

September 2017
Delegate's Corner

In continuing with the theme of self support, I wanted to draw your attention to the Finance report in the recent AAWS Highlights that have come out after the last board meeting of the General Service Trustees. At this moment (which is just a little bit more than halfway through the fiscal year) "gross sales were \$7,313,388 or 2.17% ahead of budget, contributions were \$3,771,670 or 13.31% ahead of budget and total operating expenses were \$7,821,310 or 1.40% less than budget. Net profit for the six months was \$966,876 compared with a budgeted profit of \$14,988." At this moment, we are looking good for 2017. Let's keep the momentum going. This is what we want to see. Income ahead of budgeted, while expenses are less than budgeted. It means we are on a good track.

I attribute it to our continuing conversations about finances and discussion about the conference theme of Supporting Our Future. "Awareness and Action" is the key here. Awareness of what we need to function and the action required to speak up when needed. I did learn this when I was a GSR for my home group. I found I needed to pay attention to what it cost my home group for a month. How much was rent, literature, refreshments and insurance. I then divided that number by the number of members attending. This is the amount I put in the basket every week, around \$5. We have a financial report in my home group once a month after the steering meeting. I learned to pay attention to if we were on track with all our bills. This is very much the same way that GSO comes up with the cost per member for their services. They take the total cost of services and divide it by the number of people they believe are in AA in the United States and Canada. This year that amount was \$7.27 per person and \$147.93 per group. My home group is well above that amount per group, but I know that not all other groups are able to give that. (The amount received at GSO was \$5.76 per person and per group it was \$97.33.) The fact that my home group can pay more hopefully will offset for a group that can't make that amount as a contribution.

My service sponsor taught me to also pay attention to financial reports of the other services, Intergroup and H&I. If any was hurting for money, it was ok to ask my home group to kick in a bit more of a contribution for that month. I found that by listening to their treasurers' share, that a quarterly contribution was the best to keep the other entities functioning smoothly by providing a steady flow of income throughout the year. Why we keep looking at the money is so when the income falls short we can put the brakes on spending. If the income is over what we expected, then we can be a bit more generous with what we spend it on.

I am forever grateful for being the treasurer of my home group, then treasurer for my District also while serving on the Finance Committee of the Area. It helped me be a responsible GSR, a responsible DCM and DCMC, and a responsible member of the Area, as well as applying these principles to my home budget. Applying the principle of rigorous honesty means you have to look at what is going on financially every month. It does become easier, the more you do it.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Joann L.
Panel 67 CNCA 06 Delegate