

To Western Washington Area 72, especial those members in District 19, 24, 39 and 42 Alcoholics Anonymous Groups, District Committee Members and Group Representatives:

It is with heartfelt regret that we, the Board of Directors for Sno-King Intergroup (SKIG) must report a serious financial crisis. On Tuesday, June 18 our Treasurer admitted failing to meet commitments; that no bills had been paid since the first of the year and that the literature income and group contributions had been taken for personal use.

On June 20th SKIG Chair Donn N., Alt. Chair Steve L., Office Manager Doug N. and past Chair Jenn P. met at our bank with the Treasurer. At that time the Treasurer was removed from the SKIG bank accounts, turned over keys to safe and P.O. Box, check book, and other financial papers.

Immediately after at the regular scheduled SKIG business meeting all who attended were informed of the issue. Past Delegate Gail H. was invited to share her knowledge from the A.A. General Service Manual, Concepts, Warranties, Traditions and experience of how other groups, districts & areas have handled similar situations. First Gail reminded us that this situation unfortunately happens in A.A., **but** we have a spiritual program with spiritual principals that we strive to live by. One of the things our spiritual principals suggest is that we/A.A. do not hold anyone legally responsible; we don't file police reports and we do not press charges. Our spiritual principals are explained in Concepts & the Warranties (By-Laws) of the General Service Conference. Concept 12, Warranty 5 states: *"That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy."*

Concept 12 explains: *When we of A.A. fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol (addiction) cuts us down. Therefore no humanly administered system of penalties is needed.*

. . . Of all societies ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.

and

. . . Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the world-wide good will which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

In the long form of Tradition 10 it states;. . . *The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.*

In the A.A. Guidelines on FINANCE under Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: Our treasurer just ran off with the money. What should we do?

Answer: Unfortunately, this sort of thing, though rare, does occur. Though legal action is always an option, most groups avoid it. In some cases, the person who stole the money will resurface and return it. Whether or not that happens, some groups have found it helpful to hold a group conscience meeting to review the way the group's finances are being handled. Some sample questions for such a group conscience meeting might include the following: Does the group choose well in their selection of a responsible member to be the treasurer? Is the treasurer helped to an understanding of his or her responsibility as suggested in the pamphlets "The A.A. Group," "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," and the service piece "The A.A. Group Treasurer?" Are they holding the treasurer accountable by receiving regular financial reports and are the treasurer's records available for review at business meetings? Are excessive funds being accumulated by the group?

From the A.A. Service Manual: **A Declaration of Unity:** This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

The SKIG Board agreed adequate checks and balances were not in place that might have prevented this problem and certainly could have prevented it from continuing for so long. That lack of participants for service has left SKIG unable to

fill some positions (i.e. Alt. Treasurer) and that we all must accept some responsibility for failing to implement procedures that protect our members and A.A. as a whole. After serious discussion the Board, Trusted Servants and Group Representative agreed that no punitive action should be taken without input from the groups.

It was agreed the office should remain open to collect the group's conscious on how they would like to precede. Two volunteers stepped up who will work with the Secretary in an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines, job descriptions and put checks and balances in place to safeguard finances. The basket was past and \$747.00 in contributions from the 23 members present was collected so that the phones could be turned back on as soon as possible. The Office Manager Doug N. volunteered to speak with the landlord about the rent and Literature Coordinator Patrick H. will talk with Larry at Greater Seattle Intergroup about the amount owed for literature.

Motions were passed to elect Alt. Chair Steve L. as temporary Treasurer and Email Monitor David B. as temporary Alt. Treasurer. David B. will be responsible for collecting and depositing all income and contributions, he will keep photo copies of checks & literature sales receipts to reconcile with bank statements. Steve L. will be responsible for making payments to creditors and balancing the checkbook. Both men will report to Chair Donn N. on progress in debt reduction and work with creditors.

Sno-King Intergroup is the public face of Alcoholics Anonymous. SKIG needs your immediate participation and financial support if it is to continue as the interface between the still suffering alcoholic and the groups in Districts 19, 24, 39 & 42. As a suggestion; we are asking your group to donate \$200, if 30 groups contributed \$200 we can recover and stay open.

We really need to hear direction from your group, Districts and individuals on how you want SKIG to proceed. Please contact us as soon as possible either via your Intergroup Representative, by email at snokingintergroup@hotmail.com or by calling a SKIG Board member. We have scheduled an emergency meeting for next week to review progress in resolving the financial issue and discuss feedback from the groups.

Respectfully in Service;

Secretary, Annie F.
206-612-4124

Chair, Donn N.
425-745-5894

Alt. Chair/Temporary Treasurer, Steve L.
425-210-1856

I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.