

Here's my R7 Fall Assembly Report - Bylaws & Finance Committee

During the weekend, there were a number of Zoom meetings. On Friday we started with a series of calls to get everyone comfortable with what the Assembly would be doing and there were opportunities for an OA Zoom as well.

On Saturday morning we started with a "jump start" Zoom to get everyone together. At 9am the Tech professional for the session broke everyone out into separate Zoom sessions - by Committee assignments - so each Committee get our prework done before the afternoon business meeting session. This was handled really well and I thought it removed a lot of chaos to have people magically spirited into where they were supposed to be... though I will say there was a bit of confusion as some of the people assigned to our Committee were supposed to be elsewhere. Nevertheless that was able to be sorted out and we had a couple of "visitors" participating in Committee as well as enough people to get the business done.

My R7 committee is the merged Bylaws & Finance Committee, and our scope includes the budget for R7 (and oversight of finances and spending during the year). Our formal agenda was:

1. Election of officers - especially a secretary for Saturday's session! It is hard to run the session and type at the same time... :)
2. Receiving and assembling budget requests from the other committees
3. Adding a motion to update the Bylaws to give the Board the decision capability to hold Assembly virtually (i.e., when not under emergency conditions such as a pandemic)
4. Make a determination and recommendation about the amount of our donation from R7 to WSO
5. Any other business.

In the end there was minimal additional business and we got things sorted out relatively easily. Budget requests from other committees were straightforward and we did not change the budget much from prior year, since it is very hard to predict what 2021 will look like. And in any case this year (2020) was already unusual from a R7 perspective, since it's basically been 15 months long - started October 1, 2019 and will end on December 31, 2020. This was the year we converted to a calendar-aligned fiscal year.

Due to the pandemic, it was somewhat surprising to learn that we were running slightly ahead on donations. As a result, we were able to propose a solid donation of \$20,000 from R7 to World Service and this left us comfortably ahead of our prudent R7 reserve. If expenses continue to be low next year then we will again propose a generous donation to World Service.

As a new Committee officer (Chair) I felt very supported by our Regional Trustee, Karen B., as well as by our former Chair Glenn K, who is still serving as Vice Chair and has lots of experience. Our R7 Treasurer was unable to attend Assembly but everyone pitched in and we got everything handled. There was nothing earthshaking but still business had to be done and it was with a sense of accomplishment that we closed out the Assembly at the end of the Business Meeting in the afternoon on Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Ann S.