

Virginia Area Assembly Voting Issue
October 17, 2020

Assembly Registration Rate Increase

MOTION:

That the Virginia Area Assembly vote to raise the Assembly registration rate by \$10.00 per person per night starting with the first meeting of the Assembly held in person at a hotel, and continuing thereafter at future, in-person Assembly meetings.

Background: The current rates for Assemblies have been in effect since 2017. Since then we have experienced some cost increases (mainly for meals and hotel support costs). Our financial reports show a trend of increasing outlays for Assemblies, starting at about \$6,500 per weekend meeting in 2017 and now costing about \$8,200 per weekend meeting in 2019. The officers believe it is time once again to raise Assembly registration rates. The VAWSC addressed this issue this past August 1st and agreed to forward it to the full Assembly.

Questions:

What do we know about the Fellowship's needs, wants or preferences that is relevant to this topic?

- The Area needs to avoid continuing to absorb rising costs of Assembly meetings and instead, share those increasing costs with the groups and districts that send representatives.
- The proposed increase would reduce the Area outlay by about \$1,700 per weekend meeting, assuming an attendance of about 150, with 20 attendees paying for two nights. The Area contribution from general funds would be about \$6,500.

What do we know about the ability of the Area to support this change?

- We know that the Area cannot absorb Assembly cost increases indefinitely without sacrificing financial support to programs such as Alateen, Public Outreach (including the website) and maintaining the quality of Assembly meetings.

What do we know about current and future items or trends that is relevant to this discussion?

- Costs are more likely to continue to rise than they are to fall.

What are the implications of our choices?

- Raising rates for Assembly registration may result in fewer attendees.

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

- We wish we knew that group contributions would exceed our target in 2020. (We projected total contributions in 2020 to be \$26,000 based on experience in 2018. Actual contributions received in 2019 were \$23,674.)

VAWSC RECOMMENDATION:

That the Assembly approve this rate increase.