

2019 Assembly Motions & Discussion Topics
Western Washington Area 72 Assembly – Longview, WA
October 4-6, 2019

Motions

- 1. Area 72 create an appointed Young People’s Chair Position. The Committee chair will be selected using the established process for appointed officers. The committee shall function like other standing committees at the Area level.**

Background:

Historical Problem: More and more young people are suffering and dying of alcoholism because they either are not being introduced to AA or they are not staying.

- In 2007, GSO’s triennial survey showed under 20s at 2.3% of our population, 2% in 2011 and dropped sharply to 1% in 2014.
- 2.5% of American youth aged 12-17 had a diagnosable Alcohol Use Disorder (623,000 people), while only 5.2% of those received treatment.
- In 2012, 1197 people aged 12-20 were admitted for alcohol abuse treatment in Washington- accounting for 10% of all treatment admissions in the state.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that, on average, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 4,358 young people under age 21 each year.

Response: As the result of this problem there has been a groundswell of service activities to carry the message to young people and to close the widening gap between these still suffering alcoholics and alcoholics anonymous. These service activities include:

- The creation of Young People’s meetings
- PI, Corrections, and Treatment work designed to carry the message to youth by taking panels into schools, juvenile facilities, and juvenile treatment centers.
- Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conferences; which have been recognized at the General Service Conference as being an integral part of AA as a whole.
- Workshops geared towards and facilitated by young people

District Solutions: Over the past few years a need developed within districts to coordinate the variety of service activities between groups-- thus districts began appointing Young Person’s Chair People.

- There are currently 16 districts within Area 72 who have appointed Young Persons Chairs as well as an appointed Eastside Intergroup Young Persons Chair
- These chairpersons have begun to perform the following activities within their districts:
 - Host and facilitate workshops
 - Creating young AA member call lists for answering services & hotlines
 - Providing young AA members to fill youth specific service needs on other committees such as PI, CPC, Treatments, Corrections etc
 - Starting and supporting young persons meetings within their districts

Current Problem: This growing attempt to fill the identified service need around young people has created a new set of difficulties within and between the districts with YP chairs and Area 72.

- There is a lack coordination between district chairs and the area.
- There is no area level facilitation for committee meetings such as quarterlies.

- There is no centralized point of contact within the area for other committees to fulfill service needs best provided by young people.
- Lack of communication at the area level for all the various YP activities occurring within the districts.

If passed we propose, Area 72 Young People Committee Chair Duties and Responsibilities:

- Communicate with Area Committee the needs of the districts and groups regarding service opportunities for young AA members.
- Facilitate quarterlies to improve communication between District Chairs and provide summaries of these meetings to the Area Committee.
- Coordinate service needs of all Area Committees where there is a need for young people participation.(high school panels, juvenile corrections facilities, youth treatment centers etc)
- Provide a single point of contact at the Area level for Districts or groups that have service needs relating to young people that do not currently have Young People Chairs.
- Give written and verbal reports monthly to newsletter, Quarterlies or Assemblies.
- Attend all Area 72 Quarterlies and Assembly
- Expenses/Reimbursement same as/equal to other appointed committee officers.

Primary Purpose: “The Area 72 Young Peoples in AA standing committee, encourages young people to enter into the mainstream of AA Recovery, Service, and Unity through the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts for World Service. Young People's groups are in no way separate from Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Members are involved in, and committed to all levels of AA service. Age is not a requirement for a young people’s group. Young people’s groups and activities directed towards young people in AA are helpful tools in reaching young alcoholics who might otherwise not give AA a try for many more years, if at all.” (Taken from New Mexico AA Area 46)

Basic function of Young People’s Committee: Assist young people in finding service opportunities, connect young people with members of AA of all ages, provide resources, references and contacts to start and/or find young people oriented meetings. (Area 46 New Mexico). We strive to: Support young alcoholics in their recovery, promote unity among alcoholics of all ages, encourage young members of A.A. to participate in A.A.’s General Service Structure. (Area 31 Western Massachusetts)

Defining scope, differentiating between the existing standing committees that exist:

