

(Front) **THE POT... WHERE AA MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX**

(RH flap)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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 7 (long form)*

(Main spread: 3 pages) **Self-supporting through our own contributions**

“Both these principles we understand, that A.A. wants no charity, that we support our own services.”
Bill W. *Language of the Heart* Page 350

It has taken many years for the Fellowship to start to support its services through members' voluntary contributions, and the sale of approved literature. Money flowing through the service structure varies year by year. Gratitude Week in June gives each member who can afford it, an opportunity to give a little extra in appreciation of their sobriety. When we take on board the full reading of Tradition 7, we understand the essence of supporting ourselves is born out of the experience of the past – financial independence is our ideal.

The groups are the stakeholders in the overall service structure. The flow of AA money through the service structure is essential to further our primary purpose of helping the suffering alcoholic in accordance with the traditions of the Fellowship

Experience has shown us that every level of AA work is important, and we neglect them at our peril.

All donations offered to the Fellowship by those who are not members are declined.

Responsibilities of members and groups

“Happily AA's per capita expenses are very low. For us to fail to meet them would be to evade a responsibility beneficial to us.”
Bill W.

Once a members' money reaches the pot it becomes AA money and should be used exclusively to further our primary purpose of *carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers* in accordance with Tradition 5. All those trusted with the responsibility of

handling AA money at every level should remind themselves constantly of this simple traditional principle.

At group level, members' contributions pay for room hire, tea and coffee, AA literature and subscriptions to *SHARE* and *Roundabout*. After retaining a prudent reserve of one month's running expenses the Group Treasurer sends all surplus funds to their relevant Intergroup to further carry the message of recovery.

At Intergroup and Region

Money received at Intergroup is used to pay for the telephone service and all other services provided by Intergroup. After retaining a prudent reserve of three months' running expenses the Treasurer sends all surplus funds through the service structure to Region and General Service Office to further our primary purpose.

Money received at Region is used to pay for the national telephone service, for liaison officers to attend service meetings in York, for elected Conference Delegates to attend Conference and all other services provided by Region. After retaining a prudent reserve of three months' running expenses the Treasurer forwards all surplus funds to GSO to further carry the message of recovery. ~~They are a vital link between the General Service Board Treasurer and the rest of the Fellowship.~~

The role of GSO

With four thousand groups to service, GSO is the vital administrative centre of our Fellowship, supported by Northern and Southern Service Offices.

It produces and distributes AA literature and publications and is responsible for service meetings of Liaison Officers, for Conference and for meetings of the General Service Board (GSB). GSO liaises with and supports European and World Services. It is also responsible for the safe keeping of Fellowship archives.

Staff also deal with all telephone calls from members, the media and outside organisations.

The Trustees of the GSB have established a prudent reserve for the Fellowship which is based on one year's running costs.

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Some questions and answers about AA finances

Q: What expenses are not covered by Tradition Seven?

Expenses do not include the use of AA funds for social purposes such as dances, bus trips and birthday cakes.

Q: What is a prudent reserve?

A: For a group, it is usually one month's running expenses. For an Intergroup, it is usually three month's running expenses. Holding on to large amounts of money does not help the Fellowship as a whole fulfil its primary purpose.

Q: Should we send small sums, or save up until we can send a large amount?

A: Little and often is preferable at all levels.

Q: How much can an individual donate to AA?

A: No more than £6000 as a direct contribution in any one year. You can leave £6000 as a one-off bequest to the Fellowship in your will.

The Pot: Draft approved by Literature Committee 11 November 2006

Q: To be self-supporting should our Group be contributing to the service structure and GSO as well as covering its own costs?

A: The groups are the foundations of the service structure. Members' contributions at group level allow the Fellowship to fulfil its primary purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic through various liaison positions, public information and telephone services.

