



Portland (OR) Chapter Host Chapter  
45th Western Area Conference Report  
June 12, 2021

Link Sisters, we did it! We brainstormed, planned, expended time and effort to host a wonderful and memorable virtual 45th Western Area Conference. Great follow through on your specific commitments. There were chapter members working in segments of the conference even I was not aware of prior to the conference such as the Alumna & Platinum Lounge, and the health pavilion. The National President, Chapter Presidents, and members across the Area expressed their gratitude for our hosting and we're impressed with how well we presented and displayed the great service we are doing locally.

Members are granted 1N 5 attendance for participation in Area Conferences and National Assemblies. The Area Director for Area Conferences or National President for Assemblies have the authority to grant service hours for any particular work members engage in exceedingly above general conference attendance. Any chapter members who believe your involvement on host chapter duties during the conference meets this criteria please send your name, hours on each day or period of days, and description of your activity during the conference week. I will advocate for you and send a request to the Area Director for her to grant you service hours for the specific number of hours you worked.

Expenditures are still being straightened and there were areas which went over budget due to unforeseen obligations. Two VSP's host chapter gifts were returned because they were out of town and unable to accept the deliveries. Our National President's name was misspelled on the engraving on her gift box so a new box with accurate engraving was purchased and shipped to her. There ended up being late, late registration which increased the cost of the flutes, and added to the shipping. We do not yet have the final registration contact list to initiate shipments to the final registrants.

The host chapter party committee had a last minute need for a person to create a slide deck to provide visual context and a guide for the tech company. All attendees were enthusiastically participating in the games as well as chatting on the main stage. No bad reviews were given at all! The line dance video will remain the members' only section of our website. The video cannot be published on social media since various chapters with their members were not 6' apart, greater than 6 maximum members together at one time, and not wearing masks. The service project can be displayed if C3P0 approves due to their privacy concerns for the village residents.

We were informed the week before the conference we were to present the civic awards to the honorees. The week of the conference it was brought to our attention we were to obtain a plaque to display during the conference to commemorative items we would be presenting to each awardee. The certificates and plaque which were displayed in the slideshow will be given to the honorees this month. We will pay for the plaques and request reimbursement from the Area. We also need to follow up for the monetary award the Area gives to civic awardees.

Twenty of the sixty chapters in the Area and nine individual members donated to the service project. Therefore, we received a little more than half the cost of the kitchen modular Friendship Project item. The \$2k donation from Western Area National Trends & Services has been released by the Area Treasurer. A chapter President reached out to me this past week committing her chapter to submitting funds. More of those contacts are welcomed.

Now that the conference has passed, we are following up on pledged dollars. No new, elective, non-budgeted expenses are being considered in an effort to balance the conference budget given the substantial unanticipated expenditures from our chapter. All additional funds will be saved for our programs and scholarships. Aside from the approved budget, the chapter members who paid the \$1,000.00 chapter conference assessment will receive those payments back! Those checks are complete and ready to be distributed today.

Thank you to each and every member for contributing to the success of the conference. As in every program, fundraiser, event we need to evaluate what went well to pass onto the next host chapter, opportunities to learn from, and things we wish we had thought about and done. I will include this in a document to share with the Southern California and Nevada Cluster should they ask. However, some of these tips we can apply to our own future events/fundraiser(s).

Humbly Submitted by  
Link Serena Ashley  
Conference Chair