

DCM SHARING SESSION JUNE 26, 2021

11:00 AM – Sharing Session held virtually; opened with the Serenity Prayer by Drew B., Interim Chairperson for Drew B. The session opened with a 10-minute “in the moment” presentation by JB on the following topic: **Keeping Area Meetings Virtual - What are the costs, assets, and liabilities?**

JB presented “in the moment” for the previous designated presenter who was not present and presented the idea to Area and admitted that they were slightly bias on the topic.

The presenter shared:

Covid has proved that Virtual AA, District, and Area meetings work. Continuing our Area Committee meetings on virtual format is possible. Being a witness seeing people enter and stay in recovery using virtual meetings has proven the possibility. In the past year plus months, Area has held elections and sent our Delegate along with the Group Consciences to the Virtual General Service Conference twice.

List of observations while hosting virtual Area Committee Meetings:

- ï No more rent for the PETALUMA Community Center.
- ï Cost of fuel and pollution to travel to and from.
- ï Travel time for members considerable.
- ï Cost of districts to reimburse GSRS and DCMS for travel mileage.
- ï Cost reduction for accessibility members for distance GSRs and DCMS (long-distance travel)
- ï All are able to attend.
- ï Increase General Service participation.

I am aware that many will balk at the idea, let's remember that we can continue to have Assemblies in person. We do like to party and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Members Shared:

- ï That they have seen a boom in participation to the monthly General Service meetings because of Zoom; missing being in person; the idea of a hybrid Area meeting is not easy due to a lack of equipment; there are various ways to accommodate a hybrid meeting for the quarterly Assemblies; meet on Zoom for the monthly Area meetings; the cost and time spent

attending a monthly Area meeting is not ideal for everyone; Zoom discourages the togetherness that keeps us linked; in favor of Assemblies being in person; seeing each other on screen does not compare seeing each other in person; because of Zoom there were voices at PRAASA that were heard that had never been heard before; people were able to attend PRAASA because of the low cost; less effective representation virtually; service takes a lot of time and money; we ride together, we share rooms; fellowship, having lunch, meeting newcomers; attending conferences and events with a roommate; it takes 2.5 hours going and coming, ridesharing with other members of the fellowship; District chatter about how convenient it is meeting on Zoom, but inconvenient and time-wasting was it awaiting a dope dealer and driving around to get a drink? Why not attend the Area meetings and spend the gas; coming to the meetings in person is where it is learned what it is like to be of service; the cost to host a hybrid meeting would be minimal in comparison to meeting monthly in person; hybrid is a good instrument for A.A.; how many people in the room does not have to check their account before filling up for gas? How many struggle to attend due to work? There is a language of unwillingness to consider those that are inconvenienced; people leave A.A. because of the language that feels like they are being talked down to by those that don't know what others go through.

TOPIC FOR NEXT MONTH: Hybrid Meetings!! What does that mean? What is the setup?
Chase C. from D70 volunteered to present this topic for July 2021 DCM Sharing Session

Respectfully Submitted, Chase C. DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary