

H&I Q&A for the A.A. Fellowship of Northern CA – June 2017

Q: Since H&I had a surplus in 2016, should our group stop passing the Pink Cans?

A: We humbly ask that you don't stop and hope some of the information below will demonstrate why. To help ensure that the contributions to H&I don't interfere with the 7th Tradition collection, many groups have started passing the Pink Cans at the END of the meeting rather than at the same time as the basket.

Q: Does H&I ask that only loose change be donated to the Pink Cans?

A: No. Although we may have done so at one time, our committee agreed that since all A.A. contributions are voluntary, it's not in the spirit of our Traditions to tell anyone how much or how little to contribute, provided they stay within the \$3000 per year limit of individual contributions suggested by GSO.

Q: What did H&I do with the 2016 surplus?

A: Like any other A.A. Ninth Tradition service committee, we are governed by the Twelve Traditions. Due to cost-savings realized from reduced literature shipping expenses and the generous support of the Fellowship of Northern CA, we had a surplus and in February 2017 passed the following motion from our Finance Committee to distribute our excess funds:

MOTION: To make a distribution of \$50,000 of our current surplus, in accordance with our 7th Tradition, in the following manner:

- 1) 60% (\$30,000) to InterGroups and Central Offices, which assist the H&I Committee by providing links on their websites, producing meeting schedules, forwarding phone calls and announcing H&I business meetings. Distributions to the various Areas will be made based on the number of H&I meetings conducted in the Area.**
- 2) 25% (\$12,500) to GSO, which could offset the need for AAWS to raise literature prices, since the NorCal H&I Committee is the largest single purchaser of AA literature**
- 3) 5% each (\$2,500 each) to CNCA, CNIA and NCCAA.**

*We hope that by distributing our funds in accordance with our Traditions, we will demonstrate that when we DO have a rare surplus we do the right thing with it, **and that this will not be used as an excuse to stop passing the Pink Can.***

Q: Is it true that H&I has combined Prudent Reserve and Operating account cash of almost \$270,000?

A: Yes, as of 5/31/17, we had \$126,635.49 in our operating account (unrestricted cash) and \$143,053.02 in our prudent reserve account (restricted cash), totaling \$269,688.51. This is equal to just under six months' operating expenses for 2016 and is a very conservative amount considering our high monthly cash flow. GSO maintains a twelve-month Prudent Reserve and many Central Office/InterGroups with far lower monthly cash flows than ours maintain six-months in Prudent Reserves or cash assets.

Q: How much DOES H&I spend monthly?

A: In FYE 2016, our average monthly expense was around \$45,000. *Fully 96% of our total expenses for the year went to purchase and ship literature for the alcoholic who is confined.*

Q: Hasn't H&I always had too much money?

A: No, this is a rumor based on a misunderstanding of our financial needs. Our committee provides about 35,000 meetings every year, carrying the message of A.A. to the confined alcoholic; we serve approximately 25 major state and federal institutions plus hundreds of local jails, hospitals, rehabs and other community facilities. Providing these confined alcoholics with literature which would otherwise be inaccessible to them involves over half a million dollars every year, and for many years we couldn't even afford to bring the equivalent of ONE BIG BOOK and ONE 12&12 into each meeting.

Q: is it true that H&I has surplus stores of literature?

A: No, our Literature Policy specifically prohibits "stockpiling" literature; if it is discovered that there is an excess of literature at either a facility or in an Area, the excess is returned to the Literature Chair for redistribution. Additionally, we now have a system whereby we regularly review literature usage to catch anomalies of either over or under usage.

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