

Chicagoland Region Service Committee
Facilitator's Report, May 24, 2020

Greetings!

I write what I expect to be my final report as CRSC Facilitator—that is, if policy is followed, as it should be.

There's not much to report this month that Subcommittees won't also be reporting. I did attend the BOD meeting. As the General Manager will be reporting, we're still waiting to have the space finished for the new office. As the Treasurer will be reporting, we got the on-line donation button on chicagona.org. As our HIPR Chair will be reporting, PR activities are moving forward, and the actions we've taken to transition to virtual have been good. As the RD team will be reporting, the abbreviated virtual World Service Conference took place, but has not ended.

Yesterday I made a presentation about our Region before a virtual service workshop hosted by the New England Region's Fellowship Development Committee. Preparing that presentation gave me the opportunity to reflect on our Region and look at all that has been accomplished in the past couple years. This allowed me to see how lucky we are that so many extremely talented members came forward and put our Region into much better shape.

The list of examples is long:

The CSO's Board of Directors, with enormous effort by the Financial Manager, has introduced new and better financial record keeping and oversight. The books are in such good shape, the CSO was on the verge of filing 2019 tax returns on time, without an extension, before the pandemic altered things. Before the pandemic, the store had been well operated, and BOD's role in Events oversight has also been very beneficial. Led by the General Manager, every Board member is contributing. Thanks go to the BOD for making major improvements.

The CRC Committee and leadership have been excellent. After careful scrutiny of costs and hotel expenses, January's convention brought in a lot of money to Region, giving us a nice, temporary cushion to deal with a reduction of Area donations due to the pandemic. Thanks go to the CRC Chairs and committee for doing great service and putting on fun conventions.

As for CRSC itself, the Treasurer team has been great at maintaining the books, providing budgets and monthly statements, and setting up an on-line donation process to deal with a reduction in Area donations due to the pandemic. The Secretary, HIPR Chair, and Web-tech have been very, very, very busy. The RD team has done a great job in getting out into the Areas and measuring Regional conscience on various matters affecting the fellowship. We also had an ad-hoc committee help us find a new space for the CSO. Unfortunately, the move, scheduled for March 31, had to be delayed. Thanks to all of you for contributing to our Region's success.

My mission in becoming Facilitator was to make Region fun and enjoyable. I wanted to make sure every voice is heard and every idea considered. I'm very happy with the Area response and RCM representation at the monthly CRSC meetings. Donations had also been good. Thanks to the RCMs for all their hard work.

Lastly, I wish to thank our Facilitator Alternate, who has stepped up to do things in ways that had never been done before. He has held monthly policy committee meetings that addressed the many policy issues thrown its way. He helped during those times when I was unavailable and offered excellent guidance when I was uncertain about many things. He also played an important role at CRC.

Most importantly, our Facilitator Alternate is totally prepared to step into the role as Facilitator. According to CRSC Policy, he is automatically nominated to the position, but still needs to be elected. I know I'm not supposed to express opinions or make endorsements, but I definitely endorse our Facilitator Alternate to step into the role as Facilitator.

At last Region, there was a proposal to delay elections for Facilitator and Facilitator Alternate until the pandemic passes. That proposal was tabled to this month. I am prepared to do whatever the body wants; however, I really don't see the need for a delay. Addicts in the Chicagoland Region, as well as the fellowship around the world, have quickly and deftly adapted to the new realities caused by COVID-19 pandemic. I understand the concerns for continuity during this pandemic, but the Facilitator Alternate has been fully present and engaged in Regional service for many years. It's hard to imagine better circumstances where continuity will be preserved after this transition.

While it's easy to be proud of the Chicagoland Region, yesterday's virtual service seminar put on by the New England Region FD Committee illustrated many great ideas for improvement. Although HIPR is now doing some FD, we don't even have a regional fellowship development committee, and the seminar they hosted was an amazing training exercise. We can do better with mentorship, training, communications, and other areas.

To conclude, I am very honored to have been part of the Chicagoland Region's service structure these past two years. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve. While it has been a real pleasure, I am confident that new, effective leadership is waiting in the wings.

In loving service,

Louis H