

San Diego - Imperial Area 08
Alternate Delegate's Report
March 19, 2015

No one is born knowing how we work to carry the message; and each A.A. Area differs in how and what specific 12-Step work it performs. As an Area 08 trusted servant, you are the primary communicator to our GSRs who provide our groups with:

- A. The details of the 12-Step work we perform;
- B. An invitation to all groups members to participate in all our work including our standing committees; and
- C. The status of the budgeted dollars they can contribute to support carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Please take the time to start absorbing this information so you can do your best in your duty as a communicator in the service structure. The information of the work agreed upon by all, that is open to be performed by all, through the contributions of all, is what our Tradition of Self-Support is all about. We are currently at the start of the budgeting cycle.

Each January, about half of the members of the Area Committee are new. This means at least half of us, and sometimes those who have been around for a while, are not aware of how and why we budget for our 12-Step work. I think this is because all who serve do not take the time to explain what we are doing and, most important, WHY we are doing it. I hope to provide some information I know would have helped me more quickly become useful in our Area's work of carrying the message.

Please remember the importance of learning how Area 08 works is that, as a participating member of the Area Committee, you will be eligible to stand for election as an Area Officer in November 2015. Area 08's Structure & Guidelines are posted on www.area8aa.org. I hope you will review and become familiar with them to learn more detailed information on eligibility. I want to help insure all Area Committee Meeting members understand our budget-setting process and understand how Self-Support funds the duties of each of our Area's officers.

Right now, each of the officers in our current panel is budgeting for the funds required to perform the duties assigned to his/her position in the year 2016. Each of us will rotate from our current position in December 2015; so, the budgets we are setting are for Panel 66 (The Panel number coincides with the respective year's sequence in the history of the General Service Conference.) Elections will be held in November 2015 and the new panel will take office in January 2016.

Each member of Area 08's Panel 64 came into office with a budget for the first year in the service position that had been prepared by the person who had just rotated out it. Each new Panel 64 officer was asked to build his/her budget for his/her second year of office with no more than 3 months of experience in his/her service position. True to our spirit of rotation, now that each of us has a better understanding of the job duties and tasks assigned to our current position, it is time to set the budget for the next person.

Please know we budget for the next person with a few thoughts in mind to insure:

1. The groups know the full dollar amount of self-support required to perform the duties they have approved to be performed;
2. All A.A. members are eligible to serve because the duties of our Area's officers are funded to do so; and
3. We do not limit the eligibility of who can serve with only the few who can afford it.

The spirituality of our 7th Step is that money contributed by is spent in service to all in our Area. Of course the budgeted amount is not required to be spent by the rotating-in officer. The officer needs to have a good understanding of the direction of the groups in our Area by funding the duties assigned to it.

So, our SUBMITTED budgets are set by looking at the list of tasks and duties assigned to our position and projecting an estimated dollar amount it will take to perform them for the next calendar year. The tasks for each position primarily come from the Service Manual and Area 08 Structure and Guidelines (S&Gs). They also come from "pass-it-on" documents that are the collected experience of those who have held the position.

In short, the SUBMITTED budget is a best guess made at least nine months prior to the start of its respective calendar year. The officer who creates the budget is sort of a disinterested party.

For each officer, the majority of the projected costs is arrived at through the number of photocopies and mileage forecasted for the foreseeable events. Your services as a communicator to the progress of funding the budgets is important because the groups need to be informed on progress and changes that occur in funding the Area's 12-Step work. Change is likely in the course of performance of any officer's duties. For example, it is possible the officer will not be able to make each forecasted event or the event may get canceled. In those cases, all budgeted dollars will not need to be used. However, increases to the budget may occur during the calendar year if 12-Step opportunities arise that were unknown at the time the SUBMITTED budgets were developed. These unknown amounts are usually referred to as unbudgeted expenses. Unbudgeted increases under the amount of \$450.00 can be reviewed and approved by the Area Committee Meeting. The Assembly will need to review and approve unbudgeted amounts over \$450.00.

If the assembly decides to cut any of the SUBMITTED numbers, we are all served by specifying the 12-Step work associated with the eliminated dollars in order to insure each trusted servant knows which work the assembly is directing not to be performed. If the assembly finds 12-Step work to add to any particular officer's list or that of the Area that is not represented on the budget, it can add a task and any required dollars to the budget during the Big Day Assembly.

It is important all who vote on the budget understand all the numbers gathered from the officers and standing committee chairs and presented in the SUBMITTED budget represent the 12-Step work intended to be performed during that respective calendar year. GSRs need to understand what they are reviewing when they carry the Area's Finance Report to their groups. The GSR can only provide information that you as a DCM relay to them. The quality of transfer of this information is what determines the strength of our informed group conscience.