May 14, 2016

2015 Financial Report

Dear Group Representatives,

As your NCWSA Treasurer, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you a brief overview of the 2015 Financial Reports (attached) and remind you that our donations are extremely important to Northern California World Service Area (NCWSA) finances as well as the World Service Office (WSO). Please share this report with your group and read out loud to your group at least once.

Al-Anon Family Groups only accept donations from Al-Anon and Alateen members. As volunteers and in keeping with the 7th tradition we are fully self-supporting and rely on our contributions to reimburse volunteers for expenses and provide for outreach to families and friends of alcoholics affected by someone’s drinking. Without our generosity, others might not know of the help and hope available in Al-Anon/Alateen. We as members, are the primary source of funds to expand outreach to professionals who might suggest Al-Anon/Alateen to their clients. Without our financial support, attendance at meetings and warm welcome to newcomers, Al-Anon/Alateen would not be there for those still suffering from the effects of alcoholism.

NCWSA is grateful for the donations that we receive which make up 64% of NCWSA’s funding. Events, planned to be self-supporting, make up the balance or 36% which include Assemblies, Convention, Sponsor R&R, and TEAM. Minor income is received from 12 Stepper subscriptions and interest income. In 2015, NCWSA income received was $107,880, which was enough to support NCWSA’s expenses and increase our prudent reserve from year-end excess funds and replenish 50% of the shortfall. Contributions fell short of budget estimates by about $5,000 as noted in the attached Profit and Loss Report, however events exceeded our expectations by more than $5,000, so income was about the same as 2014.

As a vital link of service between the World Service Office and the districts, groups and members, NCWSA provides a forum for discussion and provides and distributes resources and tools for the members and groups to continue to carry the message to families and friends of alcoholics. Between Assemblies, Districts Representatives, the Delegate, Officers and Coordinators meet to do the business and work of the area on your behalf.

The chart on the next page provides a summary of NCWSA 2015 Expenses which total $102,004. Events make up the largest expense or 35% which include member attendance at Assembly, NCWSA Convention, H&I, Sponsors R&R and TEAM. These events are designed to be fully self-supporting through registrations and can fall short when attendance is less than expected. In 2015, events had a net profit of $3,333 primarily due to decreased facility costs and related expenses. Volunteers did a great job keeping expenses down.
In summary, 2015 NCWSA experienced a net profit of $5,877 as a result of decreased expenses which allows us to increase the reserves by $4,408, (75% of the excess) and make a contribution to the World Service Office of $1,469, which is 25% of the excess operating cash in the checking at year-end.

As a non-profit we do not intend to make a profit, but it is recommended by WSO that we have a prudent reserve of twelve months operating expenses which is equivalent to our total expense without the events or about $65,133. NCWSA voted to maintain six months operating expenses based on the last 3 years actuals as a prudent reserve or about $32,567. The Balance Sheet attached shows assets and liabilities and includes money in the bank accounts at the end of 2015 including the Pink Can Fund, used to purchase institutions literature. In addition, we had over $20,000 of literature in storage at year-end waiting to go to Institutions.

At the end of 2015, NCWSA had a combined total of $23,629 in money market and certificates or approximately four months of operating expenses in reserves and almost four month’s expenses in checking for cash flow. Since the NCWSA policy requires six months expenses in reserve, we are currently short on our reserve goal by about $4,529. In addition, NCWSA is keeping three months worth expenses in the checking for cash flow. Typically, expenses are less than budget and excess funds can be used at year end to increase the reserves as long as donations are received as estimated. It is anticipated that this year we will make our goal and the reserve fund will be complete. It will be recommended to the groups at the October Assembly to change the bylaws to reflect our experience of keeping nine months worth expenses in our combined banking accounts checking and savings for operations and that events continue to be self-supporting.

The 2016 balanced budget anticipates donations from members, groups and districts in the amount of $77,150 which is 15% more than the prior year actual donations. Based on 885 groups, this equates to about $85 total per group per year. Of course, some groups are barely able to make their expenses and are unable to contribute so any contributions are greatly appreciated to help us continue to carry the message. Some members choose to celebrate their recovery by contributing an amount each year equivalent to their years of recovery out of gratitude for the program. It is important to give what we can to the NCWSA and WSO, knowing contributions will be used to reach and serve as many people as possible.

Attached is a copy of the 2015 financial reports to share with your group which were provided to the CPA with NoCAC’s (Alateen) conference totals to create the NCWSA tax return. The tax returns will be filed on time and a copy will be on file with the Treasurer. Please email me any questions and I will be happy to respond.

Donations can be mailed to NCWSA, PO Box 728, Vacaville, CA 95696.

Thank-you again for your contribution and commitment to supporting Al-Anon’s Family Groups.
Participation is the key to harmony!
Yours in service, Chris M, NCWSA Treasurer