- **Accessibilities:** While there are no special A.A. members, some members need help to receive the A.A. message. “In A.A., Guidelines Accessibility for All Alcoholics, Accessibility issues apply to all alcoholics who have difficulties participating in Alcoholics Anonymous, whether those difficulties are mental, physical, geographic, cultural, ethnic, spiritual, or emotional. For the purpose of these Guidelines in defining the accessibility issues that many alcoholics face, we refer primarily to persons who have visual and auditory challenges, those who are housebound or chronically ill, those who are living with the effects of brain damage or stroke, and many others who may have less visible challenges.” Young people are an identified populous that fall outside the guidelines of the Accessibility committee because their limitations to entry are not physical barriers.
- **Corrections:** The single purpose of the Area 72 Corrections Committee is to facilitate A.A. members in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who is confined in a correctional facility. Our primary activities are: We coordinate with District Chairpersons, Correctional Facility Contact persons, and A.A. volunteers to take A.A. meetings into correctional facilities. We help to provide A.A. conference approved literature, Grapevines, and La Vinas for inmates incarcerated in the following: Washington State

Correctional Facilities and Prisons, Federal Prisons located in the State of Washington, and Juvenile lockdown Facilities.

While Juvenile Facilities are covered under the scope of the corrections committee, the services, literature, and processes for entering facilities and housing juveniles are quite extensive. A young person's chair, in being geared specifically towards the young alcoholic, would be available to assist with the specific and sometimes time-consuming processes involved with juveniles.

- **Public Information:** Public Information (P.I.) committees in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. If you are sober and have a desire to serve, you can help! When they've had enough, we want A.A. to be there in the yellow pages, on the bus signs, etc. – and that's Public Information. While reaching the still suffering young alcoholic does include work with the general public, this position encompasses the young alcoholic who is already a member of AA, as well as the still suffering alcoholic who maybe is not a member of the general public (ie; young people in institutions, treatment facilities, etc).
- **Treatment:** The Area 72 Treatment Facilities Committee has one purpose: To help A.A. members carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into Treatment Facilities, and help "Bridge the Gap" between Facilities and A.A. If you are sober and have a desire to serve, we need your help! While 10% of all treatment admittances in Washington state are people under the age of 21 there are also a large number of Young People outside of treatment facilities who are still suffering. A Young Persons chair would work with treatment with regards to the special needs presented in youth/young adult treatment facilities. Thus, a Chair would encompass a much larger cross section of young people rather than just those in treatment.
- **In Conclusion:** The proposed Young Person's Standing Committee does not fit within the boundaries of any current existing standing committee. Although there is some overlap with regards to duties, the overall scope of the need and subsequent motion is outside of the duties currently defined by any other committee.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do you determine what a young person is?**
 - GSO's Pamphlet entitled Young People and AA says that young people are generally ages 30 and under. We as members of AA like to say young at heart with room to grow. We have also encountered a number of newcomers/members as young as 13 years old.
- **This position seems like it would separate from the primary purpose of AA, how is this supposed to be viewed?**
 - This position, as in all Area positions, is designed to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, and to coordinate, communicate and facilitate the service activities within our Area. We are trying to unite groups of people so we can be more effective in servicing AA and bring more cohesion amongst districts around Area 72.
- **Don't the committee chairs already cover these responsibilities?**
 - The idea is not to take away the service of other committees, but to better enhance that service by providing a single point of contact and an avenue of communication between the committees. This position will be a resource for other committee chairs where they have service needs that might be best served by a young person relating to another young person. All current Chairs have overlapping responsibilities.

