

Self-Support Challenge 2012

Season's Greetings DCMC's,

I hope this note finds you all doing well, and enjoying all the blessings of the Holiday Season!

As you're all aware, at our most recent Assembly the Area took its inventory. One of the inventory questions asked: "Are we doing all we can to inform the fellowship about the importance of self-support?" My response to this question was something like: "We can always do more!" So, what I'd like to propose to all of you, and the rest of CNCA 06, is a concerted effort to improve awareness, through better communication, on the importance of Self-Support.

As an Area Delegate to the General Service Conference serving on the Conference Finance Committee I have become acutely aware of the financial situation of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. While the current system of paying for requested services through voluntary contributions and profits from literature sales is working, how long can AA continue to count on literature sales profits to "bridge the gap" between services provided and contributions? This makes for a difference of about 2 million dollars annually. In several of Bill W.'s writings he talked about his hope of the fellowship someday being fully supported through voluntary contributions. As we're all aware, this has not come close to happening yet.

In the last year since being your delegate I've had the privilege to deliver two different presentations on Self-Support, one at PRAASA, in Honolulu, in March (Where do Money and Spirituality Mix?) and one at the Additional Regional Forum in Woodland Hills, in August (Why not be Self-Supporting?). Doing the homework involved with these presentations I've learned many interesting facts, and heard many interesting solutions. Which brings us to this "Challenge Packet"; I've compiled a set of tools to help all of us carry the message of Self-Support.

As the Chairs of your District's you are in a position to start a pyramid of information flowing, first to DCM's, then onto the GSR's who in turn could further the process and share the information with their group and its members. If each level of our Service Structure reproduced the "Challenge Packet" and kept passing it along we could reach many who've never heard some of the facts. The real challenge would be; finding a way to get the information to groups and members who don't have the connection of a GSR. This is the group that could be most important to making some of the changes I talked about in the December Delegate's Corner.

In addition to the material included in the packet I am willing to share the presentations I mentioned earlier, please email me if you'd like an electronic file. With all the available information I believe our capable GSR's, with the help and encouragement of their DCM and you, will have the necessary tools to make a Self-Support presentation to their groups.

Thank you all in advance for your assistance in rising to the Challenge! Please contact me if you have any questions or I can be helpful in any way.

Yours in Love and Service, Ken