

## APRIL ACM REPORT

Here it is! April! Last month I presented to you two extreme barebones budgets and tried my best to convey to you that this year the process is radically different than years past. Neither of the two barebones budgets presented are a proposed budget, they are merely a starting place for you, the steering committee of this area, to create the proposed spending plan for 2022.

It was clear to me that the majority of you did not quite grasp what I was proposing. I want this steering committee to actively prepare the budget that will go to the Assembly in November. It was only natural for you to focus on “your line items” because that is the culture that had been created by years having a budget prepared for you and then expecting your approval. I am asking you to try to resist the temptation to protect “your line items” and try to think more globally about these issues.

My hope is that you have taken this last month to focus on the task ahead of you. I hope you are all ready to roll up your sleeves and get to work on it. We need to have many conversations. How much should we meet in person? How can we incorporate what we have learned about the virtual world of AA? What is our budget goal? Eventually we can discuss how can we be most efficient with the contributions of the groups. What “12 Step Work” is most important to us? What needs to be done right now? What work can wait to be done? What work can wait to be funded (if any)?

Finally, I implore you to work with us, me and the Finance Committee, on this very important bit of general service business. This is the time to focus on what is best for the area as a whole and less on individual concerns and agendas. If we can succeed at this endeavor, I know that the end result will be superior to anything I could have done on my own because it will echo the values of Area 8.