- **How would this position be filled?**
 - This position would be an appointed in exactly the same way as other appointed Committee Chairs.
- **Would this position be filled by a young person?**
 - Again, this position would be filled exactly the same way as other appointed Committee Chairs, without restrictions or other specifications.
- **Are there any examples from other Areas to mirror?**
 - Glad that you ask! Yes, there are 5 Areas with Liaison or Chair positions Area 8 (San Diego), 11 (Connecticut), 18 (Idaho), 31 (Western Massachusetts), and 46 (New Mexico). There are descriptions of what these positions look like that could be mirrored in our Area.
- **Why wouldn't this position be better placed under an existing committee?**
 - With the existing level of service activities, and with the existing numbers of District Chairs, the volume of activity would engulf any existing committee and detract from their other activities. There is already sufficient activity to support a stand-alone chair, and the activities are continuing to grow. In addition, as a resource, this position needs to be able to coordinate with all other existing Committees.
- **Would having a Young People's Chair create more special interest groups?**
 - Young People in AA are not a special interest group. Young people are in all aspects of the AA community - Corrections, Treatment, Literature, etc. The need for this Area position has developed from the service needs of our area and the response to those needs by Groups and Districts, which has now generated the need for Area coordination. Any service need, or service area that develops sufficient activity to warrant Area support and coordination can always be considered.
- **Final Thoughts**
 - "AA is shaped by the collective voice of its local groups and their representatives to the General Service Conference" (P-16 The AA Group). As local groups have chosen to label young people as an identified service need, rather than a special interest group, they have integrated their presence into the service structure starting at the level of the group, as this grows the service need moved to the districts, and now we ask to move it to the area-- following with the dictated structure of our service.
 - Some A.A.s come together as specialized A.A. groups — for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics, and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an A.A. group, they may call themselves an A.A. group." (P-16 The AA Group).

Funding:

- This position would be budgeted the same as other existing committees/chairs, and would adhere to the normal budgeting processes for the Area:
 - CREDIT LINE: \$500 (literature)
 - EXPENSES reimbursed by Western Washington Area:
 - WW Area 72 Quarterly meetings (3 per yr.) and Assembly: Travel, meals, lodging, registration.
 - Quarterly meeting (4 per yr.) Travel
 - Communication Expenses: mail (postage), general supplies (envelopes, copies, etc.)

- Any additional expenses would be submitted to the Treasurer during budget preparation and would be considered as part of the budgeting process which is subject to approval by the Area Committee as a whole.

Estimated Funding

- Literature \$500
- Printing \$100
- Estimated Travel, meals and lodging for quarterlies etc.. \$2000
- Total estimated cost \$2600.00

Considerations: Tradition 3, 4, 7 and 9

Sources Cited

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2. We move to change our name to Western Washington Area 72.

Background:

- Our Area's name that is registered with the IRS is: "Western Washington Area of Alcoholics Anonymous."
- Mailing Area Newsletter
 - Bulk Mailing Permit - when the Area Newsletter is mailed out each month we are required to use our official name in order to qualify for the bulk mail non-profit rate which is approximately 30% less than the normal mailing rate.
 - In order to protect the anonymity of our Area newsletter recipients, we have instead been using Western Washington Area 72. This issue is not new. Multiple past newsletter editors have reported the same struggle.
 - Last rotation this issue caused the results in mailing delays and/or the requirement to use the standard postal rate (~30% increase).
 - Last rotation the newsletter editor negotiated with USPS to leave the name off entirely with the commitment to find a permanent solution this year.
- One of the reasons the name change came up was concerning the anonymity of Area officers. As a 501c3 our tax returns are publically available and all of the Area officer's full names are on our tax return. BUT... Just because your name is on a tax return does not necessarily mean you are an alcoholic, it means you are on the "board" of our non-profit.

Additional Considerations:

- In the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" (P-16), on page 8 it states: "We do not put "A.A." on envelopes sent through the mail, not even on correspondence directed to A.A. entities."
- We are Alcoholics Anonymous
- What if we put the newsletter in an envelope like the Grapevine? Doesn't solve the issue as we must have our official name in the return address space to qualify for bulk mailing non-profit rate.
- What if we used first name and last initial on the bulk mailing?
- What if we replaced the recipient's name with "resident" on the mailing?
- Trusted servants are named on the tax return which is viewable by anyone. Being on the tax return does not mean that you are an alcoholic.

