

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

The Maryland General Service Area Assembly met virtually on August 15, 2020. The virtual doors opened at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship. Chairperson Lori M. opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

SESSION ONE

Area Chair Opening Remarks: Lori M welcomed everyone to the virtual Area 29 Assembly meeting, and she reviewed the flexible procedures for participation in the virtual meeting. Following no objections, the audio only of this meeting was being recording for the Archives and to ensure accuracy of the minutes. There was a maximum of 67 members attending the meeting. The September 26th Area Committee meeting will be a virtual meeting.

Chairperson Report: Lori M. reported that prior to the last Assembly meeting, there has been a lot work behind the scene as Chair with handling detail concerning the State Convention, Delegate Report Back, CARC's, and "12 Steps to Safely Reopen A.A." workshop. Lori has been in contact with Area Chairs from Northeast Region as well as Chairs around the country trying to navigate the shutdown. She gave a big congratulation and thanks Maryland as a whole and Baltimore intergroup, for being leaders in the country as far as the resource and workshops that have been put together concerning reopening and how to safely handle COVID-19 in our meetings. The Audio to the "12 Steps to Safely Reopen A.A." workshop has been circulated to Chairs throughout the country and they are using it as resource This is not what Lori anticipated as Chair, but she has been grateful to be of service to keep things going as we move through this.

Secretary's Report: Craig T. provided a summary of the June 6, 2020 Area Assembly and Delegate Report Minutes, which were transmitted to the Assembly by email on August 3, 2020.

The Motion to accept the Minutes was made by Morgan J. and seconded by Terry P. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Terry P. reported as of July 31, 2020, account balances were: Operating Account: \$21,506.32. Savings Account: \$12,830.20, (Prudent Reserve: \$10,000.00 & Special Savings for 2020 International Convention: \$2,830.20). We have additional assets of: Literature: \$5,728.73 & Grapevine: \$4,024.29.

Revenue: Group Contributions as of July 31, are \$17,506.06. Other income (i.e. 7th Traditions basket, lunch donations, etc.) total \$2272.21. Total Revenue \$19,836.39 which is 34% of our budgeted revenue for 2020. At this time last year, MGS had received 65% of the 2019-budgeted revenue.

Expenses: Through July 31, we have paid out a total of \$22,118.34, which is 30% of our budgeted expenses this year. At this time last year MGS had expended 50% of the 2019 budgeted expenses.

Following Discussion, a Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Morgan J. and seconded by Beverly M. The Motion was carried unanimously.

Alternate Delegate's Report: Kurt W. reported some of his activities over the last 7 1/2 months:

Attended NERAASA – It was a great opportunity to learn and share experiences regarding service. Something a little new this year was the Alternate Delegates having a breakout session as part of the roundtable session. This was an excellent idea, as many Areas have assigned responsibilities to Alternates not directly associated with backing up the Delegates. He expects that this will be recurring and looks forward to seeing everyone in Western PA, Area 60, next year.

CARC Meetings – After our initial CARC Meetings, CARCs 2 and 4, in beautiful Lothian and Frederick, everything changed. We went to virtual for CARC's 1 and 3, and for a follow-up meeting with CARC 2. CARC Reconvenes have been held virtually for CARC's 2, 3 and 4. Kurt thanked 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, and Jim R. for his assistance with CARC 1. He also thanked Morgan J. for his assistance with breaking down the background material and getting it onto thumb drives for CARC Leaders. Everyone showed a lot of flexibility in challenging times, as we all learned Zoom on the fly. We accomplished our goal of helping our Delegate prepare for the General Service Conference, review the results of the Conference, and preparing for next year's Conference. The CARC process is a year-round process.

Mini-Conference - Planning also got caught up in the changes wrought by the pandemic.

District Meetings –Attended several District Meetings. DCMs contact Kurt if you would like him to attend your meeting.

