

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

17 September 2020

Well, we survived another virtual area assembly and it seems that we are getting better at it. Many thanks to those who made it happen. Certainly, we will be doing this again in November. After that...?

We talked about the challenges facing the Area last Saturday. Specifically the effect the COVID situation has had on our committees. In spite of the lockdown, Past Delegate Marc J. has been able to reassemble the Grapevine/La Vina Committee and turn it into a dynamic unit. Their workshop, scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> on Zoom, looks to be an exciting and stimulating event. I urge all who are able to attend. Not quite as visible, but equally exciting has been the revitalization of our Newsletter Committee headed by Roxane R. and Monty C. The result is there for all to see – a beautiful September issue, expanded from previous ones. As it is all digital, no trees died to bring it to you. It is available on the website and I am hoping that, if you enjoy it, you would consider submitting something to be shared with the Fellowship.

This year we have a situation in which previously budgeted funds will not be used as planned. The situation was created by the COVID-19 shutdown. The area now faces somewhat of a challenge. If we do nothing, at the end of the year we will have a sizable balance and, as per our Structure and Guidelines, we will send a portion of that to GSO. That would not be a bad thing. Funds are needed there and are used for good purpose. However, as we heard from Jerry at the Assembly, the financial situation at GSO has improved over the past few months and is not critical.

As most of our groups who support the Area financially also send a portion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds collected to GSO, one can assume that those groups wish to have the money sent to SDIAA to be used within the Area. Therefore we are looking at ways to reallocate budgeted funds that will not be used for the intended purpose to other worthwhile projects within the Area. I am sure that the Groups, Districts, and Committees in the area can come up with a few.

We will be asking for submission of those plans and projects which can be reviewed by the Finance Committee, the Area Committee, and eventually by the Area Assembly. As we have only one regular Assembly left on the Calendar, the Budget Assembly on 11/7, this may make it necessary to conduct a special assembly just to deal with this issue. There is nothing in our Structure and Guidelines which would prevent us from doing this. As all the other trappings of a regular assembly would not be needed, and it would be digital, this is something that could take place in an evening, a weekend afternoon, a couple of hours would be sufficient.

Lastly we will be setting the dates for some of next year's assemblies. It is tough to plan when we don't know if they will be in person or on Zoom, or both? We can at least get dates set. Thank you all for your service!