The Maryland General Service Area Committee met on February 15, 2020 in District 31, at the Severna Park United Methodist Church located at 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 9:05 am with the Serenity Prayer.

**SESSION ONE**

**Area Chair Opening Remarks:** Lori M. thanked District 10, Charlie L. and crew for hosting the meeting and went over the housekeeping details. Handouts are on the table. Please make sure you get and review the three motions to be presented today. As of this morning, all locations are locked in for the 2020 Area meetings. July will be hosted by District 40 and held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 703 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701. November 14th Area Committee will be hosted by District 15 and be held at Journey of Faith Church, 7902 Liberty Road, Windsor Mill, MD 21244. A new calendar will be sent out. We still need 4 host Districts for March 21st, May 16th, October 17th, and December 12th.

We are still working to fill several Area Committee Chair positions. Shauna K. is the new Area 29 Host Chair and John H. is the new Area 29 Workshop Chair. Current open chair positions are: Audio – Misty L.is the interim chair. CPC - Meryl T. is the interim chair. Grapevine- Jenna F. is the interim chair, Registrar – Ray T. is the interim chair, and Literature. Since there is no interim literature chair, we need someone to take the literature inventory and store it until we can find a chair for that Committee. We need people to step up to serve or the job will not be done. Please try to promote the open chair positions as well as the need for members to serve on the committee with your membership contacts.

**Delegate’s Report:** Cynthia T. reported that the “70th General Service Conference Committee’s Agenda Items” reports are on the table. Please pick up a copy. We have gone through the 83 Agenda Items that we received from the GSO Dashboard earlier this month and came up with 40 Modified Agenda Items. Kurt W. Area 29, Alternate Delegate and Mini-Conference Chair will be explaining the CARC (Conference Agenda Review Committee) process and how we will be reviewing these 40 Modified Agenda Items during the CARCs.

The contribution to delegate expenses for the General Service Conference held in New York has been made and Terry P., Area 29 Treasurer, will talk about this in his report.

Only the first-term delegates at the General Service Conference present Area Service Highlights each year and will be recorded in the Final Conference Report. These highlights are limited to 2 minutes with a hard, “turn off the microphone” stop. Cynthia was given two minutes to practice presenting her highlights to the Committee. Well done!

**Alternate Delegate’s Report:** Kurt W. reported that it has been a busy and educational couple of months transitioning into this new role. He has spent a lot of time learning the responsibilities, while also hitting the ground running.

Some of his activities over the last couple of months have been:

* On January 9th, Cynthia T., our current Delegate, met to discuss our transitions, and how I can assist her and be prepared should I need to step in. Ensuring I am party to all important communications was a big topic of discussion. We also discussed logistics around preparation of the Modified Agenda for CARC use, Mini-Conference planning, and several other subjects. I also want to thank Cynthia for her past and ongoing service.
* On January 27th, I participated in a conference call amongst the current panel of MGS Officers.
* On Feb. 3rd, I was the guest for the monthly Intergroup Liaison Committee Conference Call discussing the CARC process.
* On Feb. 11th, I attended the Northeast MD Intergroup Council meeting, raising awareness of CARC and Mini-Conference activities.
* Throughout the past several months, the Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) planning has been an ongoing activity. Leaders and Mentors have been determined and there have been several emails and other communications. I want to thank JoAnn B., Jeanine W., Misty L., and Mary M. for stepping up as Leaders; and Linda J., Morgan J., Lori M., Nancy B. and Bob C. for their continuing service as Mentors.
* Also, throughout the last several months Mini-Conference planning has been an ongoing activity. Finding a suitable location was particularly challenging, resulting in several budgeting motions to be made later in the day. At this point I can say we have a location identified and reserved, and we have several people who’ve stepped up to help. There are still some issues to resolve, and I’ll be approaching many of you today in that regard.

**Secretary’s Report**: Craig T. reported that new Area 29, Panel 70 Rosters, 2020 Area Calendars, and November’s Area Committee minutes were on the table. A summary of the November 16, 2019 Area Committee Minutes which were transmitted by email on February 4, 2020 were presented.

***Linda J. provided a correction on page 8 that “Linda J., Panel 68 Delegate” should read “Linda J., Panel 66 Delegate”. The Motion to accept the Minutes with corrections was approved unanimously.***

**Treasurer’s Report:** Terry P. Mileage reimbursement went up from $.25 to $.35 with approval of the 2020 Budget. Reported as of January 31, 2020, account balances were: Operating Account: $17,694.72. Savings Account and Voucher are on the table and on the website: $12,826.08 (Prudent Reserve: $10,000 & Special Savings for 2020 International Convention: $2,826.08). We have additional assets of: Literature: $5,728.73 & Grapevine: $4,024.29.