NERD Meetings – The NERD's started a weekly, now monthly, meeting virtually as a combination recovery and information-sharing meeting. Has participate in most of them, and since the meetings occur on Sunday afternoons.

Alt Delegate Meetings – The Northeast Region Alternate Delegates also started a virtual meeting, a combination recovery and information-sharing meeting. This meeting has now expanded to include Alternate Delegates from other regions as well. Our first meeting will be on August 27th.

Budgeting – Kurt submitted his budget request for 2021 to the Finance Committee.

Correspondence – I get a lot of emails, text, and phone calls. Keep them coming.

Upcoming scheduled activities include CARC 1 Reconvene meeting is still to be held. In addition, there is at least one potential agenda item for next year's conference still being developed. Again, this is a year-round activity. It will soon be

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

time to start planning for the Mini-Conference. A process complicated by the pandemic, virtual or In-person. A committee will be formed soon and will be reaching out for assistance.

Delegate's Report: Cynthia T. provided her "Delegate Report" on news and events at the General Service Office and A.A. around our Area. A soft copy of her "Delegate Report" for August 2020 was emailed to the Area and posted on the MGS website following the Assembly meeting. She provided Random Musings of your Delegate; General Service Board Updates, Financial Updates; A.A Grapevine News, Northeast Region Updates & Nerd Happenings; and Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) Updates. To review details on these topics and the Delegates past and upcoming virtual travels, please refer to the "Delegate Report" attached to the minutes. Cynthia finished by taking questions from members on the Assembly Meeting.

Introductions: There were introductions for news DCMs, GSRs and their Alternates which included Heather D., GSR and Michele, alternate GSR for Early Bird Group, Frederick; and Amy E., GSR for Roland Park Step & Tradition Group.

Break at 10:16 a.m. Meeting reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

SESSION TWO

Committee Reports:

Accessibilities: Chair Jessica W. reported that a motion is pending today for funding for Interpretation/translation at the 50th Maryland State Convention in 2021 and for equipment for ongoing interpretation/translation needs. The Area has now successfully interpreted twice for IGLC. Better with Age, a virtual online A.A. group created by request to meet the needs for Elder/Senior members have been listed on the online A.A. Intergroup Directory. A request is pending from the group to create a new meeting filter of "Elder/Senior" in the Directory and it is on the Agenda for the next online Intergroup meeting. NERAC (Northeast Regional Accessibilities Committee) has opened to become a nationwide Accessibilities Committee that meets virtually the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. One item discussed last meeting was the needs of people who will be needing virtual meetings long term during Covid-19 instead of in person meetings and that some Areas have formed a Committee or created Area A.A. meetings to meet those needs.

Audio: Chair Jerry B. had no report. He will be having surgery next month and unavailable for several weeks.

CPC & PI: Chair Pat S. reported that she attended the Area 43 CPC virtual monthly meeting. This was Pat's third time attending their meeting. She also attended an Area Service Share virtual meeting. Each month they have a different topic. This past month the topic was on Accessibilities. The speakers were from GSO and it can be a lengthy meeting pending the topic. She will be attending Area 57 (Oklahoma) CPC Workshop on August 22nd. There will also be GSO Speakers. To all DCMs: If you have not sent Pat the contact info for your PI/CPC Chairs, please do so. Pat is planning to continue the monthly virtual meetings. Attendance has been low with between 1-3 people out of all the Districts in Area 29.

Finance: Chair Jim R., reported that the Finance Committee is in the 2021 budget process. All the worksheets have been sent out and the completed budgets are due back by September 15, 2020. The Delegate's proposed budget was the first worksheet returned. Our schedule is to present to the Area Committee in November. Our next virtual meeting is Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Grapevine: Chair Meryl T. reported she is looking for members to join the committee. Jenna F. has passed all Grapevine literature and materials to Meryl and has agreed to assist in the transition. Meryl will be working on an inventory and making purchases as needed. Grapevine has a program for 2020, called "Carry the Message Project" which encourages the purchase of Grapevine subscriptions. The Grapevine is great for people that do not a virtual platform. If members, groups, intergroups, or districts would like to purchase Grapevine literature, contact Meryl at grapevine@marylandaa.org. It could be mailed or delivered.

