

Motion: "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."

- 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. And 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!

Jessica W
Maryland Area 29 Accessibilities Chair