February 23, 2017

Dear Group Representatives,

As your Area Treasurer, I’m required to provide an annual report to the members with the year-end financial statements. I thought I would take this opportunity to provide you a brief overview of the 2016 Financial Reports and remind you that our donations are extremely important to the Area’s Finances as well as the World Service Office (WSO). Please provide this report to your group and read out loud at least once to the group.

The Area has several bank accounts to account for your donations: Primary account is the Citibank Checking that receives general donations and accounts for all our operating and event expenses including expenses associated with the Pink Can fund such as travel, postage, and storage costs. The Wells Fargo Savings receives all the donations mailed to the PO Box in Vacaville and transfers are made to the Citibank Checking monthly. The Pink Can Fund receives donations and provides Institutions literature primarily to those incarcerated in prisons or jails. The CD and money market makes up part of our reserve fund with the remainder in the checking and savings accounts. At the end of 2016 we have 12 months ample prudent reserves in all our bank accounts.

We are grateful for the donations that we receive and as you can see in Figure 1 below, general donations make up 65% of the area’s funding and 25% comes from events including Assembly, Convention, and the Sponsor R&R. Minor income is received from 12 Stepper subscriptions and interest income. In 2016, the income received was $127,650 which enough to support the Area’s expenses and increase our operating reserves at year-end to 12 months consistent with WSO’s prudent reserve guideline. Contributions exceeded budget estimates by $8,100 primarily from one-time donations of about $12,000 from a couple districts sending up excess funds.

The Pink Can Fund received donations of $35,274 Less Literature Expenses of $28,276 for a net profit of $6,998 leaving $18,601 in the Pink Can Fund bank account plus the literature in storage of $13,346 or $31,947 which is equivalent to more than 12 months recent annual institutions literature expense or an ample prudent reserve.

Figure 1
The area is part of the links of service and passes on information from the World Service Office to the districts, groups and members through public outreach, institutions, professionals, schools, information services, the media, the web and newsletters. NCWSA provides a forum and resources and tools for the members and groups to discuss how to carry the message at Assemblies, Convention and Committee Meetings.

Figure 2 below provides a breakdown of 2016 Expenses which totaled $105,817. Events make up the largest expense or 41% which includes member attendance at Assembly, NCWSA Convention, H&I, Sponsors R&R and Diversity Day. These events are designed to be fully self-supporting through registrations and can fall short when attendance is less than expected.

Figure 2.

In summary, 2016, NCWSA experienced a net profit as a result of increased donations offset by an decrease in expenses which increased the amount available to increase reserves and provide for an amount of $4,493 in excess funds. Attached is a copy of the 2016 Profit and Loss report with a prior year comparison to share with your group which will be provided to the CPA with NoCAC’s alateen conference totals to create the NCWSA tax return. The tax returns will be filed on time in May. Please email me any questions and I will provide a response.

As a non-profit we do not intend to make a profit but we plan to be fully self-supporting and have ample reserves and send up any excess funds to WSO. The ending bank account balances totals $65,872 which is equivalent to approximately 12 months operating expenses for an ample reserve and provides for excess funds of $4,493 available to send to WSO (see Balance Sheet).

The 2017 balanced budget anticipates donations from members, groups and districts in the amount of $77,735 which is approximately consistent with the prior year actual donations. Based on about 900 groups, this equates to at least $85 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 we will use our contributions to reach and serve as many people as possible.

Donations can be mailed to 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