

Mar 24, 2024

Unfinished Business

1.Submitted by Area Budget and Finance Committee

- Proposed Area 57 Policy and Procedure Change

AREA P&P C-2a Operating and C-3a Savings Accounts

- Today the P&P *requires* us to have 2 different banks.
- *By unanimous vote, the Area 57 Budget & Finance Committee recommends the following Policy & Procedure language be removed:*

C-2 Operating Account

The Operating Account is an account in which a sum sufficient for the day-to-day operations of Area Committee business shall be maintained. It is suggested a balance equal to three months operating expenses be maintained.

- a. ~~The Operating Account will be maintained in a different financial institution from the Savings Account.~~ No one individual may be a signer on more than one account.

C-3 Savings Account

The Savings Account will contain the funds beyond the day-to-day operational needs of the Area Committee.

- a. ~~Savings Account will be maintained at a different financial institution from the Operating Account.~~

Why is the Committee making this recommendation?

- Current language no longer adds any special control or security and is counter-productive as it makes banking more complex, time-consuming, expensive, and prevents using the “best” current banking alternative for both accounts.
- We must move our Business Checking / Operating account to another bank. The Committee has determined that Arvest is the best choice for multiple reasons; including because it is the bank with whom we hold our Savings / Prudent Reserve.
- Security: In a one bank scenario two separate accounts are established with “No one individual” being

“a signer on more than one account”. Therefore, no one person has either full access or any operational capabilities with both accounts at any time.

- Online banking enables multiple designated individuals to view / monitor accounts 24/7.
- A foundational control & security process now in place is Monthly Integrated Two-party Bank Reconciliation, with accounting system verified & Committee/Area reporting.
 - Made effective beginning Sept 1st, 2022

2.Submitted by District 30 DCM

- **Proposed motion for Area 57 to support Area Committee Meeting changed to Saturdays or Sundays**

I would like to make a motion for Area 57 support to change the area meeting to Saturdays or Sundays, excluding the September meeting that is preceded by Fun in the Fellowship. This would not require a policy and procedure change for area meetings. *If we were to ask for the September area meeting to be changed, it would require a policy and procedure change to the Fun in the Fellowship policy and procedures, because it states FIF must be held the day before the September Area meeting.*

P&P H-1 Section b.

Fun In The Fellowship (OKAASA) will be scheduled the day before an Area Assembly and when possible at the same location as the Area Assembly. The Area will provide funds for the meeting rooms.

In District 30, attendance increased after changing the meeting time to Saturdays. This proposal is only meant to allow the option for the area meetings to occur on Saturdays – which would be at the discretion of the Area Chair. We believe that participation may increase by having the option of holding the area meeting on a Saturday, for a multitude of reasons (work, church, family, etc.).

This would also open availability of locations to hold the meeting at other lower costs. Currently, we pay \$1,975.00 on average for the Embassy Suites according to the 2024 proposed budget. The cost of the Cole center is \$1,000.00, without the use of AV equipment. Saturday use for fun in the fellowship, again according to the proposed 2024 budget, would save the area an estimated \$475.00 to \$975.00 quarterly.

This proposal passed unanimously at my home group, Bottom's Up, and at the District 30 meeting in August.

AGENDA ITEM FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2025 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

1. *Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.*

I move that all Area Chairs and District Chairs be granted read-only access to Fellowship Connection.

2. *What problem does this proposed agenda item address?*

Fellowship Connection is an invaluable tool for trusted servants in the service structure to locate and update the active status of local AA groups, as well as update each group's primary and secondary contact information. As of now, read-only access to Fellowship Connection has only been granted to Delegates and DCMs. Area Chairs and District Chairs are not currently granted access to Fellowship Connection. Some Areas have created district boundaries in such a way that one district may have multiple DCMs that work together to meet the needs of the groups within their district. Policy and Procedure guidelines relating to the qualifications and election process for District Chair in each district vary across the U.S. and Canada. Some districts require that the District Chair also be an active DCM, and some districts allow past DCMs to serve as District Chair. Moreover, unfortunately for some districts, there are not always enough willing and qualified AA members to fill DCM positions at each election cycle. When the newly-elected District Chair's service position is changed in Fellowship Connection from DCM to DCMC, he/she loses his/her read-only access to Fellowship Connection, thereby making him/her no longer able to access reports and provide updated information to the Secretary/Registrar without first going through a third party (the Registrar, Delegate, or an active DCM). They are also unable to assist the DCMs in their district to find their groups and give support and direction to them about the use of Fellowship Connection without their own separate login information.

Area Chairs are hamstrung in their ability to assist their Area trusted servants with updated reports by also having to ask the Delegate, Secretary/Registrar, or a DCM to provide them with an updated listing of Active/Inactive/Unknown/Incomplete groups. This skews our data with the Area Treasurer in determining the percentage of active groups contributing to the service structure. We have discovered that groups have been "lost" due to the COVID pandemic, i.e. the service structure is unaware of their existence, and the only way we discovered that is through the use of read-only access to Fellowship Connection. Also, numerous groups have maintained their group status but only have online/Zoom meetings. It was only through read-only access to Fellowship Connection that we were made aware of those groups, able to establish contact with them, determine which District they would like to be listed under, and ask a DCM to visit them.

3. *What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area).*

This motion is being submitted by District 20 in Area 57 (Oklahoma). It was originally submitted by an individual to a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Live and Let Live group in Oklahoma City on September 3rd, 2023 and passed by unanimous group conscience. It was then submitted to District 20 on November 26th, 2023 and passed by a unanimous vote.

4. *Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal (list background material included with the proposal).*

The following is a letter from AAWS to the DCMs in 2021:

March 1, 2021

Dear District Committee Members,

We are delighted to inform you, starting today, as the D.C.M., you will have "read only" access to Fellowship Connection. This is a brand new and inspiring proposition to help

facilitate the widely desired goals of exact information, stronger communication, and responsible use of A.A.'s resources, and will put the districts and areas at the forefront of the local A.A. relationship with communication through A.A.'s service structure. One benefit of this update is to witness implementation of the 1990 General Service Conference advisory action that states, "The General Service Office delay processing new A.A. group information forms for 30 days in order to allow the local A.A. structure to participate in the process." District Committee Members will have the opportunity, if they choose, to reach out to the new A.A. groups who are in the 30-day delay period to welcome them, to provide contact information for the group's G.S.R., to amplify the concept of the upside-down triangle and to offer that same one-on-one relationship we have found to be so beneficial in A.A. recovery.

In the short term, with "read only" access you can utilize various reports, for example, group contacts, service positions or even groups by district. In the long term, there are possibilities for further reports, such as quarterly contributions. All of this we hope will connect and help to strengthen the communication between the area, districts, and groups.

Lastly, is the wonderful opportunity to help improve the accuracy and overall data stewardship of emails, phone numbers and service positions in a General Service structure that relies on precise information to help carry the A.A. message, whether through A.A. recovery or A.A. service.

We welcome you to this new phase in the development of Fellowship Connection.

5. *What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed agenda item is approved?*
Area Chairs and District Chairs will be granted read-only access to Fellowship Connection, thereby improving AA's ability to reach as many still suffering alcoholics as possible.
6. *Provide a primary contact for the submission.*
Jared B.
Storyfriend@aol.com
(405) 408-1263
7. *Final comments.*
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.