

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

G.S.R. RESOURCES-

MONEY AND SELF-SUPPORT

MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN A.A.



Area 50 WNY

Tradition Seven

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully selfsupporting, declining outside contributions."

SELF-SUPPORTING alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that

SELF-SUPPORT-WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Self Support Packet F-19

A.A. Guidelines

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SELF-SUPPORT

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose - to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

Service Material from the General Service Office

SERVICES PROVIDED BY G.S.O./A.A.W.S.

The General Service Office (0.5.0.)

"...Il serves as a chearinghouse and exchange paint for the weath of A.A. expension accumulated over the years, occellentes a wide entry of Activities and services, and overseas the publication, all translations of, and deerbation of A.A. Combinistica approach literative and animal animal matrix materials." -The A.A. Service Menual, page \$77

Staff members on assignments help with group problems by sharing accumulated A.A. experience through extensive correspondence, phone calls, G.S.O.'s A.A. Website and by traveling upon instation. Is A.A. exercise and is isserios with General Service Conference Adult

members are ass (region). Equal ser The full-tasing and



(C)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SELF-SUPPORT

A.A.s evolving Tradition of self-support was to move a long way from th despende period, amond 1938, when fill and others around him widevel urgently that John D. Rockefeller would bestow the fedging Fellowship

In 1947, Bill said "viskursary cartiributions or plotges of A.A. members ourp principal septort, and, eventually, its saie support", Atthough it was neer begivering when A.A. despandedly viseded a falle subside heat by lunkib, he possible the Alcoholic Foundation, the toxis Alcoholic Anonymous and Service Office) inmes had noise changed. The semand "... a very power spreading among us that A.A. ought rult to be takens from society, any low let us be givens." Additionally, the news that every A.A. group had become set would create invaluable goodwill in the outside world

The General Headquarters, predecessor to G.S.O., published a monthly n Inter-Cardenia reasongarizeris, protectator di IC-3-2, publicare a finatorio y distribution to the frelowaris). In the finatoriary 1549 assus, the purpose contributions was defined: 3. To meet the expenses of General Headque operated a plan of sorvice to situitivide: the world over, in keeping with A purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and 2. Its purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work); and purpose (k aus described as International Twelfth Stap work purpose (it was associate as international twenty budg work), and 2, to expenses of General Headquarters incurred in its sperations as a coordin for all A.4. groups. The article emphasized the voluntary network of the co they were "not dues of feet." It also stated that such cartributions would. A.A. operating expenses only."

In September 1950, lack of voluntary contributions led Bill to issue to th In September 1999, such of voluntary commonstance to the to such to the five-page plea for support, including a request that the group secretaries business meeting for the purpose of reading his (Bill's) written plea. Services we'll often fumide that new man or woman just coming in the door Services, we'll certainly spoil the main chance of those millions who do

In Newsmither 1957, full wrote a Grapewine article entitled "Respective N he justaposed outside contributions and self-support. "Our spiritual way of Adure generations E, as a society, we resist the templation to receive n outside work. But this leaves us with a responsibility-one that every mer-understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our sufficient and our bits paid."

Ten years lates, as if in conclusion, Bill wrote in the A.A. Grapevine, "Bo ciples we understand: that A.A. wards no charity; that we support our own understand-but we sometimes forget."



Here are more of the ways that happens:

The G.S.O. Publishing Department has overdisated translations of the Big Book in 69 longarges and translations of other A.A. kherature in more then 91 leaguages. Purther tousdetions are constantly in process



es in service, and support the start of A.A. in constrainand mo A.A. canonicage

Finance



pasiataias and updates the us.org website that averages over 30,000 visits per day provides information about A.A., including how to find A.A. in their community, rs help to members and these webing help with their chicking problem, as well as and Bomelo of problem dealbors, and professionals.