Host: Chair Shauna K. had no report.

Intergroup Liaison: Chair Kathi K. reported that at their last meeting on August 3, 2020, they entertained the Maryland Hispanic Intergroup. There were 20 people in attendance including the Delegates from Area 29 and Area 13. The Hispanic Intergroup is in Silver Spring, MD. There are 21 Spanish-speaking meetings in Maryland, 8 of them are in Area 29. Unlike our monthly intergroup meetings, the Hispanic Intergroup meets weekly on Saturdays from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. They are very active and have been in operation in Maryland celebrating 39 years on October 10, 2020. The next IGLC meeting is October 5, 2020, when Cynthia T. will discuss the Final Reports with Financials. Our November meeting will feature Jen G. from the Baltimore IG to talk about ICOAA. There will be no September meeting on Labor Day.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

Literature: Tyler J., DCM District 15 reported that he is currently storing the literature at his warehouse until a new Literature Chair is appointed.

MARGENSER: Lori reported that there is not a MARGENSER Chair but Meryl T., the past Chair, had asked if we could consider reinvigorating the MARGENSER Committee especially since we are in a virtual world. This will be put on the agenda for the September Area Committee meeting for discussion.

2020 Mini-Conference: Kurt W. reported that our 2020 Mini-Conference was held virtually on April 4th. The meeting started at 9:00 a.m. with 55 attendees. During the morning we had up to 58 attendees, with the number dropping to 52 following the CARC presentations. We had 50 attendees when we closed at 1:05 p.m. Expenses were minimal, \$9.98 for printing flyers. The rent paid to St. Martins-in-the-Field, along with the security deposit was returned. Just weeks before our Mini-Conference, we had to change from an in-person event to a virtual event. Kurt thanked all of those who volunteered their time and effort towards our in-person event. He also thanked those that provided feedback and suggestions. We will be taking all the ideas into account into planning for next year's Mini-Conference. There is a motion pending regarding finances for next year's Mini-Conference. If we have an in-person even, we would like to be able to reserve a facility well in advance. Panel had a discussion this week, and we are currently planning on a virtual Mini-Conference for 2021, although we are not completely ruling out in-person. Kurt is looking to form a committee to plan our 2021 Mini-Conference in the upcoming weeks. Volunteers would be welcomed.

Registrar: Interim Registrar Ray T. reported that he received three MyPortal files from GSO two weeks ago. There were Area 29 Groups, Mail Contacts, and Service Positions. Ray reviewed the last file to check accuracy and found that it contained correct Panel 70 Officers and GSO level Committee chairs. However, it did not contain current DCM information that was forwarded to Records via postal mail (December 2019, January – March 2020). For DCMs, if you have not received your DCM kit, it is because the information did not get entered into MyPortal, which generates a shipment from the warehouse. The same is true for GSRs and their kits. Currently, Ray does not have either query or data entry capability into MyPortal. He received an email in April stating that no changes would be accepted, except for new groups. Ray has not received any further communications from GSO on this matter.

2020 MD State Convention: Chair - David R. reported that the 50th Maryland State Convention will be held on June 25-27, 2021 at Clarion Frederick Event Center. Our working assumption is that by summer of 2021 it will be safe to do so but, as with 2020, we will take no chances. You are invited to join the Convention Committee which will be held virtually in September and bring your ideas and feedback. Seven excellent speakers who were previously scheduled for 2020 have confirmed they are still available to be with us in 2021. The Clarion has been very cooperative with our need to reschedule but we did need to guarantee a larger room block to minimize other costs. The Area Chair is conducting final review of the Clarion contract before signing to make the final commitment. The initial Clarion deposit, some speaker costs, flyer printing, and Post Office Box expenses have already been paid out of 2020 Seed money we received in 2019. It is likely we will access some of the 2021 seed already budgeted for this year with the intention of full repayment after the convention. Budgeting for the convention is always based on a certain minimum number of registrations. We use historical attendance records and consider mitigating factors. Our assumption for break-even accounting is 600 registrations. The new flyer will be distributed in early January 2021.