- 3. We move that we fully fund Appointed Committee Chairs to attend national workshops/conferences that have G.S.O. participation and that supports their responsibilities to the area. This motion would replace motion 10.1 and 15.2. Appointed Committee Chairs that attend national workshops/conferences will provide detailed reports to their respective committees, to the archives, and to the area. The funding would be approved through the regular budgeting process which relies on available funding and approval at the January Quarterly by the body.**

The Adhoc committee report provided at the July quarterly includes all the background information for both travel motions and is included below.

- 4. We move that we fully fund all the elected officers to attend PRAASA annually. This motion is in addition to Motion 75.2, which funds the Delegate to attend PRAASA. The elected officers who attend PRAASA will provide detailed reports to the archives and to the area. The funding would be approved through the regular budgeting process which relies on available funding and approval at the January Quarterly by the body.**

The Adhoc committee report provided at the July quarterly includes all the background information for both travel motions and is included below.

Additional Considerations:

In regard to funding appointed committee chairs to national workshops and conferences – PRAASA and PNC are excluded.

Area Motion 10.1: That the Area fund the Area Archivist to attend the NAAAW (National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop) annually, covering travel, lodging, registration and meal expenses.

Area Motion 15.2: Area 72 fund our Web Servant to annually attend the National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop.

Area Motion 75.2: A resolution was made and passed that the Delegate's expenses be paid for the Area Assembly, three Area Committee Meetings, Pacific Region Service Assembly, the General Service Conference at G.S.O. in April, and all trips required to report on the General Service Conference. [Travel expenses portion superseded by 17.1]

Area Motion: 17.1: "Move to amend motion 06.3 to read: Area elected and appointed trusted servants, steering committee members, and the Corrections Bridge and Corrections Literature coordinators will be reimbursed for travel costs required in the performance of the responsibility of their position. Said reimbursements to cover costs (mileage, travel fees, lodging, and meals)."

Ad-Hoc Committee on funding elected and appointed trusted servants to attend service workshops and conferences summary.

Committee Members

Eddy M-M (Chair/Area Webmaster)
Geene F (Alt Delegate)

Frank (Area Treasurer)

Keith M (Past Delegate Panel 61 Utah)

Carol H (OSD Chair) David L (AA Member) Michael B (GSR)
Robin M (AA Member)

Objectives

- Discuss funding service workshops/conferences for area appointed and elected trusted servants.
- Benefits/Value to Area, Cost, Equitable, etc.
- Set some criteria necessary to disseminate information back to the area.

Background Info

Minutes from 2019 January Area Quarterly

Discussion Topic 1: Funding Service Workshops/Conferences for Area Appointed and Elected Trusted Servants.

Benefits/Value to Area, Cost, Equitable, etc. How do we best handle this to make it fair and be responsible with the money coming from the groups?

- Where is the value? Rather money went to still suffering alcoholic than to Chairperson's vacation. It's hard to see how sending the Chair helps the Committees - especially an outgoing Chair.
- This information gets lost after the rotation ends.
- The info learned at the workshops DOES get passed on to the incoming Chair. A lot of valuable connection and information is gained during the "off" times – breaks, dinner, travel, etc.
- Individual Committees could raise money to send their Chair if they think it is important. If 20 people gave \$20, that would be significant.
- Maybe we should have an application process for Chairs who would like to attend a workshop. Like a grant?
- At PRAASA, Courtney will be discussing this with other Area Treasurers to see how they handle it.
- Good to do but we need criteria that can be met – what will be done to share the info to Area.
- These things can be attended electronically via Skype/Facetime. The whole workshop can be put on a thumb drive and used that way.
- These workshops are valuable tools. It's a money thing. Of course, we would send all of our servants if it was financially feasible.
- We need to know how much this would cost before we can speak to it.
- How much would it cost to send each Chair once per rotation?
- Do all of the Chairs even want to go?
- What's \$600 to go to a conference if it saves a life?
- We should trust the Finance Committee to decide – if we have cash, yes. If we don't, no.
- Fundraisers?

- Take the money it costs to print and mail the Newsletter and use it here. Do Newsletter electronically.

