

## From the Desk of the DCM

I know by its very nature that any discussion regarding budgeting and the District finances are controversial in nature. We do need to have a discussion regarding District Finances, Group contributions and setting up of special funds for things like Literature.

This is why I have asked the committee chairs to submit what they think they will need in funds for the rest of this year and for an estimate of funds needed for 2009.

We as a district do have a right to know where we are spending our money and what we will need funds for. Setting up special funds for this and that in the district is not necessary if we work together to establish a budget. We can set up a Finance Committee to go through this process for those who would like to be on this committee please come forward and see myself or our Treasurer Chris.

As we are growing as a District, we want to give to the next rotation the best tools that we can provide for them so we can continue to grow and carry out our primary purpose which is to carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I have requested from the committee chairs that they review the Trusted Servant Guidelines that were passed out in the April meeting and e-mailed to them individually, to pass back suggestions and any changes that they feel necessary so we can present this for approval by the District as a whole. This means voting on the Trusted Servant Guidelines to have them accepted by the district as a whole. We may not be able to accomplish this until August or September; however we do need to move forward on this. All members of the district can receive a copy of these guidelines and provide feedback so that we can make this a true document that explains what each job in the district is and how the job is done.

Apparently there have been some rumblings in the district that the district is trying to control the groups. This is not the case at all and let it be clarified by the purpose of the district. The district is composed of the groups that hold meetings in the district. The district works through the committee structure to provide 12<sup>th</sup> step opportunities to the member groups. The district is there to help the groups and provide any guidance requested by the member groups. The Voting members of the district are the GSR'S, the district officers and the committee chairs. The GSR'S are the representatives of their respective groups and have the final say on the direction the district goes. With all of that being said, the groups control the district not the other way around.

There is a proposal that has been brought forward from the Area web committee regarding the online directory for the entire state of Minnesota (Area 35 and Area 36).

One point seems to have been a little controversial.

1. Web committee proposes that only groups registered with GSO are to be listed in the online meeting directory.

When this was brought forward to the Area committee, I did bring up the spirit of tradition 4 that the group has the right to not be listed with GSO. There was a discussion regarding this and it was brought up that yes the group does not need to be listed with GSO they have the right to make that decision. If they are not listed with GSO then they are not listed in the regional directory published by GSO. In the spirit of Tradition 7, we are self supporting through our own contributions, why would we list them in our online directory.

- Frank B.

DCM

Area 36, District 24