

AED Executive Director's Report

March 9, 2020

Since we last met in January, to finalize the budget, most of my time has been spent on the following items.

Finances: I can't thank Ed, Phyllis, Brad and Catherine enough for all of their hard work. Ed and Phyllis provided the experience, brains and sounding board. Catherine knew our materials. I think I helped more than hindered. But as you know, we now have a functioning budget and professional upkeep. I sent it all off to Lisa Bennet, the fundraiser consultant, with pride, and tremendous relief. The taxes and audit are going to be done for the first time on time, in the last five years. There is more work to be done, but we have turned a major corner to set us up professionally. (See the Finance Report for all the next steps.) Staff CPG payments are now entirely in order! This might not seem like it deserves its own paragraph, but indeed, it took six months, a three-page timeline, and interference in the situation by people much higher up in the food chain than me!

Development: Catherine and I spent the fall sending off to Lisa Bennett from Cornerstone all the info she needs to assess our situation and make recommendations. Carole, Carter and I (the AED members of the Joint Development Task Force) have a series of next steps, first of which is to clarify a few clauses of Lisa's proposed contact to advise us, and to execute the contract. Robert Franken has advised me that he is not available to move forward much faster than June. Carole and Carter recently had some very good clarifying conversations in the last week.

Networking: I attended the **Rooted in Jesus** conference (one of the best ever) and was happy to network with a few deacons there, in companionship with Maureen. Deacons were well-represented there, with at least three deacons (including our own Juan) in major leadership roles. Maureen and I would like to propose being at the next one as an organization. The planning team for Nuevo Amanecer (TEC's major Spanish Language conference) just invited us in a formal email to participate and I would like to respond and support them financially, as well.

Other additional priorities for the first few months of the new year:

- Supporting the AED part of the JDTF to create and implement an annual campaign plan, as called for by our agreement with the Fund. (See separate report). This will entail arranging for AED legal compliance with fund-raising restrictions we funded in the budget .
- Working with the Membership Committee to make sure we are set for the annual campaign.
- Finalizing my newish job description.
- Making sure the Competencies are revised distribution at GC.
- Evaluating locales for Triennial 2022 with a newly appointed committee.
- Helping the Nominating Committee as desired.
- Convening the GC planning committee this spring for a first effort.
- Attending a Latino Ministry Competency course in Boston (or helping with it.)
- Travel anticipated: Long Island, Province 8 and Central Gulf Coast.

What a pleasure it has been to see all the fruit of our work! Lori MC