An ad hoc committee will be formed to further investigate this and set some criteria necessary to disseminate information.

Summary of committee work:

Our committee met five times between the January and July Quarterly. The committee defined the scope of the work, goals of the committee, created a framework and came up with possible questions that we wanted to look at. Some of those questions included:

- Who/when has national/regional workshops/conferences?
- How long have the web and archivist been going to conferences and what have been the benefits received?
- Where should the “value of attending” choice be made?
- Determine what recommendations to make to the body?
- Look at the cause and effect of attending the workshop
- Do we need to spend money just because it’s there?
- Will giving a flat amount (or cap) exclude someone who cannot make up the difference?
- How do we keep the districts/committees engaged about keeping the committee chair accountable to share and pass on the learned info?
- What is the best method of providing a report back after the workshop? (website, emails, newsletter, report-back events, reports at quarterlies/assemblies, etc.)

Budget/Financial

We also talked about why we send money to GSO instead of spending in the area, reviewed the current budget process and determined additional financial considerations. Below is the info:

Current Budget Process

- A proposed annual budget is created by the Treasurer using the following guidelines:
 - Forecast contributions based on previous years trends.
 - Consultation with existing Committee Chairs on financial needs for the year.
 - Review of previous year’s expenditures to determine requirements, and current pricing – with assistance and guidance from the Alt. Treasurer
 - Review of area motions to ensure that activities directed by the Area are accounted for in the budget.
- This would include forecasting expenditures for Elected Servants to attend PRASSA and Committee Chairs to attend national conferences
 - The Treasurer may solicit input, review and proposed changes from the Area Finance Committee, past Area Treasurers, outside accountants, etc., for assistance in the creation of the final proposed budget.
- The proposed budget is presented, discussed and is ultimately approved or denied via group conscience at the January Quarterly by the Area DCMs and voting Committee members.
 - Forecasted expenditures for Elected Servants to attend PRASSA and Committee Chairs to attend national conferences would be expressly identified in the proposed budget.

- Budget limits by Committee are disseminated to Committee Chairs and Electeds to communicate annual spending limits.
- Area business takes place.
- Transactions are entered and reviewed by Area Trusted Servants. The Treasurer records incoming contributions and receipts of funds, the Alt. Treasurer records expenses and disbursements.
 - Based on actual results – incoming and outgoing – the Treasurer and Alt Treasurer may determine the need to adjust budget limits accordingly.
- At every Quarterly the Treasurer and Alt. Treasurer report on actual results, and provide guidance on remaining year, including any adjustments determined.
- The DCMs and voting members approve the budget report via group conscience at each Quarterly.
- Annually, the Treasurer determines excess funds, Working Reserve needs. These calculations are reviewed and agreed upon by the Treasurer, Alt Treasurer and Finance Committee.
- Excess funds are contributed to GSO and are reported in the January quarterly and are approved via group conscience as part of the Treasurer's Report.

Additional Financial Considerations

- These recommendations do not guarantee attendance annually. As with all area expenditures, budgets are limited by contributions. If contributions are forecast to be less than expenses, the Area Committee will make decisions on what services/expenses should be reduced to ensure that the area remains self-supporting.

Additional Financial Questions

- Could “excess” funds that would have been sent to GSO be used for this funding?
- Why would we send one person to an event when that money could be used to help many?
- Since 2014, the area has given GSO excess funds

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 2014 | \$ 9,164.39 |
| 2015 | \$ 14,679.78 |
| 2016 | \$ 18,504.54 |
| 2017 | \$ 14,454.06 |
| 2018 | \$ 10,200.50 |
| Total | \$ 67,003.27 |

| Cost for Delegate to attend PRAASA | |
|---|--------------------|
| 2014 | \$ 693.50 |
| 2015 | \$ 941.10 |
| 2016 | \$ 511.42 |
| 2017 | \$ 678.21 |
| 2018 | \$ 766.78 |
| 2019 | \$ 814.35 |
| Total | \$ 4,414.36 |
| Annual Average | \$ 735.73 |

| Cost for Appointed Servants to attend national workshops or conferences | |
|--|--------------------|
| 2017 Total | \$ 3,290.99 |
| Archivist | \$ 1,185.09 |
| Webmaster | \$ 1,235.90 |
| Corrections | \$ 870.00 |
| 2018 Total | \$ 1,734.36 |
| Archivist | \$ 902.36 |
| Webmaster | \$ 832.00 |
| Average Cost | \$ 1,005.00 |

