

Greetings all:

As a Past Delegate (Panel 61) to the General Service Conference, who served on the Conference Finance Committee, I was made 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? 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.

During the years I served as delegate I had the privilege to deliver two different presentations on Self-Support, one at PRAASA, in Honolulu, in March 2011 (Where do Money and Spirituality Mix?) and one at the Additional Regional Forum in Woodland Hills, in August 2011 (Why not be Self-Supporting?). Doing the homework involved with these presentations I’ve learned many interesting facts, and heard many interesting possible solutions.

Which brings us to this “**Self-Support Challenge**”, a collection of tools (facts from the Conference Finance report, visual aids, charts and graphs, service material explaining where contributions are spent, and much more!) to help spread the word on the importance of Self-Support to all the groups and members of CNCA 06. I would like to **challenge** the Area to step up and lead the way in better communication on this important subject. It has always been my experience in AA, that when the membership is aware of the facts and needs within the fellowship, they respond! With the changing dynamics in the publishing industry, how long can AA continue to count on profits from literature sales to offset a 2 million dollar a year imbalance between contributions and services provided by the General Service Board and the General Service Office? I believe with a small amount of effort on all our parts we can improve in several vital areas.

- 1) Percentage of groups within CNCA that contribute in the GSB. We are currently the 2nd highest (54.8%) contributing Area in the U.S. to the GSB. When I inquired with the #1 Area (58.8%) how they do it, I was told that: “we talk about self-support everywhere we go!” Ok, most of us in AA love to talk, so if we share some of the facts about self-support with our fellow members’ maybe we can make a run at being #1.
- 2) Increase the per capita amount CNCA contributes to the General Service Board. Currently the cost of services provided per member per year is: \$7.27, CNCA’s current per capita contribution is: \$6.85. That’s a difference of \$0.42, so again, we’re close. With a small amount of effort I think we can improve to being fully self-supporting of provided services through contributions.

Ask your GSR, DCM or DCMC for help or more information on **Self-Support** so we can all do our part to meet the **challenge** and responsibility of being fully Self-Supporting through contributions.

Yours in Love and Service, Ken M. (Past Delegate, Panel 61)