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SPOTLIGHT: Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)

In cooperation with the Area, District 5 gave its first CPC presentation to a group of 15 managers at AT&T Thursday, July 31. Michael M. and Mike L. gave the presentation. CPC is working with CWA (Communications Workers of America) toward a presentation to the Executive Board and then later, in cooperation with PI (Public Information) to give presentations to the General memberships of AT&T Garages throughout the OC. Also CPC has made initial contact with the Orange and Santa Ana Police Stations.

- In service, Mark R. CPC Chair

For Your Information Conference Advisory Action

Ever wonder why the "Big Book" price changes? Part of the reason is that money from literature sales helps support the General Service Office. Whether we should continue to use money from book sales this way is one of the questions that came up for discussion as a result of the General Service Conference. Your Delegate and Conference want to know what WE think about this. They want us to: **"Discuss the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical, of funding the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous solely by the voluntary contributions of AA members and AA groups, that profits from literature sales will no longer be used to fund our General Service Office."**

In the background material that was made available there was an article that appeared in Area 40's newsletter (in Montana) titled *"Self-Support or Self-Delusion?"* This article questions, "Well, if it's something we should do, when are we going to do it? If it really is a problem for Alcoholics Anonymous, then let's solve it. But first let's decide if it is a problem."

Let's talk about it. What would it mean if books were sold for what they actually cost to produce? For that matter, how much DO they cost to print? Would it make a difference? Should there be one price for members and another price for profit-making recovery programs? What if literature started to make a "true" profit? What would we do with that money? Should we invest that profit in writing new AA books? About what?

Can our contributions finance the General Service office and let them continue to serve us and the still-suffering alcoholic at the same level as now? According to the Montana article, "GSO expenses for 2006 were just over \$12 million. We have approximately one million members in the U.S. and Canada. That works out to \$12 per member per year." That \$12 would need to go to the General Service Office - not the local Area, District or Intergroup. Could we support all of them?

One of AA's sayings is, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". I think what is being asked here is for us to have a real discussion about whether or not "it" is broken. I don't know about you, but before recovery I didn't have a voice in a lot of things that affected me. I'm grateful that our trusted servants actually want to know what our thoughts are. I do not make the decision, but it's nice to be heard as a part of the group conscience that does make the decision. So, when your GSR asks for discussion on this question what is your response?

--Jane B., District 5 Newsletter Editor

If you'd like to get involved in General Service, come to a District meeting and find out more.

Coming Events

District Meetings - Second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. (New GSR orientation at 6:30 p.m.), Church of the Foothills, 19211 Dodge Ave, Tustin.

Mid-Southern California Area 9 - Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, hosted by District 4: Assembly - The GSRs will vote on proposals. If you are a GSR go and represent your group. Delegate's Report at 9 AM, Assembly at 10:30 AM, Committees at 1:30 PM.

Workshop - Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community -Sept. 27, 2008, 9 AM to 4:30 PM - 2904 N. Brea Blvd, Suite 190, Fullerton, CA. Several speakers from various professions will speak on their experience with their clientele and A.A.

Mid-Southern California Area 9 - Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, hosted by District 7: ASC - The ASC will present proposals but no vote will be taken on them. If you are a GSR go and find out what you should present to your group for discussion.

Go to msca09aa.org for more information or directions to these and other MSCA events.

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