

# To whom it may concern

Q. "WHY RAFFLES OF THE BIG BOOK AT AA MEETINGS?"

A. "LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD OF ONE GROUP!"

At a recent meeting of our group the treasurer announced that he had taken a tally of the results of the raffles conducted at the mid-meeting "break" at the regular weekly meetings. Here is the tally from last May 1 to August 15.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Big Books distributed          | 37 |
| "12 Steps 12 Traditions" books | 12 |
| Grapevine subscriptions        | 7  |

Included in the number of Big Books distributed were copies, paid for through the raffle, for distribution to small-town libraries of seven communities adjacent to the town where we meet.

Now, lest we lose a degree of humility by perhaps tooting our horn a bit in this regard, we should like to say here and now that our purpose in releasing this bit of information is to answer the question, "Why raffles of the Big Book at AA meetings?". No other group in our immediate vicinity conducts a raffle and when we first started the idea, members of our older groups thought that we were being rank commercialists. Also, we meet at facilities offered us by a local church, yet our activities as to raffles of this nature—and on a Sunday night, too—have never been questioned.

Financially speaking we do not make any money on the raffles—except during the summer months when we are visited by many AAs on vacation. But we do accomplish what we intended when we first started the raffling of the books! We get those books into the hands of many persons who might never, otherwise, even hear of AA for some time to come.

An interesting sidelight on these raffles, too, is that since the first of last year, approximately five new Big Books have been won by persons visiting AA for the first time. Some may charge this to that good old "horse track" variety of *luck*... but most of us know and fully accept that the winning of the Big Book by a newcomer is based on something much greater than luck... rather it is again evidence of "in mysterious ways His wonders to perform."

I hope other groups who have had hassles over the raffles will take another look at the table above... and do everything in their power to take this easy method of getting more books and Grapevines within the reach of more people, everywhere.

*L.C.G., Cape Cod, Mass.*