last year was \$52,652.

Catherine states any money left over the budget holders will spend to use up in the last quarter. We need to have a conversation to just leave left over money for the next year. Talking about what to say the budget holders...if we go to present where we truly are & where we want to go... how can you help? We can have budget holders be a part of the process.

Reino states he hopes budget holders will work with us.

Troy says we could suggest following what GSO said is essential is carrying the message.

Paul states that committees need to look at budgets. What is a mandatory expense that Kris is talking about in P&P and floor action? \$15,000 could drop down. We are trying to have a fully funded budget.

Can we have a set amount for each committee? So many funds tied up in conventions. I believe misunderstanding on the treasurers' report comes from the convention funds. Is it in the P&P about funding lodging for conventions? Can we just cut them out?

Deborah states she's getting lost on what to do.

Reino states not there yet just bringing idea what need to be looked at.

Kris states looking for specific things for our budget to see what is important and what is not.

Troy tagging on Deborah and Kris come in October here is what we think needs to happen and bring them together and here is what we can do. If it's not carrying the message, we are not paying. Not everything we agree on is part of P&P.

Reino suggest we look at chart and talk about it?

Catherine asks if an item came off assembly floor action is it easy to change?

Reino states might not be in P&P but might be in the amended section.

Amendments are in current P&P; assembly actions are advisory actions. Catherine can ask Eddie for the list of all advisory actions since it has been removed from the archives site.

Catherine states she will go back from minutes to see there are advisory actions.

Reino suggested we get documents and split it up between us to see what we can find.

Troy states minutes will be missing for 2016-2018. Sarah will be the best contact. Review minutes when they stopped recording and look since then. It's way too much to put on one person.

Kris will send what he has highlighted in the budget after the meeting.

CFC committee never wants to give up a dime.

Area convention money only one room this is not a year to buy things don't support buying new equipment.

Our total savings from what Kris has highlighted in purples is \$15,750.

Budget is bloated and it was forecasted wed have a deficit, so we set aside \$30,000 for 3 years for archives depository. Are we going to continue this \$10,000 budget?

Deborah asks if we are spending \$10,000 a year now since we moved aback to intergroup<

It is explained that we never insurance since the insurance was on the actual room not the inventory in the room. We aren't even sure what the cost of insurance should be.

Troy thanks Kris for the highlighted purple on what makes sense to take out of budget.

Catherine states that we can't move funds from line items to travel and lodging.

Reino states he only paid \$850 for someone who requested \$1100 and what was allocated and wasn't even on committee. Let Sergio know it was going to be well over budget can't move another line item to travel and lodging.

Paul asks who is going to El Paso?

Reino states that's off topic.

Catherine states names were picked in April.

\$1650 for budget

\$2520 for regional forum. Can we stop anyone who hasn't bought their tickets?

Kris states that out of bounds for approved budget. Prudently planning for next year.

Reino states we re-meet after a couple days or a couple of people now figure out actual amount of money to work on the actual in bank is \$63,642. Kris did a good job on looking at cuts. Who would want to look at P&P and talk about what we know that can be adjusted?

Troy states we look at recommendations and reconvene after Catherine gets archives list and minutes after captured stopped.

Reino states we will have normal finance committee meeting on the 19th to let the finance committee know what is going on.

Deborah says yes, August 3rd for adhoc and normal August one for 2023 budget cut. 2024 budget is our job.

Troy disagrees there was a floor motion made to delete A&V or hotel – merge together. What we can do for '23 budget and essential business other part of the adhoc to roll into '24 with additional recommendations.

Kris states we need actual info for what things cost.

Reino states hotel contract and zoom contract is something IT will know.

Kris says Catherine would have actual cost.

Catherine states zoom is \$900 a day.

So many high dollar items this is nickel and dimes.

What has been paid out in hotels?

Troy states we need a package to present to the assembly in October.

Kris states that we need to make sure we understand when going back to the budget committee to tell them recommendations.

Troy states we need to vote on budget in January since in October we will be able to vote on reversing actions.

Go to seta announce and say here is where we are and here is where we want to go.

Confusion about voting in October vs January. Troy clears up any confusion for us.

Catherine states we have lots of work to do and for CFC she should get a monthly report for their expenses but doesn't. She says she will talk to Roy about what should be going on.

Troy suggests that Reino & Catherine and Bella & Rick make a joint statement about area not being in a good spot financially. Encourage budget holders to only use money for essential work in carrying the message.

Deborah states that the statement needs to be clear about travel. Basically, don't take it.

Tory says we can't ask budget holders not to travel since that budget has been approved just be prudent.

We will have a meeting in 2 weeks.

Deborah is willing to go line by line with someone else.

We need to send budget holders a message.

Next meeting will be Thursday the 27th.

Closes with the responsibility statement at 9:57pm