Publishing Department publishes and distributes nationace approved interview. Approximately acids, pamphiets, video and autoo products are smeady. Seaw of this lawstow is quelifically or sight- or lowering impaired members. But A.5.8, otes from G.5.O., is published from times a year French and Spanish

Trip:



6 G.S.O. combinates the Lowers Jon Named to Marrie Correspondence Service (LBA, which is often for only last to AA for samy AA nambers in seastir seas, honobernel, or deployed in active maktury service.

WHAT DOES SELF SUPPORT MEAN? "AA IN ACTION CALLS FOR THE SACRIFICE OF MUCH TIME AND LITTLE MONEY" - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE

"AA ought not be takers from society, any longer. Instead, let us be givers."

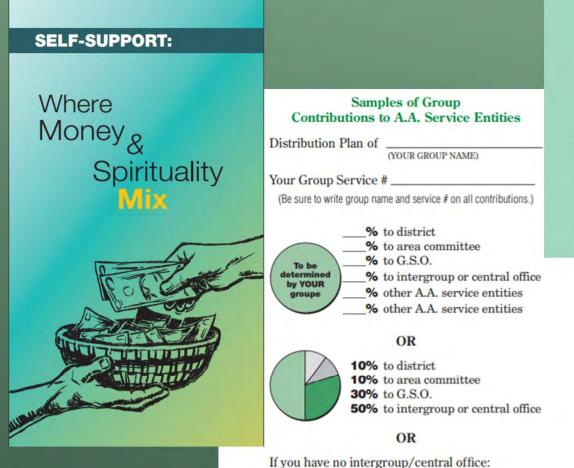
~Bill Wilson

- Today, AA has many ways to give to others
- Maintaining AA's independence from outside influences is a responsibility every recovered AA member has.



EACH GROUP IS AUTONOMOUS:

Tradition Four



40% to district **30%** to area **30%** to G.S.O. SELF-SUPPORT

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose — to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

Service Material from the General Service Office



WHERE DOES MONEY COME FROM?

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.

We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise.

Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.



Tradition Seven (long form)

"Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. <u>But this leaves us with a responsibility</u>-one that ever member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid."

~Bill Wilson

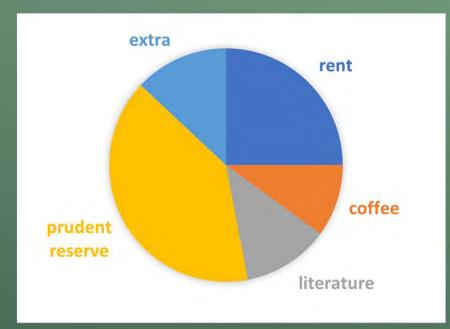
Twelfth Step Work is the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic. Without it, the Fellowship would wither and die. Yet, even at its simplest level this vital contact between one alcoholic and another involves as investment of time and money.

~F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Meet.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Although understanding why we contribute money and are self-supporting is very important, it is also equally as important to know where the funds go.

When we put money in the basket, our group uses it to pay its own expenses.



What can we do with the extra?

EXCESS FUNDS

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Local District - The GSR's link to Area activities and local efforts to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic



Intergroup- Your Central Office which provides meeting schedules and literature locally as well as 12 step efforts



Area – Hosts assemblies and serves the districts, as well as your link to the Delegate



General Service Office – Publishes A.A. literature and connects us with groups and members all over North America



Specific Committees – Archives or other service entities the group wishes to support

https://www.aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support



Inside A.A. I am... ~

About A.A. V

Daily Reflections Resources

Find A.A. Near You Make a Contribution Contribution Contribution

English

Contributions and Self-Support

A.A.'s Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." This means that only A.A. members contribute financially to A.A. - and even A.A. members are limited in the amount they can contribute. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose - to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of the contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.



READ PAMPHLET >

Our Contributions Address Has Changed!

Contributions in U.S. or Canadian dollars payable to "General Service Board" may be mailed to:

Post Office Box 2407 James A Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407 Make a Contribution Today

