

Area 53 June 2020 Assembly Delegate's Report

Events Attended

- East Central Region Conference of Delegates Past and Present.
- Area 55 Mini-Conference.

General Service Conference Activities

- Prepared six committee Background packets for Mini-Conference. Cancelled.
- Formed Conference Background Committee to develop Background Overviews for all Conference Agenda Items.
- Prepared and distributed a Pre-Conference Report covering all of the Conference Agenda Items.
- Planned and conducted four Area-wide Pre-Conference Zoom Sharing Sessions.
- Held Pre-Conference Standing Committee Sharing Sessions: Grapevine, CPC/PI, Treatment.
- Attended two Pre-Conference Grapevine Committee meetings.
- Attended two East Central Region Pre-Conference Zoom meetings.
- Attended 70th General Service Conference via Zoom May 16-19.
- Prepared and distributed a Conference Highlights Report.
- Planned three Conference Sharing Sessions.

A.A.W.S. Financial News

COVID-19 has severely damaged the General Service Board's financial stability. This on top of negative 2019 financial results. A.A.W.S. reported a loss of **-\$380 thousand** against a budgeted profit of \$501 thousand. AA Grapevine and LaViña reported a combined loss **-\$325 thousand** against a budgeted loss of **-\$301 thousand**. There was a reallocation of costs between Grapevine and LaViña during 2019 which make the individual comparisons of the two publications confusing.

2020 results to date are troublesome. For the first three months of the year, literature income averaged \$730 thousand/month versus \$145 thousand in April. Group and individual contributions which averaged \$670 thousand for the first three months were \$540 thousand in April. They are projecting a deficit of \$700 thousand for the next three months.

The General Service Board Reserve Fund exists for circumstances like this. The reserve target is 9 to 12 months of the combined operating funds of the two operating corporations. It has averaged about 10 months since 2000. The lowest it has been was 8.4 months in 2004.

As of December 31, the Reserve was \$16,202,404 or 9.4 months. In May \$3 million was withdrawn from the Reserve reducing the Reserve to about 7 months. The fact that we are not passing the basket is making group contributions difficult. As a result many groups are passing a "virtual" basket using available apps and websites. The other option is to begin to make individual online contributions directly to the service entities.

There are two useful resources for addressing this topic. The first is a letter from the GSO General Manager describing the reduction in the Reserve Fund. The second is "Best Practices for a Digital 7th Tradition." These documents will be distributed with this report.

Are we having fun yet?

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Delegate, Area 53 Panel 69.