

Budget Review

I have found the following.

1. Activities basically brought back half of what it given.
2. Literature sales made about \$300
3. H & I had three learning day expenditures.
4. I recommend we make policy changes for line item amount for public storage. Among others that will be addressed in Policy.
 - a) Change prudent reserve make it \$300
 - b) Do away with miscellaneous fund
 - c) Change literature on hand budget to \$2,000
 - d) Do away with Activities budget, they can ask for funds for planned events. By asking G.S.R's maybe events will get better support.
 - e) Review the literature budget of H&I before funding. I suggest \$50
 - f) Include Area Treasurer, Literature Chair in payment of bills (like Area Secretary – minutes)
 - g) Have an alternate day for Area Service in case of bad weather.
 - h) Do away with the clause of signing of checks outside of Area Service since it takes one business day for the deposit to “clear” the bank.
 - i) Not give out blank checks for literature orders.

Literature chair apparently did not read any treasurers report to notice that the area was in financial difficulties. I have heard that he made the statement to the fact that he was not informed not to make literature orders. We stopped paying on literature orders in October when we were overdrawn with the bank. I can understand some of his confusion, for our guide tells him to order literature after every Area Service. The problem becomes when there are no funds to write a check for that order. How do you order literature without some sort of prior approval. The Treasurer has to write a check for the invoice, just like I'm supposed to get my own report of what is sold, on hand, back ordered. Just because things worked differently in the past does not make them correct today. You can not believe just because your budget is at \$2700, that doesn't mean that is there all the time. When you sell literature where does the money go? It goes to the Treasurer and gets put into the general funds. It does not just get turned around and have a check written for the same, lesser or more amount. There are supposed to be checks and balances, that is why there are two signatures required on checks. Oversight. Checks and balances, keeping honest people honest. And now I find out that literature has

been ordered for two months when we did not have the funds to pay for it. That is plain insanity. We will never get our head above water this way. This sure is not being financial responsible. We have to pay two invoices before we can order literature from world again. Home groups will have to order directly from world in the meantime.

Also for everyone's information the Guide to Local Service states that the Treasures book is supposed to have a workable budget sheet in it. Unfortunately this is not the case. The Treasurers book available was updated June 2012 and had no such form. I am left with creating my own, that is why it is so important that subcommittees come and give their input about their budget, what they plan to do and how much it will cost. (I know this part is hard) And any money that we may make from it. An example is our holiday gift exchange. We had no area funding, we asked recovering addicts to bring food or dessert and perhaps a gift to exchange. We asked for Suggested \$5 for that to help pay the rent, use the equipment, etc. We did make some money, even after paying for the rent. Normally that money goes back to the area, normally area would have given a check. This time we can choose to give the money back to area and start a "seed" account and ask groups how much should we have in this "seed" account. Or we can open our own checking account and be fully self supporting. What we really need is more support from within the area. Even group donations are down. Out of 50 meetings less that half show up for area service, and out of those maybe a dozen sometimes 6 have group donations. What kind of budget can I make out of a flexible account? One that only accounts for payment of bills. The subcommittees will get funded by a majority vote, based on need.

As a Treasure I have to look at the big picture, see the flex and flow of donations. We can not build a financial responsible Area with budget items we now have, we need to make choices and cut some things out. Suspend them for a time, until maybe one day we can afford to put them back in.

We have to remember, our true purpose of being here, "To help the still suffering addict"

We need to have a way of letting them know when, where and who to call for a meeting. One way is meeting lists. We were reprinting them every three months, has that much changed? We now have a would wide website that can also help the newcomer find a meeting. But one of the most important things in my opinion is to provide literature to jails, institutions where there are still sick and suffering addicts.

My budget proposal is as follows:

1. Rent – \$80
2. Storage – \$66
3. Verizon – \$4 (rounded up)
4. Literature – \$400

5. H&I literature – \$50
6. PR – \$75
7. Rep's – \$100
8. Secretary – \$50
9. Treasure – \$50
10. Literature – \$35

TOTAL \$910

Of that I suggest we only put enough in prudent reserve for payment of two months worth of bills.

Which would be **\$300.**

In loving services

Norman T – Area Treasure