

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

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“The General Service Office serves as a clearinghouse and exchange point for the wealth of A.A. experience accumulated over the years, coordinates a wide array of activities and services, and oversees the publication, all translations of, and distribution of A.A. Conference-approved literature and service materials” – *The A.A. Service Manual (S73)*.

I recently read a report outlining the services performed at your U.S./Canada General Service Office. It took nine single-spaced pages to list all the activities that are taking place at the GSO every day. It is my experience that the General Service Office is a real treasure that serves our entire Fellowship.

The total cost to provide these services in 2005 was \$7,622,288. Group contributions of \$5,417,046 covered 71% of the costs with literature profits covering the remainder. Contributions in 2005 came from 43.2% of the groups registered in the U.S. and Canada. It is interesting to note that we could completely fund the cost of your General Service Office with an **annual** contribution of \$5.75 per **member** (.48 cents/month) or an **annual** contribution \$131 per registered **group**. I am thrilled to report that group contributions in 2006 will likely exceed \$6 million dollars for the first time in our history. We are grateful to each member who contributed to this outstanding accomplishment.

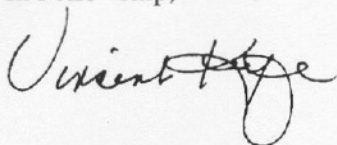
During my presentation to the 56th General Service Conference last April, I speculated what it would be like if we were to be fully self-supporting from A.A. group and member contributions on a continuing basis. Here are my thoughts:

- ❖ Literature could be priced at cost.
- ❖ More literature would thus be available to reach the still-suffering alcoholic.
- ❖ Complete control over all A.A. literature would rest within the Fellowship.
- ❖ We would establish a strong financial base to insure that our Service Structure remains in place to serve future generations.
- ❖ Most importantly, the entire Fellowship would have a strong spiritual connection to services provided beyond the home group.

Wouldn't this be a wonderful achievement?

On behalf of the General Service Board and staff, we offer our sincere thanks for your past support and look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the wider world of A.A. in the years ahead.

In Fellowship,



Vincent Keefe, Treasurer of the General Service Board