

## **The DCM Packet: What's In It and How Do I Use It?**

Many new DCMs (myself included) haven't received kits yet or maybe they just arrived – if you haven't I'm told they are on the way by our Facilitator. Erica was kind enough to get me most of one and my DCMC lent me hers so I could have, for lack of a better term, props. This wasn't lost on me a lesson as a new DCM, for I had to reach out and ask for help.

There is a Kit contents page listing what the Kit contains- the first heading reads Book- this is the A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service- it will be the 2016-2018 edition. If you have an older edition say from your GSR kit, the newer edition will be the updated one when changes are made.

Then, under Service Materials is "A Full Set of A.A. Guidelines". To understand where the guidelines come from on every subject is this explanation: "A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of AA members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole; most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience."

There are over 2-dozen pieces of information listed on the Contents page, so now let's just go down the list (Handout).

This was just a brief introduction to your DCM Kit. There is no wrong way to go through the information- the only wrong thing to do would be to place it on a shelf and not utilize it. I believe the best way would be with your alternate DCM, a GSR, an interested AA member, or all of the above. Also important to remember is how confusing it may be when explaining or passing it on to the next DCM and to remember to reference your Kit in the future when needed. If experience shows anything, it will be needed.