

THE STAND

Official Newsletter of SWTA 68, District 12

9 July 2023

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*"Whenever anyone
anywhere reaches out
for help, I want the hand
of A.A. always to be
there, and for that, I am
responsible" ·*

Greetings District 12 Family!

Happy July and hope you had a nice Independence Day. This month's News Letter will be covering Tradition 7. Specifically, it will focus on how each Group can participate in support of AA's Support Structure (area, district, G.S.O).

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in the various areas. They also reflect 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 Step 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 literally wither and die. "Now where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth 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 Service 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 Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

I hope you find this info helpful.

Mark S
Your Newsletter Chair

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Tradition Seven

A.A.® Guidelines-Finance

from G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

Spirituality and Money DO Mix

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 an investment of time and money.

A.A. pamphlet, “Where Money & Spirituality Mix”

The paradox of A.A. is that financial independence and the support of our Fellowship by alcoholics and alcoholics alone not only enhances A.A.’s importance to each of us, but stimulates our engagement in our own recovery.

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

While the Fellowship has always faced problems of money, property, and prestige in one form or another, through the wisdom of the Seventh Tradition we have never been diverted from our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is our fundamental work, and to ensure that the hand of A.A. will always remain outstretched, money and spirituality must continue to mix. And for that, we are all responsible.

(Excerpts from A.A.® Guidelines-Finance)

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 facilitate A.A.'s vital Twelfth Step. Contributions are made in a spirit of sacrifice, and they honor A.A.'s code of "love and service." Contributions also underscore the spiritual nature of our Fellowship and our mutual love and trust. We have found that these contributions are as important to each member as they are to the service centers supported.

SUPPORTING A.A.'s STRUCTURE

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-supporting, declining outside contributions." 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 possible by taking care of its basic group expenses: rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, etc. After meeting these basic group expenses and providing a meeting place, many groups participate by supporting 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, A.A. literature, 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. service entities: • 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

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General Service Conference; holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship; and provides information at all levels of service. • The local intergroup or central office, which may provide phone service for the Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordination of group activities; A.A. literature sales; institutions work; public information and cooperation with the professional community activities. • A.A.'s General Service Office, which functions as a storehouse of A.A. information, communicating with members and groups in the U.S. and Canada, and sometimes around the world; publishes A.A.'s literature; and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

**Samples of Group
Contributions to A.A. Service Entities***

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

Your Group Service # _____
(Be sure to write group name and service # on all contributions.)

**To be
determined
by YOUR
group**

_____ % to district

_____ % to area committee

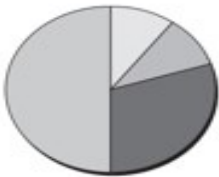
_____ % to G.S.O.

_____ % to intergroup or central office

_____ % other A.A. service entities

_____ % other A.A. service entities

OR



10% to district


10% to area committee

30% to G.S.O.

50% to intergroup or central office

OR

If you have no intergroup/central office.



40% to district

30% to area

30% to G.S.O.

The Traditions

From the Foreword of the 12 & 12: "A.A.'s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows."

Tradition 7 Short Form:

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Tradition 7 Long Form:

"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."

Traditions Checklist

These questions * were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Seven Checklist

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

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Southwest Texas Area 68

Events

2023 Summer Workshop

July 21 - July 23

Adams Street Community Center

511 E Adams Street Brownwood, TX 76801

Flyer Coming Soon!

2023 PI/CPC Conference

August 4 - August 5

New BRAUNFELS

Stay tuned for more details!

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Southwest Texas Area 68 Events

2023 SW Regional Forum

September 29, 2023 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Radisson El Paso Airport Hotel El Paso, TX

Stay tuned for more details!

2023 Fall Conference & Voting Assembly

October 20 - October 22

Hosted by District 5

Hilton Garden Inn Temple Medical Center

Group Events.

The 2211 Group has:

- Speaker Meetings the second Sat. of the month at 6:00 PM
- Beginners Meetings Tuesdays at 8:00 pm
- Men's Meetings Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- Woman's Meetings Thursdays at 5:30 pm
- Group Conscience the last Saturday of the month at 11:15 AM
- Birthday Night the last Saturday of the month with a pot luck dinner at 7:00 and birthday meeting at 8:00pm
- Big Book Studies Sundays at 8:00 pm

Bandera Group has:

- Speaker Meeting, second Sat. of the month, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Open discussion meetings at Noon, Monday—Saturday
- 12 and 12 Meeting Monday 8:00 pm
- Grapevine Meeting Tuesday 8:00 pm
- Big Book Meeting Wednesday 8:00 pm
- NA Meeting 6 Thursday 6:30 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Thursday 8:00 pm
- Open All Woman's Meeting Friday 6:30 pm
- Popsicle Stick Meeting Friday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Saturday 8:00 pm
- Open Discussion Meeting Sunday at 8:00 pm