Communication/Report Back

The committee compiled a list of report back methods that would help with passing the info to the area as a whole. Suggestions on those methods include:

- Area 72 Website
- Area, Intergroup, and District newsletters
- Area Quarterlies
- Special Workshops
- Fridays at Area Assembly
- Special speaking by invite from districts or homegroups
- A final/summary report will be provided to archives

Suggestions on the content of the report back include:

- What was the purpose of the workshop attended?
- What were the main topics/workshops?
- Why did you pick those topics over other topics?
- How did other areas handle these topics?
- Did a solution worth implementing in A72 come up?
- What was it and how can we implement it?
- Does it affect other standing committees?
- Will you report back to these committees or provide info?
- Who else was at the event (other areas, officers, etc)?
- How long did the event last?
- Schedule/Agenda
- How does this help us serve the still suffering?

Emails were sent out on April 10th to the following areas in the Pacific Northwest Region:

Alaska
Arizona
California Northern Coastal
Mid. Southern California
Southern California
Hawaii
Idaho
Nevada
Oregon
Utah

Did not receive responses from Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. Below are the responses from the Areas that did respond.

Travel from other Areas

The committee also felt it was important to reach out to other areas in the Pacific Region to see what they did. Below is the summary of that:

PRAASA

Does your Area fund send your Alt. Delegate, Chair, Alt Chair, Treasurer and Alt. Treasurer to PRAASA? If yes, which trusted served? And does the Area fund all of the travel or a portion of the travel? Does the Area send the person both years of the rotation or only one time?

Arizona - Area 03 - Area 3 funds the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Area Chair to PRAASA both years of the rotation. All travel and lodging and any event banquet funded. Part of our budget.

California Northern Coastal - Area 06 - Our area typically sends the alternate delegate and a third officer (chosen from the hat) every year to PRAASA. Exceptions could be if money were tight, we might not send a third person. Travel is fully funded at single occupancy.

Mid. Southern California - Area 09 - In Area 09, we have seven officers. The Delegate is given their own budget to attend PRAASA. The other six officers split \$2,500 evenly, which determines how much can be paid. For example, my allotted amount for PRAASA (\$2,500 split six ways) is \$416 and my hotel costs were \$462. I asked for the entire amount because not all of the other five officers used their full allotted amount.

California Northern - Area 07 - All of our Officers are fully funded and the Committee chairs partially to PRAASA. This may vary a bit in leaner years but generally the case. We do this every year.

Southern California - Area 05 - The Delegate and Alternate Delegate are fully funded and we have \$500 budgeted for all other officers.

Other Travel

Do you send committee chairs such as treatment, corrections, web, archives etc to their national or regional conference? If yes, does the Area fund all of the travel or a portion of the travel? Does the Area send the person both years of the rotation or only one time?

Arizona - Area 03 - Each of our standing committee chairs has a set budget. If the committee chair plans on attending and the cost exceeds their budget a request is made by the coordinator for funding to attend. To this point such request has not been denied. For example, our Corrections Coordinator has had funding approved to attend the National Corrections Conference every year since it began. The funding covers all travel and lodging and any Saturday evening event banquet.

California Northern Coastal - Area 06 - Each year, we send one member of Archives, Bridging the Gap and our web committee to the National Archives and Bridging the Gap workshops and NAATW. Motions were passed to add these items to our budget each year, but we still have the committee make a housekeeping motion in advance, so we can be sure funds are available. It isn't always the chair that goes--each committee selects the member who will attend on their behalf.

