

# AFG Area 9 – Florida North Assembly Costs Task Force Report and Recommendations

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## Task Force Topic/Charge

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The Assembly Cost Task Force was charged with evaluating the registration, food, and beverage costs at Area meetings and recommending changes if needed.

## Task Force Recommendations

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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:
    - The Area Registration fee was set at \$15 several years ago to offset the cost of meeting space and refreshments (coffee, tea, and water). There has been a dramatic increase in the cost of these items since the registration cost was initially set. This increase will allow the participants to have a comfortable environment for the meetings as well as beverages in the meeting room. Otherwise members would need to leave the meeting space to purchase from vending areas in the hotel.
- Increase the cost of meal tickets for breakfast to \$15.00 and lunch to \$20.00. Do not offer dinner.
  - Rationale:
    - Food costs have increased significantly, and the Area is assuming most of the cost at the current rate. This increase 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 at the current hotel are expensive. The Area business meetings typically end by 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. This provides attendees ample time to explore alternative, less expensive meal choices nearby.
    - The Area can meet the contractual food and beverage obligation with breakfast and lunch meals.

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- Increase the Area reimbursement rates for meals to \$15 for breakfasts, \$20 for lunches, and \$25 for dinners. This does not affect the reimbursement procedures at the District or Group level.
    - Rationale:
      - Food costs have increased significantly, making it challenging for Panel Members serving the Area to find meal options that fall within current reimbursement rates.
      - This change will keep the reimbursement rates consistent with the proposed increased cost for meal tickets at Assembly, eliminating any possible confusion.
      - Districts and Groups have the autonomy to set their own reimbursement rates and do not need to adopt the Area reimbursement rates.
  
  - Evaluate meeting costs and locations early in the third year of each Panel to manage costs concerning inflation and to inform the needs of the subsequent Panel in their contractual negotiations.
    - Rationale:
      - Food and beverage obligations and meeting location costs are likely to increase or vary regularly. By establishing an optional scheduled discussion and vote by the Assembly, the costs to Members/Groups are more likely to remain in line with changes in costs associated with contracts.
      - By conducting a routine discussion and vote during the third year of a panel, Members will have more experience which would allow for a smoother transition rather than placing this burden on newly elected panel Members who are adjusting to new roles and responsibilities.
  
  - Consider revisiting past Thought and Task Force decisions on meeting length and meeting site locations based on changes in costs of meetings, facility options, and Group and Area finances because of the Pandemic.
    - Rationale:
      - There is new information available since the previous Panels conducted Thought Forces and Task Forces on this subject:
        - The Pandemic impacted Group attendance.
        - Group finances in many Groups that have not returned to pre-pandemic status.
        - Hotels and meeting facilities have changed services for a variety of reasons.
        - The pandemic introduced virtual opportunities, these options bring benefits and challenges.