

## Red Light Green Light Question 1 Comments

*What do we do for a member who opens new meetings without consulting others and the meetings are poorly attended and not self-supporting?*

- A member asked if the page numbers for the literature referenced are available. They are in the report.
- A member commented she felt sandwiched between the two perspectives. One is a member starting new meetings and asking for help with service. Others in the district were concerned about attendance and how to pay the churches for the lack of money paid. It was workshopped by a group who reviewed the 12 Concepts of Service. They found the Service Manual states forming groups is an act of service. The group set up a framework in the District for opening the meetings. The members suggested someone who is setting up a meeting consult the District Rep who can announce the new meeting to other groups and consult with the District AISL to attend the new meetings and consult the literature person to donate to the new meetings. The literature person made three donations to new groups.
- The current Area Group Records Coordinator commented his district had this issue. One of the new unsupported meetings was not paying rent at a church where three or four other meetings were going on. As the Area Group Records Coordinator, he contacted WSO, and they said the only requirement to register a meeting was that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend. WSO suggested the District and other Groups get involved and support the person who is starting the new meetings. He believes there should be some structure for Districts to help members get new meetings set up.
- A member asked don't we have a Guideline about starting new meetings?
- A member was asked to check out a facility for a meeting. Her service sponsor recommended consulting the Service Manual, which lists how to do it. It's good to have a reference. You don't do it alone, and in this program, there are steps to do a meeting. The member who started a group took tidbits from other people, and it was not done the 12 step way. The meeting closed. It was an effort in futility because very few came. A service sponsor is really important.
- A member shared the meeting she was part of was about to close. They got a group of people who agreed to go and support the meeting every week. They have been doing that, and after about a year, it's a strong, growing meeting. We can support with our time while following the AI-Anon traditions.
- A member shared when she came into the program, there were not a lot of AI-Anon meetings in the district she was in. It was shared with her that if she wanted to start a new group, she needed a core set of people to do it and that she was not there to do it alone. It takes time for a group to become a good, solid group.