

Technology Coordinator Report AWSC, January 21, 2024

Happy 2024! It is exciting to think about technology as we go into our 2nd year of this term.

We now have a new (to us!) projector that will work with Windows 11 computers. It was given to us by another organization that often gives gifts to non-profit groups within the community. Our service manual tells us that we may accept goods and services that are available to other not-for-profit organizations (*pg. 106, Discounts of Goods and Services*) provided there is no appearance of affiliation or other requirements such as a sign saying it was provided by this organization. This entity knows of our program and acknowledges our policy of being self-supporting and does not require any type of recognition or promotion. I am excited to give it a try at the AWSC meeting.

I have continued to be in touch with various Area's Technology Coordinators to try to pick their brains and to also share with them what we are doing. Along with emails back and forth I also have AFG Connects now as a place for Area Technology Coordinators. Discussions I have been involved in have been on holding virtual business meetings, holding hybrid meetings, or not really utilizing technology at all. I have been surprised to find some Areas hold most of their business meetings all Zoom (not hybrid) so the equipment purchases are minimal for them. One point they have brought up is they find their attendance has increased, which is interesting. I am glad we are offering the hybrid opportunity and do see our Zoom attendance also increasing.

The Technology Committee shared, via email, a small discussion toward the purchase of a web conference camera that can hopefully be utilized for Area business meetings, specifically the AWSC meetings. That camera has been purchased and we will see how it works at AWSC.

Reality is, as many other Areas are finding out, technology goes out of date rather quickly. Because of that fact, I personally do not feel it is beneficial for the Iowa Area to purchase a lot of equipment at this time. Currently between myself, the technology committee, and other members' support, we are able to have enough laptops to do our Zoom gatherings. Also, I really feel we are blessed to most often be able to meet in various facilities for Assemblies that offer several items we need for hybrid.

I have submitted an expense sheet to the Area Treasurer that may possibly be more than the budgeted amount for this coordinator position. I would like to request approval for amounts over budgeted amount to be paid from the miscellaneous line item.

I continue to learn and explore technology. I feel blessed to be able to serve Al-Anon in this position.

Connie H.
Area Technology Coordinator