Proposal: Grants for Small Groups with many visitors

This proposal addresses an issue brought up by some Groups at various times in 2022, including the December 2022 Area 53 Assembly:

Some small Groups in (mostly in rural areas) are being overwhelmed financially because of a large number of visitors from treatment centers. Treatment center visitors generally do not contribute to the 7th tradition collection during meetings. Some Groups are having trouble paying for hospitality expenses such as coffee and cookies for such a large attendance. Some Groups are even overcrowded in their current meeting locations due to these visitors and can’t afford to move to a bigger meeting space due to financial concerns.

Proposal:

Area 53 will create a budget for “grants” to be given to groups large numbers of visitors from treatment centers who are not expected to contribute to the 7th tradition. Affected groups may apply for a grant from Area 53 to reimburse them for specific expenses associated with large numbers of visitors, such as coffee, cookies, literature, or increased rent.

Proposed details:

* Groups would submit a written request to the Group Services committee demonstrating their needs in this area. For example, groups should list the average number of regular members and visitors at meetings and describe what treatment centers in their town or surrounding region send clients to the Group’s meetings.
* The Group Services committee would review and approve these requests.
* Approved Groups could submit receipts for expenses like coffee, cookies, literature or increased rent. The treasurer would reimburse the groups.
* Funds could either be budgeted to the Group Services line item or the Area Treasurer could create a separate line item for this.
* Groups would be required to submit a new request each year, demonstrating the needs. This is because the need could change from year to year depending on how many visitors a group was hosting.