

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

15 October 2020

We are now seven months into the COVID shutdown and there seems to be no end in sight. I believe that Alcoholics Anonymous and its members have survived at least as well as the general population. Virtual meetings have expanded our horizons and made things like "doing 90 in 90" a lot easier and cheaper – zero gas guzzling and no wear and tear on the old '89 Geo Metro. While there is no substitute for handshakes and hugs, as one person told me, "At least now I can see my friends faces and not the backs of their heads!"

Our finances are in great shape, to the extent the we have more money in the treasury than we anticipate spending before the end of the year. While the groups have remained generous in their support of the Area, our expenses have dropped because we no longer are having live events which require costs such as rent and mileage. Tonight, we will have a report on some of the projects which have been submitted by the Fellowship in order to use these funds for good purpose within Area 8. As you know a portion of our excess year-end funds is sent to GSO and that is also money well spent.

Speaking of money, on November 7th we will have our Budget Assembly. As you may know the process of developing our budget for the following year begins in February. The 2021 budget, or more specifically the Area spending plan, will reflect plans for a "normal" year. Most will agree that 2020 has been anything but "normal", but no one can predict the extent of the shutdown in 2021. We will deal with things as they come and hopefully make adjustments along the way.

Tonight, we will hear a motion proposing dissolution of the Agenda Committee. The committee has been dormant and not met since the shutdown. Its prescribed duties are adequately being handled in other ways. It should be noted that there is no mention of the need for an area agenda committee in the Service Manual and, as far as we can tell, there is only one other area (out of 93) which has had one.

Lastly, I will call your attention to some upcoming events which will take place on Zoom. Pandemic Pandemonium Town Hall #2 will be next Thursday (10/22). The first one was great, the sequel should be even better! The final Budget Workshop is scheduled for 10/31. Last chance to get your questions answered in a more intimate setting than the cavernous Assembly Hall. Finally remember our ROOTS, scheduled for Sunday 11/29, a new format this year. And, just when you thought the party was over – a virtual New Year's Alkathon! Flyers for all these events are on the website <area8aa.org> CU there!

Blaine H.