Technology Chair: Tom H. reported that the Technology Committee consists of Tom H Chair, Brian R Co-Chair and Howard L Webmaster. Webmaster John S. rotated on April 1, 2020 after assisting us in the transition from the prior committee. We have been steadily occupied doing website and email distribution group updates. The email distribution list has been stabilized with the help of Chair Lori M., Registrar Ray. T., and Secretary Craig T. On our Committees' radar is a cleanup of the website making it easier to find information, not a redesign at this point.

Treatment: Chair Frank M. reported that 4 members attended the Treatment Committee meeting on August 10, 2020. They spent the bulk of time preparing and finalized the sharing session for this Assembly. They also discussed the status of treatment centers around the area, which ones are open and ways they might get meetings in virtually during COVID.

Workshop: Chair John H. report that it has been relatively slow with workshops this year. He has reached out to several Districts to help with virtual workshops. The Workshop Committee has been getting request from across the country for information on the "12 Steps to Safely Reopen A.A." workshop.

Policies & Procedures Committee: Linda J. reported that the committee is not busy at this time. She has completed and returned the committee's 2021 budget request to the Finance Committee.

DCM Call Report: Cynthia T., Area 29 Delegate and Jenna F., District 19 DCM have worked together to host a DCM online video conference call on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Jenna provided an overview of what of the

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

August 8th meeting in which various DCMs and Alternate DCMs gathers for a discussion on how to Districts which do not currently have a voice in Area 29 and A.A. Cynthia T. invited Area 50 Delegate Hank K. and several of Area 50 Trusted Servants to speak about their experiences in reigniting service in Area 50. Hank K.'s professional career affirmed that ego is an asset in the business world, but a liability in the spiritual work we do. He found it important to pick up a phone and call people as opposed to emailing or texting. General Service has a spiritual purpose. A.A. is a spiritual program, and it is a spiritual program of service. In terms of building the districts, "Who are the people in the district doing the work?" A reminder to explore the A.A. Service manual on pages S-23 and S-24, "Stimulating Interest in General Service". JoAnn of Area 50, District 19 spoke of her Service history in Florida and Pittsburgh where service was strong, prior to arriving in Area 50. When arriving in Area 50, she shared that she heard members saying of the General Service structure, "They have enough money", "They don't do anything for us". She remarked that folks were doing their own thing, there was no teamwork. A call for "little steps for little feet" when getting started in service. Brian of Area 50, District 16 who has also served as a Corrections Committee Chair, mentions that among many in the Area, little knowledge of the terms District or DCM existed. A reminder that GSR is not a title, it is a role, a job to be performed. There was a vast amount of service being performed in A.A. in the Area through the Central Committees. Folks performing A.A. service are the biggest beneficiaries of that work. We get well by performing service. A call to find the people doing the work and join them. Sue B. of Area 50, District 4 and a Panel 68 Co-Chair stated that Area 50, Districts 11, 19, and 22 had no DCMs in 2017. At first Sue spoke to having no idea as to what was occurring during Service Assemblies or other service gatherings and activities. She stuck around and grew to understand. We need to get the message out. Matt T. of Area 50, District 7 has served as a GSR, Alt-DCM and DCM. There are three sides to AA, Recovery, Unity and Service. Matt addressed the A.A. pamphlet P-16 "The A.A. Group ...where it all begins", page 16, which states "With membership comes the right to vote on issues that might affect the group and might also affect A.A. as a whole — a process that forms the very cornerstone of A.A.'s service structure." Serves as a guide for our Service work. Matt express their perspective that the use of "Zoom" in A.A. meeting messaging or directories is a 6th Tradition violation or should be examined as such. When it comes to service, the answer is always yes. There was various discussion with Area 29 DCMs, Alt-DCMs, and the panel of guests.

