

## **August 2017**

### **Delegate's Corner**

I decided my topic for this newsletter would be Self-Support. As I was surfing the internet for ideas on this topic, I came across the webpage of AA in Cambodia. Cambodia! And then it hits me! (I have been getting hit by lots of thoughts since I took this job!) If we did not have the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and our World Services that are supported by our 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, would there be AA in Cambodia?

Self-supporting through our own contributions, are we? Maybe in our home groups we are. Maybe even in some Inter-groups Offices. But at the level of our World Service, the shortfall between our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds and the cost of the services provided by General Service has been supplemented by the sale of our literature. This has been a topic of discussion for as long as I have been in General Service. I have been listening to a lot of people's opinion about the request to send \$7.27 to the General Service Board on July 27<sup>th</sup>. It amazes me that some people absolutely love this idea. And others not so much. It makes them very uncomfortable. While this is an idea that came from an AA member looking for a way to help increase our 7<sup>th</sup> tradition funds for AAWS, others think that this is a promotional deal that has come from the General Service Office. It is not. Every year our delegate comes back from the General Service Conference there is always a report back about the cost of services and cost per member and the cost per group. This figure is arrived at by dividing the total cost of services for the year by the number of alcoholics believed to be in our fellowship. This year the cost per member is \$7.27 and the cost per group is \$147.93. My job as the delegate is to give AA members information and encourage them to talk about what it means to be fully self-supporting through our own contributions.

My personal opinion about why some people love this idea of sending \$7.27 in on July 27 is it is something they can do. It is something they can do now and feel they are a part of and feel part of the solution. It is a doable amount. Maybe the reason it is irritating to others is it is not fully addressing the real question: Why are we NOT self-supporting through our own contributions? Do we want to be? What more can we do?

I look at the other number, the contributions per group and use it to check with my home group. My home group exceeds that amount every year. Maybe I can encourage you to look at what your home groups gives. Perhaps the answer is to start this conversation in the home groups. Maybe it should be the home groups that should answer these questions? Are we fully self-supporting through our own contributions? Are we giving our share to the other service entities? And if we are not self-supporting through our own contributions – do we want to be? What more can we do.

I am sure the people who gave the \$7.27 are feeling, "At least I can do my share." Individually that idea only works if we all do our share. It really is the AA Group that needs to decide, "Yes, we know what these services are and we want to support them. We want to do our share."

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Joann L.  
Panel 67 CNCA 06 Delegate