

Ask-it Basket Questions

1. Who receives Employee benefits> How many employees? There are 49 employees at the World Service Office. All eligible for benefits. Note: Most not all are Al-Anon members.
2. Why do we pay for Employee Benefits? Most of the GRs & Drs here today do not have retirement or health benefits. Al-Anon was a non-profit, staffed by volunteers for years. Lois W. did not want this and would be heartbroken. While the WSO began as a totally volunteers organization it has grown to one that has over \$8,000,000 in assets with an annual budget of over \$5,000,000. This is a worldwide organization that helps bring recovery to families and friends of alcoholics worldwide. Paid employees are needed in order for this purpose be fulfilled. I do not know Lois inner thoughts but I did hear this story at Conference about Lois. In her later years she made a visit to the office after her visit she was asked what she thought about it. Lois said that she was very happy but was concerned about all the TVs on everyone's desks. It was explained that these were not TVs but computers. With that Lois went home, bought herself a computer and learned to use it. I think Lois W. was a strong, far thinking woman who would be pleased with the direction of the WSO.
3. I thought each group was self-supporting so, why is the cost of service per year to each group, \$248? Services to groups include the member's website, Literature (CAL) and the Forum, manning the office to answer questions of members, the CMA electronic newsletter, Area Highlights to Delegates, Alateen, Discussion Boards, blog and podcasts are all service to groups. Also the 800 phone line to locate meetings. Communication Services such as Public Outreach, PSAs, TV & Radio, Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism.
4. A recommendation on the Delegate's Report. Problem: Long Verbal, technical report is difficult to keep attention. Report is important. Suggestion: Report put on Web one week prior to Assembly. Participants are to come to the Assembly having read the report on the web before the Assembly. In the event, they have not read the report a printed copy of the Delegate's Report would be handed out at Registration. Participants then can read the Report prior to meeting. So at the meeting the Delegate's Report could be less technical and shortened in time for delivery. Highlights could be reported. Also, people could bring their questions to the meeting. I would have loved to have been able to post my report on the website a week prior to the Assembly. I did submit an outline of my report about 3 weeks ago for posting on the website. The Conference was only 4 weeks before the Assembly. I have worked daily for the past 3 weeks to condense 5 twelve hour days into a little over an hour's report while still giving you the major points of the Conference.
5. How much can I ask for from my group for mileage? What is the rate? Can I ask my group for my 5 meals here? How do I handle the treasurer of my group saying that we

don't have enough money to send their GR to Convention/Assemblies? I am only given ½ of the cost and I think we do have enough money. Is there a formula for determining if a group can send their GR? There are two sections in the Service Manual that can help you and your group; they are on pages 53 and 139 in the Service Manual. Pg. 53 lists Group expenses, the first item is rent followed by the "GR's expenses to attend and participate at district, Information Service (Intergroup) and Area Assembly meetings" and pg. 139 "Each group provides its GR with sufficient funds to fulfill the GR duties including participation in the Assembly. Expenses may include meals, transportation, accommodations, and registration fees." Also the G-41 "Reserve Funds guidelines" can be found on the member's website under Group Services, Guidelines. As far as how to decide on the mileage you need to discuss with group, could be a flat rate, could use IRS rate what works best for the group.