

History of the Pink Can: A Summary Based On *Pink Cans: Small Change Brings Big Results* (p. 8). Box 4-5-9: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A. A. Vol. 52, No. 5 / October-November 2006.

The *Pink Can* idea seemed to have originated in the Northern California Area in 1957. The purpose was to provide sufficient funds to purchase literature for expanding work in prisons. Individual contributions, although quite helpful, were not enough to keep up with the expanding responsibilities of the local Hospitals & Institutions Committees.

Someone came up with the idea of passing a can during meetings and requesting spare change. It was explained that all monies collected would be used to buy literature for alcoholics in hospitals and prisons. In order to make the can “stand out,” a decision was made to paint the can pink. In short time, pink cans started appearing on literature tables and were being passed around at various meetings.

Although there was a concern that “Seventh Tradition” contributions would be jeopardized, the committee emphasized the need to use literature to *carry the message* and provide clear information to the still suffering alcoholic.

The mission of the H&I Committee of District 23 is: **“To ensure that any person, in any facility, has access to AA Literature; to cover all requested meetings without fail; and to help all those interested attend meetings.”**

The H&I Committee is self-supporting through its

own contributions and extends the spirit of cooperation to hospitals, rehab facilities, correctional institutions and through the Bridging the Gap program, initial transportation for those attending outside meetings for the first time. The District 23 H&I Committee got its start in February of 1997.

For more information regarding the H&I Committee, please read the **Box 459** article and/or contact an H&I Representative – **Thank you!**

Article available at: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

About the H&I Committee

Funds

The H&I Committee (Committee) maintains two separate funds. The first is our *Self-Supporting* operating fund. Reported as “**H&I TREASURER’S REPORT**”, this helps to pay for the room we use and incidental supplies. The prudent reserve averages around \$40.00. This money is collected by “passing the hat” at the monthly meeting.

The second is the Literature Fund reported as “**PINK CAN TREASURER’S LITERATURE REPORT**“. This is the first part of The H&I Mission Statement and is supported by groups in District 23. It is entirely up to the group conscience (autonomy) whether literature money will be collected and how it will be collected. While many groups use a pink can; some use a brown basket, a brown, green, yellow, etc. can; or a hat. The Committee makes no effort to control the manner of collection.

The money comes to the Committee in plastic sandwich bags (new and used), paper bags, envelopes, placed on the table, etc. The H&I Committee is responsible for ensuring that this money did not come from corporate contributions or solicitation outside of Alcoholics Anonymous. In fact, any two or three alcoholics who have gathered together for the sake of sobriety can call themselves an A.A. Group providing they have no other affiliation. There is no requirement that contributing groups be registered with the GSO or be on the District or Area Meeting Lists.

In the late 1930s, Bill W. in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation decided that literature will play a major role in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. To achieve this mission, literature is purchased from recognized A. A. entities and distributed to treatment and correctional facilities. These principles can also be found in the A.A. guidelines for treatment and correctional facilities *. The Committee puts forth every effort to reach a balance of \$0.00 at the end of each meeting – This is not always possible.

For more information regarding literature purchases and facilities we distribute literature to, read the H&I Newsletter and/or come to the H&I monthly meeting – Usually the second Saturday of each month.

H&I Picnic Committee
(Picnic Committee)
Created April 2007

The mission of the Picnic Committee is to provide fellowship activities to all members –

especially newcomers. It is an autonomous entity that will report to the District through the H&I Committee. The Picnic Committee funds will be reported in the “**H&I TREASURER’S REPORT.**”

In order to accomplish this mission, the Picnic Committee will become self-supporting and maintain a prudent reserve discussed in the Long Form of the Traditions *.

The Annual *H&I Picnic* is our way of saying...**Thank You!** For your support throughout the year.

The “2009 Old-Timers Speaker Meeting – Spaghetti Dinner” is scheduled for April 25th 2009 at St. Michaels Church. There will be more information soon.

The “2009 H&I Picnic” is scheduled for August 22 at St. Vincent’s Grove.

Desserts will always be welcomed!

Any one interested in finding out more, Don’t Drink, Attend Meetings and come to the monthly H&I Committee Meeting!

Thank all of you for your Support!!!

District 23 H&I Committee

And

Picnic Committee

* For reference, the Long Form of the Traditions can be found on pages 563 – 566 of the Big Book, 4th ed.