DCM Reports:

District 1, 3, and 4: No reports.

District 6: DCM Nancy H. reported District 6 meetings are held virtually on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Attendance down since they stopped in-person meetings. 12 meetings never went virtual and do not attend the District virtual meetings. One group that voted to stay virtual had several minority members left and start a new, in-person meeting which is currently unregistered. They both meet at the same day and time which is concerning. Each meeting has about 15 attendees.

District 7: DCM Mary M. reported the Delegate Report back by Cynthia T. was on September 9th. They hosted a successful workshop on 8/8/20 titled "Sponsorship in the Age of Zoom". Our 37th Annual Gratitude Breakfast is under reconfiguration. Possibly a virtual, "Bring your own Breakfast" held virtually at 9:00 a.m. and a Speaker at 10:00 a.m. Groups are in a flux about meetings virtual, hybrid and face-to-face.

District 9: No Report.

District 10: DCM Charles L., provided the following report by email that was presented by Craig T., Area 29 Secretary. District 10 has monthly meetings with 9-13 in attendance. 50% of groups in the District are still meeting. Some are beginning to change formats. Working on sending GSO a donation of \$600.00. Two Alternate GSRs are now GSRs. Workshop and play are still in limbo.

District 11 & 14: No Reports.

District 15: DCM Tyler J. reported that District 15 meets virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Attendance has been decent at 3-4 but challenging with the pandemic. They had 21 active meetings prior to the pandemic and that number has not changed. One face-to-face meeting and the balance are held virtually.

District 17 & 18: No Reports.

District 19: DCM Jenna F. reported that District 19 meets virtually on the 4th Saturday of the month. The DCM and Alt-DCM attended the last Area 29 DCM/Alt-DCM call which hosted a panel of guest from Area 50 in Western New York. All registered groups in District 19 are holding meetings in an online video conference call format except for three meetings. One is a hybrid format of online and in person, another is in person and with a telecoms only based call-in option, and the third went from an online format to a hybrid format, only to return to an online only format after unsuccessful attempts at

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE – AREA 29, PANEL 70

CONFIDENTIAL

meeting in person. A singular meeting has been formed, which meets in person, socially distanced, in a city park, however, is not registered with the District or the Area.

District 20: DCM Dave M. reported that District 20 meets face-to-face on the 3rd Sundays of each month. Practicing social distance and mask are required to attend. All activities are cancelled. District 20 has plenty of virtual meetings, some face-to-face outdoors, and face-to-face indoor meetings.

District 22, 23, 24, 25 & 27: No Reports.

District 28: DCM Jean B. reported District 28 is meeting virtually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Business was suspended at the last District meeting for the Delegate Report Back. District 11 and 30 were also invited to hear the Report Back. In May it was suggested that we as a District contribute to the GSO. GSR's took this back to their home groups. At the June meeting we discussed the results, and everyone agreed. The contribution to GSO was sent out in July. We have several meetings in our district that have returned to face-to-face meetings. Protocols are being followed in meetings that Jean is aware of. There were a couple of live meetings that have been suspended due to a member testing positive for Covid-19. No activities are planned at this time.

District 30, 31, 32, & 34: No Reports.

District 35: DCM Jeanine W. reported GSR attendance has declined since March 2020. Contributions have also declined. The 2020 contributions since March has totaled \$40. A vote was taken to cancel a Workshop on Steps 6 and 7 in October. It was decided that the workshop would be postponed indefinitely and would not be held virtually. Cynthia T. will be attending District 35 September meeting to speak about GSO finances.

