

Attendees:

Chair: Reino

Alt Chair: Kristi

Treasurer: Catherine

Past Delegate: Deborah

Past Delegate: Kris

Past Delegate: Paul

Past Delegate: Troy

The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer at 7:03

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss concerns about the proposed 2024 budget.

Catherine reported the current Area bank account balance is \$74,748.00 The Area post office box has been paid for at a cost of \$220.00. There was a late fee of \$25.00 that was also paid. Catherine did not know that the box fee was due and took care of it as soon as she was aware.

There was discussion about Intergroup liaisons being funded for rooms at Area Assemblies. When were motions made for this funding? Area Policies and Procedures were reviewed by ad-hoc committee members and there was no mention of a decision to fund rooms, just that these positions get a vote at Area Assembly. In October 2012 there was a vote to fund Intergroup Liaisons for one night at Area Assemblies. Currently, we are spending \$3100 to fund three Intergroup Liaisons' rooms but only one has been actively involved in giving reports to the Assembly.

**Questions as a result of this discussion:**

Is there a motion needed to amend the P&P to not provide rooms for Intergroup Liaisons? Then decide who is funded for a room and who isn't? Would people still be able to attend if their room was not funded? Does the Alt Treasurer need to be provided funding for a room due to their job duties at assembly?

**Considerations:**

- Clear recommendations are needed for reducing the budget.
- Travel eliminated for one year (2024)
- SETA Convention (2024) still in person and rooms are paid for per usual.
- Make a motion to pay for one night's room for the SETA convention and let people know in October. Currently, two night's are funded.
- For now, go fully to Zoom for area assemblies.
- Meet by Zoom until we get out of our hotel contract and figure out viable options. Contract fees for cancellation of hotel would be \$2024.00 for each assembly for a total of \$6072.00.
- Until we get this figured out, it is difficult to equate the number of people who live far away versus those who live in Houston who would possibly not need a hotel room.

- Contact other Areas about how they meet for assemblies. How do they keep costs down?
- An email be sent to budget holders asking them to revise their budgets. For example, excessive travel and hotel rooms for 2 nights at the SETA Convention. Can these items be revised and/or cut? It's important to get all budget holders involved.
- See what the budget holders come back with, in revising their budgets. Then, if more cuts need to be made, look at funding for IT and the Regional Pool. Are the costs worth the results?
- Once budget holders have revised their budgets and sent them back, let Finance Committee know and adjustments can be made.
- Present results at the October Area Assembly.
- At the October Assembly, make a motion to discontinue funding for the Regional Pool? Suspend it for one year? Cost is \$1650.00. A motion would need to be made 45 days in advance.
- At the October Assembly, present a very simple budget (restricted versus unrestricted funds, etc...) Possibly a three page document with a worksheet explaining restricted versus unrestricted funds and the total budget on one page?
- Travel for committee functions cut for 2024
- Look at being prudent in other areas

The end goal is to create a funded budget. This may take 2 years to get going. Budget holders will be asked to look at what is absolutely necessary for 12th step work. These activities are not being asked to be cut from the budget.

There was discussion about how meeting virtually for Area Assembly affects the fellowship we are able to have when they are in person (i.e., conversations, information shared over meals/coffee/in the hallway). We just can't get those virtually.

Committee chairs and officers currently get funding for a room for one night at Area Assemblies. It is unclear if everyone in one of these positions knows/understands their job descriptions and what is expected of them.

It was suggested that the Treasurer's report be revised/reworded so it is more understandable.

Ad-hoc committee members have been looking at motions made up until 2019 and have compiled a list of these. A volunteer is needed to make a list up until 2022, maybe presented with bullet points?

The committee decided the following action would be taken: Email will be sent to each budget holder with their current budget sheet attached and a copy of the full budget with markups. Budget holders will be given time to meet with their committees and then make revisions and return these revised budgets to the Finance Committee.

Motion to close at 8:13 PM. Meeting adjourned.