Revenue: Group Contributions as of January 31 were $5,667.74. Other income (i.e. 7th Traditions basket, lunch donations, etc.) total $0.00. When you put all of this together, we have collected $5667.74 which is 10% of our expected revenue for 2020. Expenses: Through January 31, 2020, we have paid out a total of $11,217.58, which is 15% of our expected expenses this year. The total includes a check for Delegate expenses to the General Service Conference in the amount of $8,400.00. The mailing address for contributions to Maryland General Service will remain P.O. Box 8043, Elkridge, MD 21075. Committee Chairs, please remember to submit Expense Vouchers as soon as possible, with mileage verification and receipts attached to treasurer@marylandaa.org. David R questioned why we only donated the $8400.00 and not $10.000.00 as budgeted? The $8400.00 was the amount that was suggested by the GSO since the GSC is in Rye, NY.

***Following Discussion, the Treasurers’ Report was accepted unanimously without changes.***

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**New Business:**

**Registrar Report**: Ray T. reported the total attendance at the Area Committee of 49 and total votes 33 which consist of 5 Officers 5 votes, 4 Past Delegates 3 votes, 11 Committee Chairs 11 votes, 1 Co-Chairs 0 votes, 17 DCMs 17 votes, 4 Alternate DCMs 0 votes, and 7 visitor 0 votes.

A motion was presented by Kurt W., Area 29, Panel 70 Alternate Delegate and 2020 Mini Conference Co-Chair.

***Motion: “It is moved that the 2020 Mini-Conference Budget be increased by $650.00”.***

Justification:The current budget allows $300.00 for room rental. After an exhaustive search no suitable facility could be located on the set date of April 4th at this cost. Numerous locations in the central portion of the state from Annapolis to Frederick, including the Baltimore suburbs, were contacted. None meeting our accessibility requirements and budgeted amount were available. Moving the date is not desirable, as the following weekend is Easter weekend and prior weekends negatively impact CARC scheduling and report preparation.

St. Martin’s-in-the-Field is available for our use on April 4th. We’ve met there before, and the facility meets all our requirements for accessibility and is centrally located in the Area. The cost for the use of their facility is $700.00 with a $250.00 refundable security deposit. This price is well in line with other facilities available on the set date. The $700.00 is $400.00 above our budgeted amount. And while it is expected that we’ll get our $250.00 security deposit back, there are no guarantees. Thus, it is prudent that we budget in case it is not returned.

***Following discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.***

A motion was presented by Kurt W., Area 29, Panel 70 Alternate Delegate and 2020 Mini Conference Co-Chair.

***Motion: “It is moved that the 2020 Mini-Conference Budget have a line item added in the amount of $500 for 2021 hall rental”.***

Justification: This year and last year it proved exceedingly difficult to find a suitable location for our Mini-Conference due in part to waiting too long. Suitable facilities at a reasonable price are limited, and in the spring, during the Easter and Passover seasons, they get booked well in advance. In 2019 we ended up in a less than ideal facility. In 2020 we exceeded our original budget to find a suitable location.

In 2021 Easter falls on April 4th, while Passover ends on April 3rd. If we project April 10th as our Mini-Conference date, reserving a hall should be less difficult than in the past couple of years. However, it would still be a good idea to reserve a location as soon as possible after a firm date is set. To do so prior to the start of 2021 requires money be available in the budget.

In previous years we began planning for next year’s Mini-Conference almost immediately after this year’s, including setting a date and reserving a facility. While it made budget tracking trickier, as expenses had to be assigned to the proper year’s Mini-Conference, the additional time allowed for a smoother, often less costly, event.

***Following discussion, the motion passed with one opposed. There was no Minority Opinion.***

***Break at 10:15, Meeting reconvened at 10:35***

***SESSION TWO***

A motion was presented by Jessica W., Area 29 Accessibilities Chair, with the approval of The Maryland State Convention Committee. ***Motion: "It is motioned that an expenditure of $4,500. be approved for the use of services for Hispanic language translation/interpretation for the 2020 Maryland State Convention.  This would include flyer translation, interpretation at the Convention and any necessary equipment to do so.  Including our Hispanic members in our historic 50th State Convention speaks to our model of Unity in Recovery, Unity, and Service and may provide new opportunities of outreach to the still suffering alcoholic."***

Justification:

- According to US Census information at Census.gov America's Hispanic population in 2019 was 18.3% of the population making this our largest ethnic and racial minority.

-Hispanic alcoholics face many additional barriers in diagnosis and treatment. Including of course the language barrier.

-Hispanic women in addition, are underrepresented in Alcoholics Anonymous and face additional barriers.

