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District 5 DCM  
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September 24, 2007

Dear Area 63 Officers and Members;

As you are aware, District 5 submitted a bid to host the 2009 Spring Conference in Sioux Falls. This bid was submitted with a contingency attached to it asking that the Area Treasurer and Chairperson and the District 5 Conference Committee Chairman and Treasurer co-sign all contracts for that Conference. From our previous experience with hosting Area Conferences, those contracts would include but aren't limited to, the contract with the hotel where the Conference is held and the contract with the band or DJ that provides entertainment on Saturday evening

Before putting this bid together, we discussed it at our District meetings and asked for input from our groups. We also had just hosted the Spring 2007 Conference and talked about ways to improve the Conference and strengthen the connection between the Hosting District and Area 63. After thorough discussion and agreement we put together the bid that was presented in August. As you are aware, the bid was ultimately withdrawn after some concerns were raised.

We met as a District last Sunday to determine if we would re-submit our bid or leave it off the table and perhaps bid for a later Conference. Our conclusion was that we would re-submit the bid with the contingency and offer Area 63 a better explanation for how and why we put the bid together the way we did. I will attempt to clear up any confusion or concerns here if I can.

First and foremost our thought in having contracts co-signed by Area 63 and District 5 was unity. The Spring Conference has suffered lower attendance than the Fall Conference and we were searching for ways to bring enthusiasm and cooperation back into the Conference planning process. When District 5 planned the Spring 2007 Conference, we were asked to bring our hotel contract to the Summer 2006 Assembly for the Area Officers to review. At first, I admit, I was irritated by that request. My ego sometimes competes with my better judgment but I am glad to report it often falls flat when it hears the voice of God as it speaks through our group conscience! Also, in reading the How To Guidelines that the Area put together in 2003, we saw that it was suggested that the Area Treasurer review the contracts. We also forwarded all our Conference meeting minutes to Area 63 Officers and kept them apprised of when we were meeting so in the event they would want to attend any meetings they could. Ultimately it was good to have interest and some guidance from the Area in the planning process and it reminded us that we were hosting an Area event.

Secondly we saw that one person from one District was signing contracts for these Conferences. That is a big responsibility to place on one person, not only from a financial standpoint but from a practical standpoint. We learn from the very beginning that we're not alone in recovery. Contract signing should not be treated any different than anything else WE do. Being involved in planning a Conference is a great experience and no one individual should be concerned about getting involved in that process due to the fear of signing a legal document. Because the

Conference is first of all an Area function and secondly an opportunity for a District to host that function, it seems to be common sense that the contracts be co-signed.

We decided that we were not in any position nor did we want to recommend a change in policy. That is why we only attached the contingency to the 2009 bid that District 5 submitted and did not make a recommendation asking for a change in Area policy.

The Spring Conference in 2004 was held in Sioux Falls. District 5 returned net proceeds of \$1400+ back to Area 63 from that Conference. District 5 hosted the Spring 2007 Conference in Sioux Falls. Net proceeds from that Conference were \$1600+ and a check was returned to Area 63 for \$1300+ after the Al-Anon and Alateen disbursements. From my experience in serving on the Conference Committee in 2007, I can tell you that everyone involved in that Conference planning was diligent and focused on hosting a Conference that all members of Area 63 could and would want to attend while always being mindful of our responsibility to our budget. I hope this will lay to rest any concern any member(s) may have that we would attempt to shove any wild expenses down Area 63's throat. Based on the helpful spirit I have come to appreciate in the people who do this kind of service work, I would be surprised if any of our Districts would want to do anything to purposely bring any harm to the Area.

I am not sure why this bid ended up on the floor at the Summer Assembly because to my knowledge, the only time the Area votes on the Conference bids is in the event that 2 or more Districts are bidding for the same Conference. Having said that, it is always good to put these issues before the Area. It gives us all a chance to practice these principles in all our affairs.

In conclusion, District 5 would like to re-submit our bid with the requirement that the Area Treasurer and Chairperson co-sign Conference contracts with the District 5 Conference Chairperson and Treasurer. I have included our bid as a part of this letter.

**I am asking that our bid be considered and a determination be made by Right of Decision at the Fall Conference in Spearfish. In order to responsibly plan a Conference, any District needs ample time to do that. If we postpone this matter until the Winter Assembly and then vote at the Spring Conference in Aberdeen, that will not allow for adequate time to book a hotel and make arrangements for speakers. I am also asking the Area 63 Chairman, see that this letter is forwarded to Area 63 DCMs and GSRs prior to the Fall Conference.**

**I hope this letter has addressed any questions or concerns that were raised at the Assembly in August. Whatever decision is reached in this matter, District 5 remains committed to serving and cooperating with Area 63 in any way we can.**

**Yours in Service,**

**Joan G.  
District 5 DCM**

**DISTRICT 5 BID FOR 2009 SPRING CONFERENCE**

**We are submitting a bid with the contingency that any and all contracts that need to be signed for this conference will be co-signed by the Area 63 Treasurer and Chairperson and the District 5 Conference Committee Chairperson and Treasurer**

Date: To Be Announced

Place: Sioux Falls

**Expenses:**

Hotel Meeting Rooms	\$ 1500.00
Speaker Travel	\$ 1200.00
Dance DJ	\$ 500.00
Mailing and Printing	\$ 250.00
Coffee	\$ 250.00
Misc.	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total	\$ 4200.00

**Income:**

Pre-Registration 75 @ \$15	\$ 1125.00
Registration 225 @ \$17	\$ 3825.00
Coffee	<u>\$ 275.00</u>
Total	\$ 5225.00