

## Area 15 Finance Committee Meeting

April 15, 2023

### Members Present

Wayne H., Committee Chair

Tom W. Member

Donna W. Area Chair (Ex Officio)

Karen V., Treasurer

Jim G., Member

Alan T. Member

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer

Committee Members and Guests were introduced

### REVIEW TREASURER'S 4TH QUARTER REPORT

Wayne complimented Treasurer on updating financial software to Quickbooks.

Karen V. Shared how the report can be formatted in any way which best meets the needs of the fellowship

### Contribution Report

There were several items on the Group Contribution Report which appeared to be duplicates.

Wayne asked Karen if it would be possible to review the report for possible duplicates and make any necessary revisions.

Tom W. noted all districts are participating by contributing to the Area and stated this is a very positive trend.

### Budget vs Actuals Report

There was an extensive discussion on the Web site variance. Diana C provided an explanation on why the variance occurred detailing the amounts paid to GreenGeeks and the cost of migrating the site to Go Daddy. To date the Committee is \$301 over 2023 Budget of \$250. This will be noted to the body by the Web Chair with the appropriate explanation.

Discussion was had on how to account for ongoing Host maintenance and license fees on future budgets. A final approach will be developed prior to the development of the 2024 Budget.

It was also noted by the Web Chair additional expenses will most likely be incurred in 2023 requiring a motion to request additional funds in this year's budget. Diana will work with Donna W to develop a motion for the July Assembly

Noted \$3000 overage in Recording Secretary actual vs budget. Karen V was going to research the actual items comprising this overage. (See Lions Printing item below for partial clarification)

Karen V provided an explanation for Reconciliation Discrepancies of \$ 68.69 This was an unreconciled item from 2022 which didn't clear until after the close of the books. The amount reported for 2022 was greater than actual amount of check resulting in the need for this line item

### Transaction Report

The \$192 shown on line item "Area Officers" needed further clarification or be moved to another category under Area Officers

The Lion Press printing expense item was reviewed. It was determined this was a 2022 expense but the invoice was not received or paid until 2023. This expense may very well impact the Recording Secretary's budget for 2023. This item will be noted to the body and if needed a request made to adjust the 2023 budget.

A similar situation as above occurred with check 1750 paid to Fred M. This was a 2022 budgeted item for the Area Registrar. Given it was paid in 2023 it will impact the current Registrar Budget and may warrant an appropriate adjustment to the budget.

Karen V provided a detail explanation on the Paypal refund of unauthorized donations. These amounts have been returned vis-a-vis PayPal to the donors and steps have been implemented to prevent this happening in the future.

### **REVIEW OF MOTIONS**

#### Motion A:

That South Florida Area 15 increase the amount allocated for the Area Chairperson, Treasurer, Registrar, Recording Secretary, and any newly elected Area Officers by \$300 for a total not to exceed \$1,000 each to attend on even years the Southeast Regional Forum. Submitted by Area 15 Finance Committee.

#### Background A:

Funding started with motion 204 in 1986 at \$250 and was increased in 1990 with motion #226 to \$400. It increased again in 1996 to \$550 with motion #326. In 2001 #439 and #512 in 2004 had an increase to \$600 and lastly more than eight years ago in 2014 with motion #724 it was increased to \$700. Due to the rising costs of travel, accommodations and food an increase is once again needed to fund our current and incoming Area Officers.

**Motion will be withdrawn and resubmitted in July**

#### Motion B:

That Area 15 approve the formation of an additional Spanish Linguistic District with geographical boundaries of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Sarasota, Manatee and Pasco Counties in response to their request. Our Area Map will be updated to reflect the addition of District 21. Submitted by Lisa D, Chair of the Redistricting Committee on behalf of the Redistricting Committee

#### Background B:

The redistricting committee, comprised of Alternate Delegate and District Chairs, met and unanimously agreed this would best serve our Spanish speaking Area 15 members in those counties. They have enough participation and financial support to sustain this new District. They would not negatively affect any districts in those counties by being formed. Currently the Hispanic groups have been providing the local committee services to institutions, public information, corrections, and have been meeting as a linguistic

district to provide services. They provide 12 step telephone services, have a where and when and are responsible for traditions, service manual and concept workshops. They already have a \$5,000 prudent reserve to start their district (La Vina is \$2,000 and \$3,000 literature).