-Inclusive Unity by providing translation and encouraging participation at the Maryland State Convention provides the opportunity to do additional outreach in the area to Hispanic alcoholics by contacting for example clinics that provide services to Hispanic alcoholics and doing outreach. Inviting the professionals to the Convention to see what we are about as well.

-Our cultures have much to learn from one another.

-None of our surrounding states provides Hispanic translation and this opportunity for Unity at their State Convention, not Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware or Washington DC (the last 2 do not have a State Convention).

-Three years ago, when I did Outreach for the Maryland State Convention and attended an Assembly I was asked if we would be providing translation.   November 2019 current Maryland State Convention Chair David R., then Delegate Don B. and I attended a Hispanic Alcoholics Anonymous event to ask if they were interested in translation and joining us for the State Convention and the answer was...Yes!

-The idea of Hispanic translation for the State Convention has been spoken of for the three years I have been in service, but I am told was considered even 15 years ago.  We have a possible path ahead, let's try it!

***Following discussion, the motion passed with one opposed. No Minority Opinion.***

CARC Process.

Lori McP. opens discussion and explains the importance of the CARC process. It involves the local group members to the GSO in a free flow of information. The process is to make sure our Delegate is fully informed on the material that is covered during the General Service Conference. It is a fire drill that runs for the next two and half months starting with the CARC’s, then the Mini Conference, finally the GSC. It is a yearlong process that is heavily front-end loaded. We then have the Delegate Report-Backs and the CARCs reconvene to consider agenda items to submit to the Area for possible approval prior to the December Assembly. Any items approved will be sent to GSO by December 15th to be considered for the next GSC.

Kurt W., Alternate Delegate and Mini Conference Chair explained the CARC preparation that we will be working on till noon. He would like the four CARCs to break out into different areas of the room. Break out is as follows:

CARC 1 - District 24,25,32,37,38, & 46. Leader is JoAnn B.

CARC 2 – District 1, 6, 22, 23, 27, 31, 235, 36, & 36. Leader is Jeanine W.

CARC 2 – District 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 28, 30, 33, 34 & 39. Leader is Misty L.

CARC 3 – District 7, 9, 17, 20, 40, & 41. Leader is Mary M.

The goal is to determine your CARC recording secretary using the template handed out, determine the time(s) and location(s) to meet, volunteers to research and present/lead discussion on various agenda topics, and volunteer to arrange refreshments. We plan to have the background information out during NERAASA.

**Broke for lunch at 12:00. Lori McP. opened the afternoon, New Business Session at 1:00 pm.**

Frank M., Treatment Chair stated that at the March 21st Area Assembly, he would like to have a sharing session on Treatment and Bridging the Gap. He thanks Dick R. for his service as the past Treatment Chair and hopes to continue the work to improve how the BTG program functions. He would like to see if there are suggestions on how we can allow people coming out of treatment with more accessibility to A.A.? Over the next month, please ask people you know that came out of a treatment center if they used a temporary contact. If so, how did they use them? How did it work? How could it be improved? These and other questions will be explored.

Lori McP. reported that the following members & District stepped up to serve during the lunch break:

Jerry B. has volunteered to be the Area 29, Panel 70 Audio Chair

Ken and Carol have volunteered to be the temporary Literature Chair and Co-Chair.

District 33 has volunteered to be the Host District for the May 16th Area Assembly.

A motion was presented by Linda J., Area 29, Panel 70 Policy and Procedures Chair & Panel 66 Past Delegate. ***Motion: That Area 29 Treasurer send the balance of the $10,000 budgeted in 2020 Budget to GSO to further contribute towards General Service Conference cost.”***

*Following discussion in support of the motion,* Terry P., Area 29, Panel 70 Treasurer stated that a motion was not needed to contribute the balance of $10,000.00 as requested. Since the expenditure of the money was already approved in the 2020 budget, it will be sent to the General Service Conference to help offset the cost for Delegates that may not be able to otherwise afford the cost of the event. Based on this information, ***the motion was withdrawn by Linda J.***

In order to get to know the Committee Chairs and the DCMs and Alternate DCMs, they were asked to go to the microphone and introduce themselves. To save time, reports where not required although some highlights and events where mentioned.

**Ask It Basket**: None.

***Motion was made to suspend business by Charles L., seconded and accepted unanimously at 1:33 pm.***

**SESSION THREE – BREAKOUT SEESSION**

The Committee body broke out into two groups for the remainder of the day.

**Committee Chairs:** Area Planning Meeting facilitated by Lori McP., Area 29, Panel 70 Chair

**DCM’s:** DCM School facilitated by Cynthia T., Area 29, Panel 70 Delegate.

The entire Committee body reconvened and ***a motion to adjourn was made and accepted unanimously.*** The meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig T.

Area 29, Panel 70 Secretary