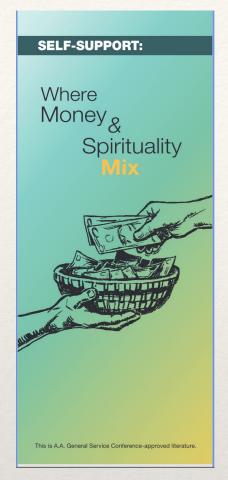
Virtual 7th Tradition Basket Best Practices

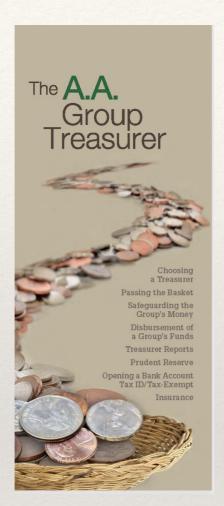
eContributions in the Digital Age

Terry P. - Treasurer - Maryland General Service (Area 29)

References



F-3



F-96

12 Traditions

12 Concepts

BM-31 The AA Service Manual

MG-18 AA Guidelines: Internet

SMF-101 Frequently Asked Questions About AA Websites

SMF-197 Anonymity Online and Digital Media

A.A. Guidelines

A.A. Guidenines are complied from the snared expensions of A.A. members in the various areas. In ey also relied guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of Autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.

"A.A.'s far-flung Twelfth Slep activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would iterally wither and die.

"Now where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things?" Why should we provide these func-tions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelth Step-work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters (now the General Bervice Office) to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.

"Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Industrial Indication, these service algorities are absolutely especiate to the Confinence experience — not source as a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all or Low Support of Services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under uniform of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under uniform of services squarely under a grant and application of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under under the support we are all going to for the bill."

One of G.S.O.'s responsibilities is to share A.A. experiences with groups and members who request it. In these Guideline we are dual to provide sharing from a variety of sources, though we are aware that actual A.A. practices often vary. So, if your group has found solutions other than those cited in this Guideline, please let us know, so that we may share your experiences with others.

Often-asked questions about finances directed at G.S.O. cover such topics as group rent, bank accounts and insurance; re bursement for service workers' expenses; I.R.S. deductions and tax I.D. numbers, and the role of the General Service Board.

WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX

Members celebrate sobriety by giving time, energy and money in support of our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship offers. Members assure that group expenses are paid by putting money into the basket passed at each meeting. It is each member's responsibility to support the services that have been requested by the A.A. Fellowship, to help acilitate A.A.'s vital Twelfth Step. Contributions are made in a Isolitate A.A.'s vital I weitht Step. Continuous are made in a spirit of sacrifice, and they honor A.A.'s code of 'Dove and serice.' Contributions also underscore the spiritual nature of our Fellowship and our mutual love and trust. We have found that these contribu-tions are as important to each member as they are to the service centers supported.

SUPPORTING A.A.'s STRUCTURE

MG-15

Question: Why do A.A. groups support A.A.'s essential services? Answer: Because the services benefit all A.A. groups. Our Seventh

Tradition states that "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-support

A.A.s want our Fellowship to endure, and to be readily available for the still-suffering alcoholic to come. An A.A. group makes this pos sible by taking care of its basic group expenses: rent, refreshments

and providing a meeting place, many groups participate by sup-porting the central or intergroup office in their locale, the area and district general service committees, and the General Service Office (G.S.O.).

Question: How can groups participate?

Answer: To help support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, AA. Interature, local meetings lists), and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover unexpected expenses, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A.

- . The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.
- . The area committee, which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area; sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference; holds area assemblies to deter-

SELF-SUPPORT

The Seventh Tradition states that Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help to cover the group's expenses. But the Seventh Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and a responsibility of individual groups and members to ensure that our organization, at every level, remains forever from our primary purpose

The monetary amount of each contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with A.A. groups around

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Some facts:
 Currently about 43.7% of groups contribute to the General Service Office. Costs of Services provided by G.S.O. (as of 2018) are approxin \$7.40 per member per year.
 Gross profit from A.A. literature sales account for over 50% of G.S.O.'s revenue.

Personal thoughts:

- What is the value of your sobriety?
- Does your group know that contributions may be made online at AA.org?
 Gratitude, expressed through contributions, reaches the still-suffering

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F-42

WWW.AA.ORG

SELF-SUPPORT

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The monetary amount of each contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with A.A. groups around the world.

Service Material from the General Service Office

How your home group can participate

- Incorporate the 7th tradition into your virtual meeting script.
- Describe how the group uses 7th tradition funds to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.
 - Familiarize you group with the services provided at the local district, intergroup, area and the general service office.
- Provide web addresses for contributions.

Carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic

Safeguarding the Group's Money & Your anonymity

- Business checking account in the group's name.
 - At least two endorsements for checks or electronic transactions.
 - Ease of disbursement.
 - Record of income and expenses.
- Use group name and Bank account to setup electronic payment platform

Opening a Bank Account/Tax ID

- Tax ID number is required (Not necessarily true)

 If you do get a Tax ID, you will be required to file a 990-N ePostcard.
 - SS-4 Tax ID Form (Employer Identification Number EIN)
 - Social/Recreational Clubs, Unincorporated Associations and Civic Groups
 - You will need <u>one</u> of the following business documents:
 - Business License
 - Fictitious Name Certificate or Statement
 - Certificate of Assumed Name
 - Organization/Association Articles or Bylaws
 - Certificate of Good Standing
 - Certificate of Formation
 - Certificate of Organization
 - Statement of Organization
 - If you do not have one of the business documents listed, please provide another document such as <u>board meeting minutes</u>.

Prudent Reserve

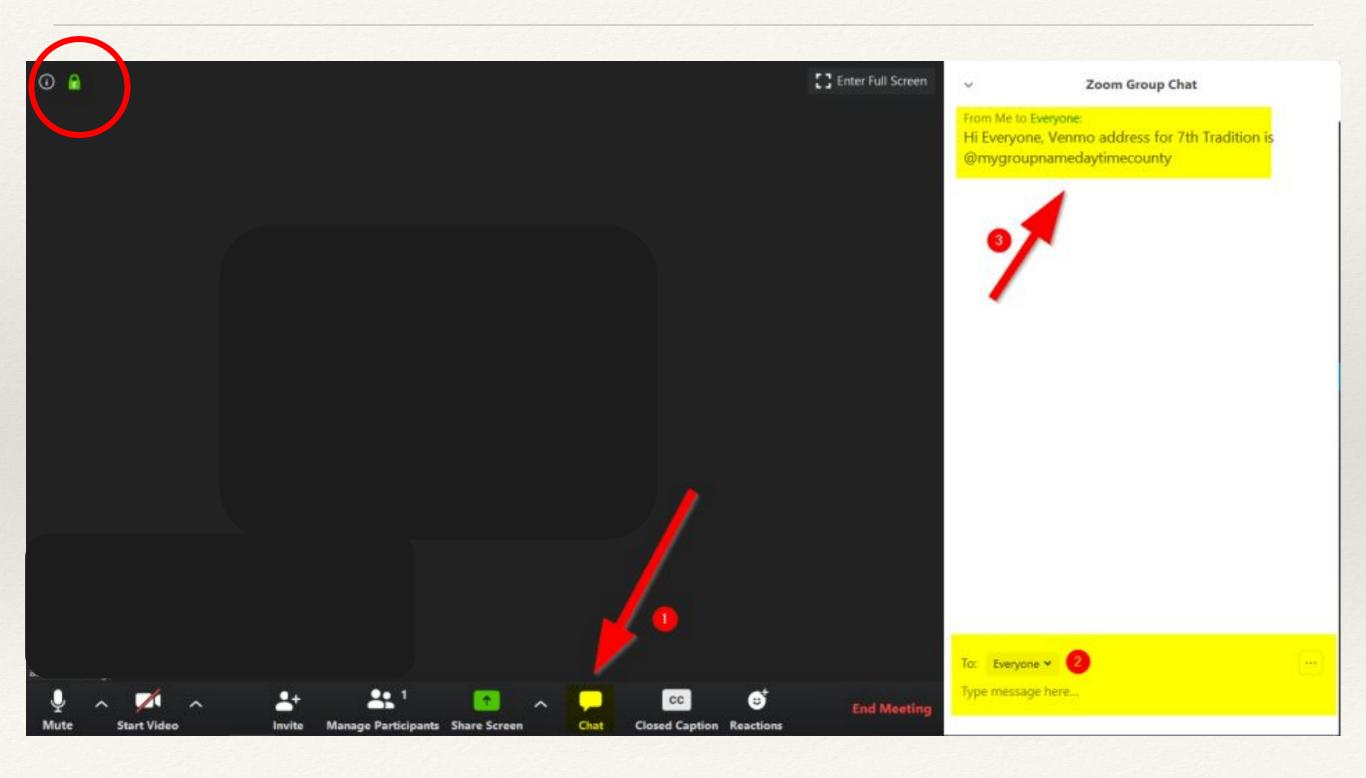
- Each group decides how much to hold in their prudent reserve.
- Good idea to be able to cover several months of operating expenses.

Digital Payment Platforms

Fees vary

- Business or Induvial
- Payment method (Credit card / Debit / Bank Account)
- Sale point devices
- Non-Profit fees
- Security & Privacy
 - Personal vs. Group account
 - Platform may want to connect to your contacts
 - Platform may collect your location when making purchases
 - Platform may share your personal data with third parties

Collecting Online Contributions



Collecting Online Contributions

Personal Accounts use full name



https://paypal.me/Example



@GroupName

Resources

- https://www.aa.org/
- https://www.marylandaa.org/
- https://baltimoreaa.org/
- https://aasfmarin.org/
- https://www.nyintergroup.org/
- https://www.techsoup.org/
- https://tiaa-forum.org/

Maryland General Service

Baltimore Intergroup

San Francisco / Marin Co. Intergroup

NYC Intergroup

Technology Support for Non-profits

Technology in AA Online Community

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aa-service-committees