

Dear Trustee of Alcoholics Anonymous:

## Alcoholics Anonymous needs your Help!

The unity and spiritual progress of Alcoholics Anonymous is being held captive by the fear of lost profits concerning literature sales. The life saving message of recovery, which was freely given to us by a power greater than ourselves, which a majority of AA's believe is contained in our literature, is being sold for a profit. These book profits, donated to help finance headquarters, now total more than the amount per year that the *entire fellowship contributes in self-support of headquarters*. Alcoholics Anonymous is not fully self-supporting through its own contributions, but is also supported through book profits.

The fellowship has been informed of this lopsided 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition support system since 1986. We especially know this is of no surprise to headquarters, but if the fellowship as a whole were asked if they thought AA were self supporting, most of us would happily say "Oh, Of course!". Yet, just recently, GSO has determined that 25% of book profits come from *outside* the fellowship, so it appears we have crossed another line away from the unifying strength of our Traditions by accepting outside contributions.

Some Questions:

How low do contributions to headquarters have to go, before we accept the fact that the fellowship does not want to support the budget of GSO?

Since the Big Book only helps alcoholics, and that's our primary purpose, shouldn't the Big Book be placed in the public domain by now instead of being sold for profit?

Doesn't headquarters believe in Concept XII: "We have no doctrine that has to be maintained. We have no membership that has to be enlarged. We have no authority that has to be supported. We have no prestige, power, or pride that has to be satisfied. And we have no property or money that is really worth quarreling about."?

Why is headquarters renting offices in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country?

Some solutions:

Slash the GSO operating budget in half, or to anticipated self-support. The local groups, districts and areas in the country seem to have no problem with being self supporting and being there when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.

Let the Big Book become public domain, it'll only help more alcoholics.

Utilize some of the \$12million prudent reserve fund to relocate headquarters to middle America so more members can visit. Plus the rent will be a lot less expensive.

## A Resolution

Whereas, Alcoholics Anonymous as such should never go into business;

Be it resolved that

We, as members of autonomous group# \_\_\_\_\_ of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and the real authority of AA, entreat the trustees of the General Service Board of AA, to direct our service corporation, the publishing company known as AAWS Inc., to begin selling literature at cost. Once this is done, the fear of lost book profits will leave us and disputes over property and prestige will no longer divert us from our primary spiritual aim. Once more, AA can rely on a higher power for its survival and growth and discard those character defects spawned by fear. AA is a fellowship of men and women; Our lives and the lives of those to come depend on each other and on a loving God as we understand Him.