

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
**NORCAL H&I COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ASSISTING LOCAL AREA H&I COMMITTEES
IN MEETING A PORTION OF THEIR OPERATING EXPENSES**

FACTORS:

- The NorCal H&I committee already functions on the concept that individual Areas don't need to be self-supporting when it comes to purchasing literature. Because small Areas may have a high demand for H&I meetings and vice versa, literature purchased with Pink Can funds is distributed based on need and not based on Area size or voluntary contributions from the Areas.
- The NorCal H&I committee, like other A.A. service committees, was designed to do for the Areas what they could not do for themselves through the process of our collective conscience and action: to provide organization and avoid confusion, to simplify and unify procedures, to provide consistency, to provide a centralized method of communication and to provide economies of scale to reduce costs.
- The unity of our committee means that we all benefit from working toward the common welfare. This is what enables us to be one of the largest purchasers of AAWS literature in the world and to distribute literature to confined alcoholics in amounts unheard of in other parts of the State and country. Each Area is but one part of a great whole.
- Many local Areas are struggling to meet their operating expenses, such as rent, printing and storage and are unable to maintain a Prudent Reserve. This is true for both large metropolitan Areas where local A.A. members often contribute far more than the Area receives in literature distributions and whose expenses are considerably higher than in smaller Areas; and for small Areas where H&I meeting attendance is minimal and passing the basket cannot make ends meet. Many Areas cannot afford a workable method of literature storage, possibly leading to both underserving our target populations and wasting literature resources. Some areas have resorted to bake sales, garage sales and other public non-7th Tradition compliant fundraisers to meet their expenses, while others are dependent on the support of a small core of dedicated individuals who foot the local bills.
- Funds contributed to the Pink Cans are to "support the service" of our committee throughout Northern CA - printing rosters, conducting Area meetings to orient new volunteers, and storing literature is part of that service.
- By assisting local H&I Areas to meet their operating costs *when funds are available*, the NorCal H&I Committee could increase its ability to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who is confined.

POSSIBLE GUIDELINES

- Reimbursement would be limited to costs related to Area meeting rent, printing, and literature storage.
- Receipts or other proof of payment would be required.
- Funds would be reimbursed annually, based on Form 2 reporting for the prior fiscal year.
- Reimbursement would be contingent on the current fiscal condition of the NorCal H&I Committee as determined by the Finance Committee at their annual meeting and as authorized by the General Committee in the budget.
- Reimbursement limits would be determined annually.

OPTIONS - Multiple options for the reimbursement structure can be considered, including but not limited to:

1. All Areas would have the same reimbursement limit. **Example:** All of the 39 Areas which submitted Form-2's in 2019 could be reimbursed \$400; total cost to committee = \$15,600.
2. Areas would have a reimbursement cap based proportionately on the number of meetings they provide. **Example:** Areas would be reimbursed at the rate of \$.60 per H&I meeting conducted; total cost to committee (based on 2019 Form 2's) = \$15,251.40
3. Areas would be categorized into levels based on the number of meetings conducted; all Areas within a certain level would receive the same reimbursement. **Example:** highest tier of meetings (with greater than 2000 H&I meetings/year would receive \$650; lowest tier meetings (less than 250 meetings/year) would receive \$250; other tiers would fall somewhere in between. Total annual cost to committee = \$15,050.

Note: all numbers have been chosen arbitrarily for the purpose of example. Both the dollar amounts, and the levels can be changed, but would be subject to yearly budget recommendations.

TIMELINE – the topic will be distributed electronically in May and be brought informally for information at the June 14th 2020 NorCal General Committee meeting. Local Areas should discuss and consider the topic at their business meetings for feedback through their Regionals to the September Steering Committee. The Finance Committee can consider the implications at their annual meeting in August and make specific recommendations. Adoption would follow the procedures in Sec. Two of our Policy Manual, p.20 “CHANGES TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”.

Addendum: the procedure could be tested for a two-year period before being presented as a change to the Policy Manual.