

Area 63 Alcoholics Anonymous
John T., Area Treasurer
PO Box 916
Spearfish, SD 57783

September 1, 2006

Dear Friends of Bill and Bob,

Group contributions for the three month period ending August 31, 2006 totaled **\$2,177.96**, or an average of **\$726** per month. That compares to **\$2,450.25**, or an average of **\$490** per month for the first five months of 2006, which is a considerable improvement. However, based on our 2006 Budget of \$11,640, **we need to average \$970 per month in group contributions** to be self supporting in our ongoing financial obligations. To those groups who have faithfully supported the Area this year, I express my heartfelt thanks for your continued support. If your group has not yet made a contribution to the Area Treasury this year, please consider bringing it up at your next Group Conscience meeting.

In the minutes you will find a summary of the lengthy discussion held at the Summer Workshop concerning the \$1,587 loss incurred to the Area Conference Account by the 2006 Spring Conference. Certainly, mistakes were made by both the Host Committee and the Area Committee which lead to the loss. One item identified by the Finance Committee is to provide closer scrutiny of any written contracts entered into by the Host Committee on the Area's behalf. A motion was offered by the Finance Committee at the Summer Workshop which would have required the Area Chairman and Area Treasurer to approve such contracts prior to signing. After much discussion, the Finance Committee chose to withdraw the motion and continue to review of what changes need to be made to safeguard against any future financial losses incurred by Area Conferences.

In spite of the financial loss incurred, the 2006 Spring Conference was a success. I know that the Host Committee worked hard to make the Conference a success and I thank them for their efforts. Had all those who voted last fall to keep the Spring Conferences been in attendance at this one, the Spring Conference would have made a profit. We all need to accept responsibility to insure better Conference attendance in the future.

Under new business, please note that the Finance Committee has offered a motion for your consideration at the Fall Conference to increase the stipend paid to Area Officers and Committee Chairs by \$25 per Conference or Workshop, for a total of \$1,200. The current stipend is \$75 for Workshops and \$100 for Conferences. To my knowledge, it has been well over a decade since the last increase in stipend. In that time, gasoline has tripled in cost and hotel rooms have doubled. As an Area, we have an obligation to support our elected trusted servants by helping offset the costs they incur to do their job on the Fellowship's behalf. However, regardless of the fact that an increase in the Workshop and Conference stipend is long overdue, we need to be financially self supporting as an Area, which means that if stipends are increased, group contributions will also need to increase accordingly.

Please find enclosed the 2007 Proposed Budget. Note that there are three columns: the left column showing the Current 2006 Budget, the center column showing the Proposed 2007 Budget without a stipend increase, and the right column showing the Proposed 2007 Budget including an increase in the stipend paid to Area Officers and Committee Chairs for Workshops and Conferences. Following is a summary of the proposed changes.

Delegate: The payment to AAWS for the General Service Conference increased from \$1,600 to \$1,700. The actual cost to send the Delegate to the GSC is over \$4,000. The policy of AAWS for Areas that are not self supporting is to request they increase their Delegate contribution by \$100 annually. The other change for Delegate is to increase the allocation for Area 63 presenters at the Regional Service Conference from \$225 to \$300.

Area Chair: No change. **Area Secretary:** Expenses increased from \$1,150 to \$1,400 due to increased costs to mail out the Area minutes. This expense can be reduced by requesting to receive the Area minutes via e mail. Note that the Committee Expense line item and the Expense line item were combined into one line item for simplification.

Area Treasurer: The Committee Expense and Expense line items were combined.

Alternate Delegate: \$100 was transferred to the Expense line item from Committee Expense per request of the committee to allow the Alternate Delegate to attend the Regional Service Conference. In addition, the Committee Expense line item was reduced by \$50, per request of the committee.

Public Information: No change. **Web Manager:** No change. **CPC:** No change.

Archives: The Expense line item was increased by \$100 per request of the committee to purchase supplies needed to preserve the collection.

Remote Communities: Expenses reduced by \$50 per request of the committee.

Corrections and Treatment: Literature/Grapevine Expenses for institutions increased by \$100 per request of the committee.

Literature/Grapevine: Expenses reduced by \$50 per request of the Committee. This line item does not include the purchase of literature items for the Area Literature Display.

Area Workshop: Increased from \$40 to \$275 due to increase in room and equipment rent.

Please find enclosed for your convenience an addressed envelope to send your next group contribution to help fund your Area Service Committee. Thank you.

Respectfully Yours' in Service,

John T., Area 63 Treasurer