

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conference Members
RE: Question regarding Contributions

The WSO was asked at the 2006 WSC to send a copy of questions it receives from Conference members and our responses to all Conference members so that they can share leadership by responding to recurring questions in their Areas. The WSO believes that the following question and our response might be one of those topics.

Question: Somehow it is hard for our Area to think "abundant resources." At the 2006 World Service Conference, it was reported that of the 14,952 registered groups in the US and Canada, 8,451 (56.52%) of them contribute to the WSO for an average of \$96.21 per contributing group. The estimated total cost of the services provided to the 14,952 registered groups is \$3,519,875. That is an average cost of services per group of \$235.41. Is there a somewhat itemized list available of services that the WSO provides to the groups?

Answer: Every service provided by the World Service Office benefits the groups. That is our purpose. Lois established us as the clearinghouse to provide the connection between the groups and to provide unity. I'm not sure how one puts a price on that.

Every group receives several mailings from the World Service Office, including a free copy of *The Forum* and the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* which are mailed to each group; is listed in the World Directory which is utilized when making referrals to newcomers on the toll free meeting lines; benefits from the Public Service Announcements; supplements the costs of the entire Conference which benefits Al-Anon worldwide, as the equalized expense only pays a part of the Delegate's costs; supports the growth of Al-Anon around the world by connecting the General Service Offices and groups in those countries still evolving like Iran, Mongolia, and Romania. All of the staff efforts in editing and improving our literature, the service tools to improve our outreach efforts including the Public Outreach and Member Web sites, and the translation of our materials into Spanish and French to support our members in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada are part of the costs that each group pays to carry our message of hope.

It is not what the group gets but what the group is part of and what it costs for the group to be a full participant in those efforts that is important. Not every group does its share but we still provide full support to them. On behalf of the WSO, please thank the groups who give tirelessly of their resources so that the Al-Anon/Alateen hand of hope and help is there when anyone, anywhere reaches out.