

## REGION 3 SPRING ASSEMBLY REPORT TO CNMI submitted at the May 2018 intergroup meeting

Linda and I traveled in the early morning hours of April on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, no less, to Salt Lake City, Utah for the spring region 3 convention and assembly. We got to the hotel by midmorning and then the fun began . . .

I started my service after lunch by participating in the audit as I did last fall. It's a process that is done before each assembly to check that all things financial are balanced and in order. Happily, they were.

Later in the afternoon we had a forum for all reps and steering committee members. The topic was 'finances'. It turns out we find ourselves in an embarrassment of riches with money in the bank far exceeding our budget and prudent reserve. In short, we have \$20,000 to spend in the near future. The excess is due to an accumulation of income from recent successful conventions (region takes 60% of the profits) and money leftover that was budgeted but not spent by various committees over the last few years. We had a general discussion and then broke into small groups to list 3 ways of spending the money down in this year and in the future year or two. We then handed in those recommendations to the finance committee. There was also a discussion which included ideas on how we would be sure not to accumulate that much in excess funds again. In terms of ideas: it was suggested to give a lump sum donation to WSO immediately – we recommended \$10K. It was also suggested to cut back 'the take' from conventions for region to the previous 50%. Many other ideas came forth. There was a suggestion that we develop a policy of spending down each year so that we have a zero budget (keeping a prudent reserve, of course) rather than allowing funds to accumulate as they have this time. The finance committee will take into account all of our suggestions.

The assembly began on Saturday morning. We had readings, welcomes, introductions, approval of the standing rules and the agenda and a very interesting presentation from our parliamentarian. The agenda had a long list of bylaw and policy motions with many relating to the same issue. Our parliamentarian explained that in Robert's Rules there is a way to handle similar items as a unit – one vote for the bylaw motions and one vote for the policy motions that refer to the same issue. {And that's what we did, late in the afternoon under 'new business'}. After her presentation we did steering committee reports and had Q&A time for each. Then we adjourned to do our committee work.

I am part of the bylaws committee and we had a good discussion of how to proceed on our bylaw and policy revisions. We set goals and finished up revisions on a section that two of us had already started working on. We actually finished in time to break for lunch and have a little downtime before the afternoon session. My committee is working on defining committees and how they operate, among other things. Committee handbooks are at issue because while they have been done as hard copy, they can now be done electronically and accessed much easier by committee members. We are hoping to have the forum topic for the fall assembly concern this modernization so that we can recommend changes to our policy manual next spring. (FYI: Fall assembly is all about elections and Spring assembly deals with bylaw and policy revisions.)

The afternoon session began with the Lifeline drawing and a special drawing for a copy of the new 12 & 12. In the morning, we each had the opportunity to put in a dollar/chance to win. It's a nice way to get a few new Lifeline subscriptions out there. We had money for 2 new subscriptions. The money for the 12 & 12 drawing was added to our treasury as a donation. (I won the 12 & 12!) The PI/PO committee

