

**AFG Area 9 – Florida North**  
**Task Force: Assembly Cost**  
**Recommendations**

The Task force makes the following recommendations after considering the impact on individual groups and the Area as a whole:

- Increase registration cost to \$25
  - Rationale:
    - Registration is designed to offset the cost meeting space as well as break refreshments (coffee, tea, and water). There has been a dramatic increase in the cost of these items since the registration cost was set at \$15 several years ago. This increase will allow for the participants to have a comfortable environment for the meetings as well as drinks that are available in the room as compared to having to leave the area to purchase from vending areas elsewhere in the hotel.
- Increase the cost of breakfast to \$15.00 and lunch to \$20.00. Do not offer dinner.
  - Rationale:
    - Food cost have increased significantly, and the Area is assuming the majority of the cost at the current rate. This change would allow for a more balanced cost sharing with groups for breakfast and lunch. Offering breakfast and lunch makes it convenient for members and efficient for the timing of the agenda.
    - Catered dinner meals are so high, it is unreasonable to ask groups or the Area to pay when alternative options are available at half the cost or better. Because business is concluded by 5:00 or 5:30 in most cases, there is time for members to make decisions about eating in the hotel restaurant (which has agreed to having a specially priced reasonable buffet option) or leave the facility for a variety of local area restaurants.
    - The Area can meet the contractual obligation of catering services with the breakfast and lunch meals without the need to purchase dinner meals.
- Meeting costs should be evaluated early in the third year of each subsequent panel in order to manage costs in relation to inflation or current expected costs during the follow panel as well as to inform the needs of the subsequent meeting location contractual negotiations.
  - Rationale:
    - Food and meeting location costs are likely to increase or vary on a regular basis. By establishing a scheduled review and vote of agreement by the Assembly on a regular basis, charges to members/groups are more likely to remain in line with changes of costs associated with contracts.
    - Establishing a routine review and vote during the third year of a panel with members who have experience and understanding allows for a smooth transition rather than placing this burden on newly elected panel members who are adjusting to new roles and responsibilities, and who may not have the experience and understanding of the cost and charge structure.
- Consider revisiting past Thought and Task Force decisions on meeting length and meeting site locations based on changes in costs of meetings, facility options, group and Area finances as a result of the Pandemic.
  - Rationale:

- The previous Thought Forces and Task Forces that presented to the AWSC and Assembly for vote or information were based on information available at that time.
- The Pandemic impacted group attendance and group finances in many groups which have not returned to pre-pandemic status.
- Hotels and meeting facilities have changed in their services offered and the cost of their services since the pandemic for a variety of reasons.
- The pandemic introduced many new virtual opportunities which may now have an impact on different opportunities and or challenges.