Mid. Southern California - Area 09 - Each of our Committee Chairs is given a discretionary budget. Most of these are about \$400/year. It is up to the discretion of each Chair to decide how to spend the money. I don't think many use their funds for national workshops. Most use their money for local events. Each Chair has the ability to ask for more money, which would need to be presented as a motion and passed or not.

California Northern - Area 07 - We do send our chairpersons to Archives, Bridging the Gap, and Technology Workshop. We send the current chair to both years if they wish to attend. They are funded in full. For what it is worth, we fund our Delegate to attend the Pacific Regional Forum.

Southern California - Area 05 - We have \$125.00 budgeted for each committee chair to help with expenses for travel only to PRAASA.

FUNDING

If funding does occur for travel to PRAASA, regional forums or national conference for committees, what is the mechanism that triggers it each year? Is it something automatically budgeted for? Was it a motion that created the travel? Are there any other ways your Area is making the decision on how to select which trusted servants to send to which event? Is it a lottery? First come first serve.

Arizona - Area 03 - Area 3 budgets sending our Delegate, Alt Delegate, and Chair to PRAASA and Regional Forums. We also Budget sending our Delegate to the International Convention every 5 years.

Our standing committee chairs request funding to attend events. For example, our Remote Communities Coordinator requested funding to attend the Special Forum last year because the theme was Native Peoples and he felt it would be helpful in his service position. So basically, outside of our budgeted travel items, our servants make case by case request. The approval process is dependent on the amount requested.

This seems to work for us because our coordinators get to choose what they feel is important and if they are available to attend such events. These events are not part of the coordinator job description, if they were, then we would have to budget for them.

California Northern Coastal - Area 06 - Motions are how all items like this were added to the budget in the first place. PRAASA is automatic. As noted above, the committees do a housekeeping motion as a formality each year for the various workshops. For the Hispanic Women's Workshop in CA, the area officers have appointed liaisons each year we didn't host and a regular motion is made to fund travel.

(One of these years, we will likely have a motion to add to the budget and then can do the housekeeping process each year.) For the third area officer funded to PRAASA, we wouldn't fund the same person more than once and people choose whether or not to put their name in the hat. That happens at our officer meeting.

Mid. Southern California - Area 09 - I can't recall the timing, but we ask each Committee Chair to indicate if their current budget is sufficient or does it need to be increased. Our Finance Committee then creates an annual proposed budget based on these numbers. After several meetings discussing the proposed budget, there is a formal vote for the final budget, which is completed every year.

California Northern - Area 07 - We fund traditionally based on duties that include attending events, it is discussed during the Spending Plan discussions every year

Southern California - Area 05 Yes. This is in our budget process.

PRAASA

The committee reviewed the value of attending the Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) and we believe there are great benefits to both individuals and to the fellowship. The results are demonstrated by members becoming better informed about the process and procedures of carrying our life-saving message to the still suffering alcoholics. Specifically, current and fundamental aspects of General Service concepts and procedures are reviewed and discussed. Consistently the area host committee responsible for the PRAASA agenda blends current hot topic issues with traditional methods of carrying our message. In addition to 20 to 25 individual panel presentations, there are workshops on each of our standing chair committee assignments. Both the Delegates Ask-it-Basket and Past Trustee's sharing session offer incredible information and institutional knowledge and solutions to problems that we cannot get anywhere else.

Keith M. Panel 61 Area 69 past delegate says: "Personally, this annual event, held in early March, has provided the spiritual rocket fuel boost that's added to my general service work since 1995 when I was a first-year GSR. As I have moved through a variety of Group, District, and Area general service assignments, there has always been a PRAASA presentation and/or workshop that has provided help to me in serving our fellowship. PRAASA creates a unique learning opportunity for our leaders of the future and as a result, we all serve better and are more informed about the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Discussion Topics – there is no background provided because this is a time for you and your groups to share your ideas! Let’s hear ‘em!

- 1. Area Newsletter – share your suggestions and ideas on the Area newsletter in regard to: frequency, format & content.**
- 2. How can our Area improve communication & information sharing with each other, with professionals & with the still suffering alcoholics?**