

Area/Convention Relationship Task Force Supporting Information for Appendix to WSO G20

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to share with the fellowship the Task Force thought process and the legacies considered to reach the Task Force conclusions.

1) Frequency of Convention:

What is the best frequency to hold VT Conventions? Remembering that VT has a smaller pool of volunteers than many other areas, should it be every year? Every two years? Three years?

Conclusion: The Task Force concluded that our Convention would best keep its energy and momentum if it was held annually.

Supporting Legacies: Tradition 1 – Unity
Tradition 11 – Attraction
Concept 4 - Participation

2) Election of Convention Chairperson:

Convention Chairperson: Who chooses and when? What happens if no one steps up – then what? We used Item 2 under the Planning a Convention section of Convention Guidelines G-20, changing the language to demonstrate a members' willingness to stand voluntarily, to be read:

The Chairperson is elected at the Assembly;* each Al-Anon and Alateen group encourages a convention committee person to attend planning meetings and a committee is formed from among these members.

* The first opportunity to stand or nominate for Chairperson of the Convention to be held the following year (2019) is at 2018 Spring Assembly; the second opportunity to stand or nominate is at 2018 Fall Assembly. Critical positions needing to be filled by Fall Assembly are Chairperson, Co-Chairperson (combined with role of Secretary for communication), Treasurer, and Registrar. The best practice seems to be the Co-Chairperson will always be a position that shadows the Chair and is mentored to stand as Chair the following year. (The Co-Chair will be elected every year. The Treasurer and Registrar are part of the Convention Committee, and are not elected positions).

Conclusion: The Task Force concluded that the Chair and Co-Chair be elected by the Assembly and the Chair should have voice and vote on the AWSC. The Chair/Co-Chair reports regularly to the AWSC/Area with updates and financial information.

Area/Convention Relationship Task Force Supporting Information for Appendix to WSO G20

Supporting Legacies: Tradition 4 – Autonomy
Tradition 9 - Rotation
Concept 3 – Mutual trust

3) Go/No Go Resolution:

Go/No Go Resolution: To allow for members to search themselves for willingness and to resolve any personal conflicts to serving as Chair/Co-Chair, if necessary the NO GO will be at the end of the last Fall Assembly prior to the Convention. This gives lots of time to get the word out (several times) that the time is near expiration to help carry out our annual Convention that we all love. If, by Fall Assembly, the positions have not been filled, the Assembly agrees there will be no Convention the following year. The Task Force recommends the positions still be announced with enthusiasm and encouragement for the year following the no-convention year.

Conclusion: The Task Force concluded that if by the Fall Assembly prior to the Convention a Chair and Co-Chair are not in place, the Assembly agrees there will be no convention in the up-coming year.

Supporting Legacies: Step 4 – Searching and Fearless
Step 12 – Carrying the Message
Concept 12 – Spiritual Foundation – Warranties 1-5

4) Determination of Convention Location:

Choice of venue would be determined by in-coming Convention Chairperson. If this presented as an obstacle to serving in the Chair position, choices include using the same venue as previous year, thereby eliminating some footwork; or that Convention Committee could enlist the help of a facility liaison (and there are certainly more ways to overcome that obstacle than we are imagining). The venue would be chosen/booked by mid-July through mid-August for the following year's Convention. Expressions were made against using the same location every year, citing enthusiasm in attending and maybe attendance itself may fall off as repeat attendees have “been there, done that.” We leaned toward trusted servants having creative autonomy in their Convention planning and leadership.

Conclusion: The Task Force concluded that it is the task of the in-coming Convention Chairperson as a trusted servant to select the convention location.

Supporting Legacies: Tradition 2 – Trusted Servants
Concept 3 – Right of Decision
Concept 10 – Carefully Defined Service Authority

Area/Convention Relationship Task Force Supporting Information for Appendix to WSO G20

5) Financial:

The Task Force is in strong agreement to keep the current Convention checking account open, due to the difficulty of opening and closing and changing accounts. This will also provide continuity for budgeting purposes. There are two signers on the current Convention account i.e. the Convention Treasurer and the Convention Chair. At this point in time it is deemed \$3000* is adequate seed money, to be maintained as its own line item on the Area budget** (but held in a separate account). Any proceeds beyond seed money are to be distributed within the fellowship at the discretion of the Convention Committee trusted servants.

In an effort to demonstrate collaboration and transparency, the Area Treasurer will review the bank statement monthly and bring forward questions. Between Assemblies, the AWSC (Area) advocates for Convention success and may be consulted for help and guidance. Area 56 will have a document listing the AWSC/Assembly responsibilities in this relationship (to be created at a later date for review and approval).

*to be reviewed annually and adjusted for inflation where necessary.

**line item maintained every year whether or not the Convention held that year; listed as income and expense.

Conclusion: The Task Force concluded that the Convention account remains open with seed money amount of \$3000. Two signers will always be on the account. Symbolically, seed money will be a line item on income and expense sides of the Area budget. In an effort to demonstrate collaboration and transparency, the Area Treasurer will review the bank statement monthly. After expenses, any proceeds beyond seed money are to be distributed within the fellowship at the discretion of the Convention Committee trusted servants.

Supporting Legacies: Tradition 7 – Self-supporting
Concept 2 – Accountability
Concept 9 – Good Personal Leadership
Concept 12 – Warranty 1 – Prudent Financial Principle