District 36: DCM Brandi D. reported they have a core group that continues to attend the virtual District meetings which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. A few groups are unable to attend virtual meetings. They normally met at the Hollywood, MD Rescue Squad. The location has recently started to allow A.A. meeting to be held there. In the upcoming months we be talking about if we are going to resume meeting face-to-face. Group status is 24 groups temporary closed, 7 virtual groups, and 6 groups face-to-face with 5 outside & 1 inside. We have two new groups: Sisters in Recovery - virtual will be meeting face-to-face and Blue Top Improve meets 7 day a week at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The district has a new website district36mdaa.com/

District 37 & 38: No Reports.

District 39: DCM Jerry B. would like to get a virtual meeting account set up for the District 39 meetings. Plans to meet with Cynthia T. to accomplish this.

District 40: DCM Debbie P. reported that they sent out individual emails to encourage GSR's to attend District meeting. We have several hybrid meetings. A few face-to face with CDC guidance in place. There are a few pop-up meetings in local parks. We have 3 new GSR and one Alternate GSR. At the August 17, 2020, virtual District 40 meeting, Cynthia T. will provide the Delegate Report Back. District 33 will be joining us.

District 41: Alt. DCM Logan A. reported the District met on August 5th virtually and the following items were discussed and/or actions taken: 5 months of GV's are awaiting distribution. Some groups are beginning to take meetings into treatment centers. DCM and/or District Grapevine Chair have delivered bundles of the 5 months to the Let Go Let God GSR and Happy Hour GSR. Terry P. Area 29, Panel 70 provides a presentation at their first virtual workshop that was held on August 13th. The 2021 Proposed Budget will be presented to the District at the September District Meeting for GSRs to discuss with their groups. They hope to vote on the Budget at the November Meeting. The District GSRs and Alt GSRs present at the August District meeting voted unanimously to have their annual Fall Picnic in 2020. On Saturday, September 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. will be a virtual BYOBBQ! (Bring your own BBQ!). Area 29, Panel 70 Delegate Cynthia T. is the guest speaker sharing her Experience, Strength and Hope and our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. They decided to consider the creation of a District Archivist service position to start when the 2021 District Officers assume their roles. District Elections will be conducted on Wednesday, October 7th. Area 29, Panel 68 Past Delegate, Don B, will be proctoring the elections by 3rd Legacy Procedure at the virtual meeting.

District 42: DCM Diane F. reported that District 42 meets virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Linda P. is the new GSR for the Serenity at Seven Group. No events scheduled. Looking into a virtual workshop for the groups. District website redesign is on hold until they can meet face-to-face.

District 46: No Report.

CONFIDENTIAL

Break at 12:15 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m. with 48 members on the meeting.

SESSION THREE 3:50:00

Sharing Session - Bridging the Gap (BTG): Frank M., Treatment Chair opened the session by describing the purpose of a Sharing Session from the service material from General Service Office, SM F-111 “How To Conduct A Sharing Session”. Frank reviewed the history of the program starting back to the 1930’s with Bill W. taking alcoholic from Towns Hospital to A.A. meetings and Dr. Bob, along with Sister Ignatius starting a ward of alcoholic in St. Thomas Hospital where they reached over 5,000 alcoholics. This was the beginning of BTG, so it is not a new concept, it just what we have done with it. Frank then read page 1 from “BTG” pamphlet P-49 describing what a temporary contact in this program. Talking with DCMs, Frank realized that BTG is not working the way it should in some Districts. Some places it is working fine. In February, a survey was sent out to all the DCMs introducing himself as the new Treatment Chair and to find out what was going on. He received a response from approximately 18 Districts. Then COVID-19 came and the March Area Assembly along with the planned Sharing Session was cancelled. This is the first Assembly since that time. These are the three questions that the DCMs were requested to answer and a summary of their response. 1) To the best of your knowledge, have members of your District used BTG as a transition from treatment to A.A.? In general, BTG was not being used although some member did get ahold of a temporary contact when leaving treatment. 2) How busy were those that served as temporary contacts and do the newly discharged use them? The interest in being a temporary contact appears to be there, but they rarely get called. 3) Do treatment centers in your District know what BTG is and use it? This is very uneven within the Area. The discharged get lost when they leave. The process is too complex but does not need to be that way. Some are facilitated by the intergroup’s, District’s or regional coordinators in different parts of the Area. It was suggested to go to the Treatment Committee page on marylandaa.org for different links to information and forms to help facilitate a BTG program. Reviewing “How does the Temporary Contact (TC) sign-up process work”, you can realize how difficult we have made the process. Frank opened up conversation at the Assembly to share their experiences and answer this question: “What do we see as ways to improve the BTG in Area 29, to make this a vital twelfth step work more effective to carry the message to those newly discharged from treatment facilities?” All opinions matter, no conclusion will be reached today. Going to take what they hear and come up with a plan to make BTG more effective. A spirited discussion followed.

