Website Report for the Fall Committee Meeting

In this report I've only included some highlights of the National AA Technology Workshop I attended in the first weekend of October and some early results of that experience. We'll see those results continue to develop and evolve for some time to come. I believe they will have a profound effect on at least the web-related technology in Area 20 and perhaps more than that. I will give an expanded report at the next assembly so that the GSRs can make their groups aware of the great value of that workshop. Please note that Jeff S. from district 90, Jeane M. from district 41, Magic M. from district 43 attended as did one other Area 20 webmaster whose name I did not record but from whom I await email contact. My apologies to any that I missed.

An interesting trend came to light early in the workshop: in response to rapidly advancing technology many districts, areas and intergroups have created technology service committees under which they have placed their website operations.

Much of the workshop value came from incredible networking and brainstorming opportunities. As a direct result of the conference the following items emerged.

- We formed a website administration committee consisting of me, Ben M. (alternate website administrator and district 61 webmaster), Jeff S. (district 90 webmaster) and Earl N. (district 10 webmaster). Our goal is to form an area-wide webmaster support group so that we can collaborate effectively.
- We identified the current functions of the present Area 20 website. We decided to convert the website format to WordPress, which among other things will make it responsive, i.e. automatically adaptable to smartphones, tablets and computer screens alike. Earl's terrific work on the District 10 site will be part of the new design approach. The WordPress conversion will also make our site more sustainable, i.e. more easily passed along to future trusted servants with less than professional skills.
- Jeff S. is developing a "Keep it Simple" website package available for easy adoption by anyone in AA, and Alternate Ben M's district 61 site will be the first test bed.
- Area 20 may be one of the first to participate in a 12 Step Meeting Finder project destined to be available on any CMS-based website as well as a free standing smartphone app.

In a deeply moving presentation a small group of deaf AAs illustrated the need for making ASL interpretation more widely available by turning the audience into recipients of the translation while they told parts of their stories. A leader of that group told of being accommodated very well by our own Urbano after getting no assistance from a nearby area.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the NAATW. Look for more detail at the next assembly, when I'll update you on the highlights mentioned here and will have a comprehensive written report.

John Clauson
Website Administrator