

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM for NENY FALL AGENDA 2022

Submit a clear and concisely worded motion:

Proposal: That section 11.3 of the HMB Service Manual be edited to read:
"Each year the area will fund one scholarship per cluster, for a total of five (5) scholarships, for chosen AA members to attend a weekend AA event. Eligible events include those which extend for more than one day, are sponsored by an AA entity such as a District, Cluster, Area, State or Region, and which include speakers, workshops, and panels."

What problem does this proposed item address?

In 2019, Area 48 charged an Ad Hoc committee to deplete the surplus treasury in creative and beneficial ways. The annual awarding (by lot) of a \$500 scholarship/cluster was proposed and approved. This new proposal will clarify the language, the process and the eligibility criteria.

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

This item was discussed with a past delegate, DCMs, and Area Trusted Servants. It is being submitted by an individual acting as a liaison between DCMs and the Area.

Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for this proposal. List background material(s) included in the proposal.

We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A." Twelfth Step work is the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous — carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic. Without it, the Fellowship would wither and die. Yet, even at its simplest level this vital contact between one alcoholic and another involves an investment of time and money. (Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix p.5)

Sometimes GSRs/DCMs incur expenses traveling to and from service events. Weekend events may also incur expenses for accommodations and food. It is up to each group/district to decide whether it will reimburse its GSR/DCM for all or part of their travel expenses, but it should be remembered that an individual's finances should not be a barrier to service. (The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service p.11, 16).

The Warranties in the 12th Concept state "...that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle."(The AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.C 48).

Suggestions from 2019 Area 48 AdHoc committee members:

- Scholarships to NERF, NYSIW, HMB convention from the hat for this year - sure! Maybe either Area people who are not funded (NYSIW) or DCM's whose district can't afford to underwrite them (Tad J Alt Chair 2019)

- Institute scholarships for HMB Convention and go to the hat. Notice out out to all groups and districts that they can submit a name but should be prepared to send that person if their name is not drawn (DCM 3/19)
- Sponsoring a lottery system for districts to fund more people/positions to attend larger events such as NERAASA. Districts needing this additional funding could poll the Area and in the event of multiple requests, set up a lottery style drawing to fund those people/positions fairly. (DCM 3/19)

PROPOSAL 2: SCHOLARSHIP

- A one-time scholarship of \$500 per cluster for eligible candidates to attend larger functions, i.e. NERAASA, NYSIW, etc.
- Each cluster eligible for a total of five scholarships equaling \$2500
- DCM's and alt-DCM's not eligible as districts should already be providing funds for these events
- Candidates; GSRs, Committee chairs, and/or any persons with service track record
- DCM to approve eligibility
- Selection to be done lottery style of individual district nominees/candidate per district goes into the hat, winner selected from the pool

NOTE: We encourage winners to "spread the wealth" for as many participants as they feel comfortable; ex. Room sharing, car-pooling, etc.

Submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee for Surplus Funds

From the minutes: 10/19

Proposal 2: Scholarship

A question was raised as to whether the Scholarship was a one-time event or every year. Group was informed that this Scholarship is for every year. A Friendly Amendment was made to delete the third bullet (DCMs and alt DCMs are not eligible, as districts should already be providing funds for these events.) and replace with: Anyone is eligible who is not already funded by their district or group. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve Proposal 2: Scholarship, with Friendly Amendment. Approved. (Tad J- Alt Area Chair)

What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

That the language of 11.3 Scholarship section of the Area 48 be edited to state clearly the intent of the Ad Hoc Committee of 2019 in providing \$500/cluster to attend any and all weekend Area 48 events, State events or Regional events.

Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Dolores K. Area 48 Alternate Chair althmbchair@aahmbny.org

Final comments.

- As per our 2022 budget, there is money available for the previously approved scholarships. Are we sitting on money that could be utilized to provide an opportunity for members of Area 48 to grow spiritually and to participate in

service in a unique situation that they may not normally be afforded? Are we supposed to be bringing in new people to service?

- A seemingly artificial distinction between “service” weekends and “fun” weekends has been raised in the application of this approved scholarship funding. It is very unclear as to who determines what event is “fun” and what event is “service.” The proposed wording makes clear that the scholarship is for weekend events that include workshops, panels, and speakers, which removes room for conflict.
- Area 48 hosts an annual Joy of Service Day. The idea that service and joy/fun can be so discrete belies the title of that event.
- As an observer/member of the NENY Convention 2022 Planning Committee, I can vouch for the service opportunities that will be afforded any willing member of Area 48.
- Detailed procedure ensures that this scholarship be used appropriately and in a timely manner:

11.3- Scholarship

Each year, the Area will fund one scholarship per cluster, for a total of five (5) scholarships, for chosen AA members to attend a weekend event such as NERAASA or the NYSIW, etc.

To make the scholarships available as fairly as possible, each District is encouraged to choose a candidate, preferably by lot (going to the hat) at one of their District Meetings. That is, candidates’ names are written on slips of paper and put into a receptacle.

The name drawn out by the DCM or appointed person, is selected.

That name will then join the names of all other names drawn from that cluster in a second drawing at the Cluster level. This drawing should be at an Area event and overseen by the Alternate Chair of the Area. Should the Alternate Chair be unavailable, the Chair, or failing the Chair the Delegate, should oversee the process.

Again, candidates’ names may be written on slips of paper and put into a receptacle. Whichever is drawn out by an appointed person, is selected.

As there are five (5) Clusters within Area 48 (see Section 7.4 of the Area Manual for a listing of the Clusters and their respective Districts) the Area will award five (5) scholarships each year for a total of \$2500, each scholarship being \$500.

These scholarships are intended to be spent on attending one event.

Should there be any funds remaining from the scholarship following the event those surplus funds should be returned to the Area.

Eligibility requirements for these scholarships are left to the Districts.

NOTE: We encourage winners to “spread the wealth” for as many participants as they feel comfortable; ex. room sharing, carpooling, etc.

Approval of this proposal will necessitate a change in the Area 48 Service Manual (revised 2021)

Proposed by:

Dolores K

Area 48 Alternate Chair

