

Motion by the Treatment Committee to Purchase and Distribute Conference-Approved Literature

Motion

The Treatment Committee moves that funds be made available to purchase Big Books, 12 & 12s and other Conference-Approved Literature in bulk for distribution, upon request, to District Treatment Chairs and their local committee members to provide to alcoholics in treatment facilities into which they carry the message. Orders will be placed to GSO by the Treatment Chair and mailed directly or hand delivered to the requesting district Treatment Chair. An initial order of Big Books and 12 & 12's, taking advantage of available bulk discounts; to meet current requests, will cost approximately \$3020 for two hundred each of Big Books and 12x12. In addition we anticipate spending approximately \$4000 per year (this amount would be less considering Green Can Funds).

Background

District Treatment Chairs have requested Big Books and 12 & 12's from the current Area Treatment Chair to help carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities. They currently lack sufficient funds to continue to provide for Treatment meetings and the efforts of A.A. members visiting alcoholics in such facilities. Books are given by A.A. service volunteers directly to such alcoholics to assist in explaining the solution offered in our basic text. A.A. volunteers work in facilities as invited. As a result, they may find themselves in facilities outside their own home district working with alcoholics from throughout northern Illinois.

Rationale

This motion does not involve the distribution of funds or literature to Northern Illinois districts. It seeks to provide assistance and support in the form of Conference-Approved literature to local A.A. members of the NIA Treatment Committee who are carrying the message directly to alcoholics. The NIA 20 Service Manual provides:

- The Primary Purpose Register was designed to provide support for ongoing service committee activity. (p.38)
- Service committees do most of the actual work of carrying the message. Service Committees at the Area level exist primarily to educate, assist and support their counterparts at the District or Group level. (p.25)
- Each NIA Service Committee includes the Area Service Committee Chairperson, District Trusted Servants, and Area Alternate Service Committee Chairperson where applicable. (p.26)

Current Inadequacy of Green Can Fund

The Green Can Fund for Treatment literature - similar to the Pink Can for Corrections - was introduced at the NIA Spring Assembly in 2011. To date, it has been inadequate to serve the needs of those carrying the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities. Over the last 8 years, the balance for the Green Can Fund has never exceeded \$317 on a year-end basis. For the years of 2013-2015, it stood at exactly \$170.33 and then

dropped the next year to \$120.63. At the end of 2018, it stood at \$257.13. The current Area Treatment Chair has sought to revitalize this effort by reaching out to and forwarding 600 Green Can labels to district Treatment Chairs. Should these efforts prove successful, the Treatment Chair will first use any such funds to provide the requested assistance and support.

Prior Assembly Approval of Literature Purchases to Support Local Activities

On more than one occasion in recent years, the Area Assembly has approved Primary Purpose Motions for the allocation of funds to purchase literature to assist and support those carrying the message. At the 2011 Summer Assembly, a motion by the Treatment Committee was passed to provide literature for use by local Treatment Committee members in connection with “Bridging the Gap” presentations at local facilities. On two occasions, the Area Assembly has approved motions (Fall 2014 and Winter 2015) by the Corrections Committee for funds for literature to be sent to the Southern Illinois Corrections Committee (Area 21) for use in federal and state facilities in that Area. The most recent of these motions involved an amount of over \$5,000 and passed by a vote of 78 to 1.