Old Business:

Jessica W., Area 29, Panel 70 Accessibilities Chair presented the motion, which was approved at the February 15, 2020 Area 29 Committee Meeting with a friendly amendment that increase the expenditure from \$4,500.00 to \$6,000.00.

Amended Motion: *“That an expenditure of \$6,000.00 (was \$4,500.00) 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. 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 recently and successfully interpreted two IGLC with good attendance and participation and learned a lot.

Following discussion, Jessica W. withdrew the motion. Jessica W. will contact Don B., Area 29, Panel 68 Past Delegate and Chair of the Board of Directors to present a new motion to the Board of Director to request funds for the use of services for Hispanic language translation/interpretation as a Accessibilities Committee line item so they can make the final recommendation to the Area Assembly in accordance with Amended Bylaws – Maryland General Service, under Article Three, Section 3.03 (c).

CONFIDENTIAL

Break at 2:13 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 2:18 p.m. with 39 members on the meeting.

SESSION FOUR

Kurt W., Area 29, Panel 70 Alternate Delegate and 2020 Mini Conference Co-Chair presented the motion, which was approved at the February 15, 2020 Area 29 Committee Meeting.

Motion the Floor: “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. Jenna F. provided a minority opinion. “Absolutely in support of it. I wanted to bring this issue, that this is going to be an ongoing problem every year and we should expand this address to make sure that it is in the budget every subsequent year. The way I read the motion; it is only for this year.” Motion to reconsider failed.

New Business: There was no New Business.

Sharing Session - Safeguarding the Group’s Money with a Bank Account: Bridgette F. Area 29 Finance Committee Co-Chair stated that its recommended that homegroups set up a business bank account. The reasons why are: to provide ease of disbursement for expenses such as rent, supplies, literature and disbursements of funds to other A.A. service entities; provide ongoing accurate record of income and expenses; transparency and good stewardship with basket monies; account can be used to establish online electronic payment systems in the group's name via PayPal or Venmo; and security against accidental loss or theft. Terry P., Area 29, Panel 70 Treasurer made the following suggestions on setting up a business bank account. Make an appointment at the bank with the person in charge of business accounts and bring all persons who will have signature authority. The bank may require a Tax ID. which can be obtained by fill out an SS-4 Tax ID Form (Employer Identification Number EIN) available online at IRS.Gov. Some banks will take business documents in lieu of Tax ID. Acceptable documents could be: Signed Group Conscience minutes designating the person(s) who are authorized to do banking; Business License; Certificate of Assumed Name; Organization/Association Articles or Bylaws; or Statement of Organization. You will need to verify with the bank on their requirements. Recommend at least two endorsements for checks or electronic transactions. This will require updating as people rotate into the group treasurer or GSR position. If you do get a Tax ID, you will be required to file a 990-N e-Postcard which is also available at IRS.Gov. This is to verify that your organization does not take in more than \$50,000.00 annually at which point they would have to register as a non-profit with the state and IRS. Following the presentation, Bridgette F. and Terry P. answered questions from the Assembly.

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry P. and seconded by Bridgette F. The Motion to close carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig T.
Area 29, Panel 70 Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL