

Topic: Providing Necessary Equipment for an Officer to Attend AWSC Meetings and Area Assemblies. We have an officer whose electronic/computer equipment has failed, they cannot see everyone, and it's become a hardship for this officer to attend the virtual meetings.

Background: Historically we have conducted AWSC Meetings and Area Assemblies in person at a hotel. The Area pays the hotel and travel expenses for the Officers so that they can attend and participate in person. During the last 2 years we have been unable to hold our meetings in person. We have utilized technology to conduct our meetings electronically. This requires that everyone in attendance have computer / internet equipment that includes cameras, speakers, and a screen so that we can see, and hear each other.

Information:

1. It is important that all officers be able to attend the AWSC meetings and Area Assemblies. Good Communication is imperative to group conscious decisions. It is especially important for the officers facilitating and recording the meetings be able to see and hear everyone at the meeting. We make sure, by way of paying the hotel and travel expenses, that attending meetings does not create an undue hardship for anyone in service.
2. The Area budgets funds on average \$550/year to cover each officer's expenses. Most of those funds are for travel expenses.
3. While we are conducting our meetings electronically, we are not incurring travel or meeting costs, we are also not collecting registration fees or fundraising. The Area incurs only a nominal cost for our Zoom account which is covered by group contributions. Currently we have an ample reserve and budgeted travel funds for each officer that are not being spent. The last two years in a row the contributions to the Area have been greater than our expenses and we have been able to contribute generously to the WSO. We donated \$7000 in 2020 and \$5000 in 2021.
4. Pros: contributes to officer feeling supported, Officer able to fully participate, others see that we are supporting each other, builds unity
 Cons: if we return to in person meetings in the fall, there will not be funds in this officer's budget to cover their travel expenses, area can't afford to do this for all officers and coordinators, could create a problem with property, the property will have to be managed
5. We don't know when we will go back to in-person meetings or if we will do hybrid meetings, and if we do hybrid meetings, we don't know what equipment costs the Area will incur.

Motion: Up to \$500 be provided from the approved 2022 budget to acquire electronic/ computer equipment for the Officer to be able to attend all virtual NYN Area meetings. The officers (as a group) will be responsible for working out the details for managing the equipment.