**No financial impact to the Area**

Motion C:

That attendance at the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SSAASA) which occurs in odd years be added to Area 15 Chairperson, Area 15 Treasurer, Area 15 Registrar and Area 15 Recording Secretary. Expenses for registration, travel, lodging and food will not exceed \$1,000 per Officer. Submitted by Lisa D, Alternate Delegate Area 15, Panel 73

Background C:

It is extremely beneficial for Area Officers to attend this event as they can exchange ideas with other fellow Officers serving in other areas currently in the same positions. This is an excellent opportunity to learn at workshops how to improve serving our area. SSAASA occurs on odd years which is opposite the Regional Forum which takes places on even years. The next SSAASA is in the Orlando area but it does move around so travel costs in the future will be greater than just mileage. Currently Delegate and Alternate go. Budget will increase 4,000.

**Sufficient money to cover the expense.**

Motion D:

Increase the Area-15 Treatment Committee budget from \$100 to \$200. Submitted by Treatment Facilities Committee

Background D:

Due to rising costs and unplanned events, the Treatment Committee is unable to meet the literature needs of its membership. We propose purchasing seven (7) Treatment Kits and additional Bridging the Gap literature with a total cost of approximately \$200.

**Motion will be amended to \$500. Sufficient funds to cover**

Motion E:

Any Area 15 Officer or Standing Committees holding a virtual meeting workshop or sharing session between quarterly assemblies publish all times, dates and login information to all Area 15 members and be posted on the South Florida Area 15 website. Respectfully submitted, Shirley P on behalf of the Current Practice Committee

Background E:

This practice of virtual meetings began during the pandemic and continues today. This motion makes this practice a "current practice".

**Motion will be withdrawn and resubmitted.**

Motion F:

Area 15 quarterly business meetings change the deadline to solidify the District vote counts from before District Reports to after all committee reports on the agenda. Submitted by Melissa B, DCM, District 2, Subdistrict H

Background F:

This will allow extra driving time for those that are not funded or unable due to other reasons to stay overnight to attend the Sunday morning business meeting conveniently. Every quarterly, regardless of location some segment of Area 15 servants has a long drive if we cant stay overnight, due to the vast size of our Area. This affords extra time for those people driving to get here the day of the business meeting often from hours away quite early on Sunday morning. This motion was requested by one of the GSRs in my sub-district, and I think its a fair ask that will benefit many throughout the Area and may facilitate more trusted servants ability to participate in Area Quarterlies.

Not enough information to determine financial implication. No representative to provide input

Motion G:

Change the GSR and DCM Sharing Sessions currently held separately from 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. to a Joint GSR/DCM Sharing Session from 2:00 to 3:50. All Sharing Session to be chaired by GSR's and DCM's. Submitted by Jill M, DCM, District 5

Background G:

The only motion which speaks to the sharing sessions is: Motion 141 10/1982 There be a two-hour GSR session Sharing Session chaired by a GSR, strictly for GSR's to share problems, questions, and other wonderful things that come out of this kind of workshop. By combining the GSR/DCM workshops it will provide an opportunity for these trusted servants to know each others needs, concerns, experiences and better serve the groups as a whole.

May be withdrawn. Not present to discuss. No financial implications.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

Donna W reported on survey responses. 120 responses received with a broad sampling from various service position holders

There were a number of comments on how the budget was presented this year. Wayne indicated he will address this in his comments emphasizing the migration to QuickBooks and how this financial software a will facilitate creation of financial reports which are better organized and more readable compared to previously used software packages.

Meeting was adjourned and the AA Responsibility Statement was recited.

Respectfully submitted

Alan T.  
Secretary, Area 15 Finance Committee