

Oregon Area 58 Motion #3 May 2012

Submitted by: 6:45 AM Men's Group, District 33

Motion:

Starting in 2014 have the Oregon Area move to 3 Assemblies a year, eliminating the November Assembly.

Intent/Purpose:

- The cost of attending Assemblies at any great distance for smaller meetings is prohibitive, most GSR's and DCM's and Area Officers need to supplement the expenses that are required to fully fulfill their duties. The largest single line item in the Area budget is for Area Trusted Servants to attend assemblies. Reducing the number of assemblies would allow Groups, Districts, Intergroups and Oregon Area 58 to direct increasingly fewer resources to carrying the message closer to home, to Area 58 Committee work or to GSO
- *What impact will the changes have:*
Groups & Districts will be able to re-allocate financial resources closer to home. Area 58 will be able to re-allocated financial resources to the various Service Committees, or operate with a reduced budget. There will be minimal impact to 2011-2012 Area 58 Guidelines as the November Assembly is only mentioned as needing to occur on the third weekend of November, the Guidelines do not mention any specific agenda item as needing to occur in November. Area Officers would need to decide which traditional November Assembly agenda items would be retained at the other three Assemblies or perhaps rotate agenda items on even/odd years as the Committee officers and Host Committees saw fit.

Current Practice:

- Current practice is 4 Assemblies a year, February, May, September and November

Budgetary Impact:

- Currently the Oregon Area budget for Assemblies is \$20,000 per fiscal year, this could be reduced by \$5,000. The savings to groups, GSR's DCM's and Area Officers may be in the neighborhood of \$25 to \$200 per year, depending on the distance of travel, lodging and food costs.
- *State who will absorb or benefit from the monetary change*
Groups, GSR'S, DCM'S, Districts, and Oregon Area would all benefit financially from this change in an era of reduced 7th Tradition collections.

Seconded by Matt, D23

Discussion:

Mike G., D36: This motion has such an impact to Oregon Area that it might require an ad hoc committee. Eliminating the November Assembly eliminates the GSR's access to service committees. Then you have a 5 month gap between the September and February Assembly. I agree with the spirit of the motion, it would save us a lot of money, but if this is going to work out you would have to rearrange when the Assemblies occur and many other things. You really would need an ad hoc committee to figure out how to rearrange assemblies effectively.

John A., Finance Chair: One consideration that I see we need to make is that our fiscal year end closes about a week after each November Assembly. Committees and Officers use that time to finish reporting their expenses for the year. It's a pretty necessary process for the Finance Committee. So I think we would need to take into consideration how we would do that.

Guy: The motions numbers are a little mistaken because part of our budget is for assemblies but we also fund our Ad Hoc Committees, DCM's, and Area Orientation. All of those funds add up to \$24,600, making the savings \$6150.

Kathleen, D23: I have found that the amount of information that I am asked to absorb and learn in two days is appropriate, but I am at my maximum limit. I think it would be a disservice to GSR's to short them of that fourth GSR school. Yes, it is expensive, but we car pool and share and do all the things necessary to be here. If we were to cram that 4th assembly information into the other three, I would feel cheated and totally confused if you were to throw more information at me.

Ray, D5: I would like to ask anyone on the Committees if they know of other Areas that hold assemblies three times a year, and the pros and cons of that.

Cheri C., CPC Chair: I am from an Area that had 3 assemblies per year, and I can tell you that business does not conclude on Sunday at noon. The last assembly I attended in Washington Area East we had two assemblies per year. We would do Area business all day Saturday, finishing Saturday night at 11:00PM, returning Sunday morning to conclude business Sunday at noon. I know that 4 assemblies might be more expensive but business gets conducted smoother and we get a lot more done for our DCM's and GSR's with the information they get to take back.

Rosy, D1: I agree with the person that talked about an ad hoc committee, and being an accountant I also agree with our Finance Chair about needing to close our fiscal year end books. I would like to make the suggestion that if we do have an ad hoc committee

that we do one assembly by Webinar, or some of the new technology so we can stay in our Districts but have an Area Assembly.

Milton: I would like you to look at the bigger picture; Assemblies are not a destination they are a journey. My first experience as a GSR was being part of a committee that was putting on an Assembly. There are so many people that learn service work because they become part of an Assembly committee, and it's those people that are new that will miss that opportunity to be on one of those committees and meet for a year or year and a half and that helps them learn about service, and helps keep them sober.

Terry: Calls the question.

Seconded by Dean, D15

Vote to end debate

Debate ended

Vote is taken to determine if the matter presented is Urgent and/or Administrative, or whether it should be tabled and sent back to the Groups.

Vote is taken, Motion is tabled