

Washington State Area East 92 12th Step Literature What are those Pink Cans for?

AA books and literature carry the message to those who are confined or hospitalized, and provide information to the general public and professionals in the community. The literature costs money, lots of money. It is only available through the fellowship, so there is no other way for them to get the written message that is so valuable to our sobriety. One source for the money are the little PINK CANS we see at most meetings.

There are a lot of misconceptions about PINK CANS. Since AA is self-supporting through its own contributions, the only purpose of the PINK CAN money will be to purchase literature and tapes from World Services, Inc., subscribe to Grapevine, Inc., purchase schedules and for some general expenses. None of the committee members are paid for their services. Any expenses they incur carrying the AA message are strictly their own personal contribution or covered by the District or Area budget for their respective committee.

The spare pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, AA members contribute to the hype of 12th Step work goes a long way and it does work. To begin with, the literature is what makes us grow in the program. More than one recovering "AA" emerging from an institution or hospital has stated that the literature brought in to them may have saved their lives.

Most facilities have only one AA meeting a week or none if their meeting night falls on a holiday. That means the literature and tapes supplied through the PINK CAN money will many times be their only contact with our program of recovery.

One of the fears expressed on the PINK CAN was that they would subtract from the support of the meetings. This was dispelled by groups that determined their meeting donations were the same with or without the PINK CAN.

The PINK CAN violates no AA tradition. The money is from AA members for AA members. It is being used by the fellowship (world wide). We are self supporting through our own contributions. For further information please contact your DCM. PINK CAN contributions can be sent along with your regular contributions to the District Treasurer. The funds will be set aside solely for the authorized AA committees to draw on for literature.