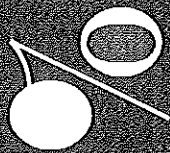


# Supporting the A.A. Support System



*A suggested plan for  
Group Contributions  
toward A.A. Services*

# How...

To support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference *suggests* individual groups adopt a specific contribution plan that is suitable to their particular situation.

Any such plan might work like this:

First, take care of basic **group expenses** (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature and a prudent reserve "emergency" fund).

Divide the remaining funds according to whatever division suits your local needs.

For example:



## ... to your intergroup or central office

To support phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordination of group activities; A.A. literature sales; public information and cooperation with the professional community activities.



## ... to your General Service Office

To support group services throughout the U.S./Canada and the General Service Conference; help Lone Members and

groups in institutions; and carry the A.A. message worldwide. A Regular Contribution Plan (contributing on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis) can be especially convenient for both your group and G.S.O.

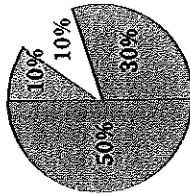
## ... to your area committee

To support area assemblies, delegates' expenses, public information, cooperation with the professional community and institutions work.



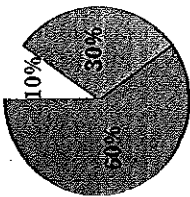
## ... to your district

To support the district's work of communicating with groups, providing district group conscience for the assembly, and serving as link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.  
For example:



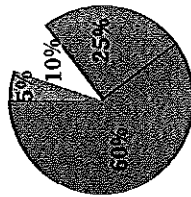
50% to intergroup or central office  
30% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee  
10% to district

Other contribution plans might be:



60% to intergroup or central office  
30% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee

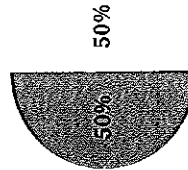
**OR**



60% to intergroup or central office  
25% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee  
5% to district

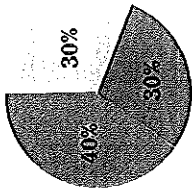
**OR**

If you have no intergroup/central office, suggested contributions might be



50% to G.S.O.  
50% to area committee

**OR**



30% to G.S.O.  
30% to area committee  
40% to district

**OR**

whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

---

## Why...

In accordance with the Seventh Tradition...  
A.A. accepts no outside contributions at any level, and...

In accordance with the Sixth Tradition...  
A.A. makes no contributions to any outside organization or cause, no matter how worthy.

Your contribution to the General Service Office will help:

1. Serve the 40,000 regular A.A. groups in the U.S./Canada; share solutions to

problems; communicate through Box 4-5-9; keep group records and publish A.A. directories.

2. Furnish assistance and free literature to new groups getting started.

3. Serve more than 30,000 groups overseas and including the World Service Meeting; carry the message in 115 countries worldwide.

4. Correspond with more than 1,000 Lone Members and seagoing A.A.'s around the world.

5. Serve about 2,000 groups in U.S./Canada treatment facilities and correctional institutions.

6. Carry the message through public information and cooperation with professionals.

7. Plan and underwrite the annual General Service Conference.

8. Answer 10,000 inquiries a year from the press, doctors, nurses, other health-field-related professionals, students, and others needing information about A.A.—and from the still suffering alcoholic who needs help.

G.S.O. also publishes and ships more than ten million pieces of Conference-approved A.A. literature a year, the publishing of which provides income that helps support the services described above.

# Who...

Manages G.S.O.'s share of your group contributions?

That is the responsibility of the General Service Board. The Board's Finance Committee meets quarterly to review and approve G.S.O.'s budget and the audited financial accounts.

The A.A. World Services Board, meeting monthly, maintains direct control of income and expenditures.

Finally, the annual General Service Conference reviews A.A.'s finances through its own Finance Committee.

A.A.'s financial affairs are an "open" book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the Conference Report. And the account books themselves are available at the General Service Office for scrutiny at any time.

The Seventh Tradition applies to individuals as well as groups.

**How your group can use the Regular Contribution Plan to support G.S.O.:**

Using the *suggested 60-30-10 Plan* as a guide, the group contributes on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis, whichever suits best.

**How you as an individual member can contribute to G.S.O.:**

On your A.A. birthday: Contribute \$1.00 for each year of sobriety—or as much as you wish to give (up to \$1,000). Send your individual contributions directly to G.S.O. at any time. You may request that your group be credited. Limit is \$1,000 a year.

**Other kinds of contributions:**

*Bequests in wills:* acceptable only from A.A. members on a one-time basis, and not in perpetuity. The limit is \$1,000.

*Special contributions:* funds realized from conventions, conferences, dinners, area get-togethers, etc.

Make checks payable to General Fund and send to: General Service Office

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163



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Inc. 488 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y.

**WHY . . .**

In accordance with the Seventh Tradition, every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

In A.A., each group is really part of a wider "group" effort which seeks to carry the A.A. message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic who cannot be reached by the individual A.A. group.

All "groups," however, at every level of the service structure, are composed, and express the collective conscience, of *individual* members. To be "fully self-supporting," then, requires a *commitment* on the part of each member to support, through his or her home group, the services provided by the local intergroup or central office, by the area and district and by G.S.O., so that these entities might continue to carry out their invaluable Twelfth Step work beyond the group level.

*Ultimately, it is your individual commitment to sustain these essential efforts through your contributions that ensures that:*

- Newcomers get literature
- Phones get answered
- Professionals get answers about A.A.
- Loner A.A.'s get letters
- Alcoholics around the world find hope

**HOW . . .**

To support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference suggests individual groups adopt a specific contribution plan suitable to their particular situation.

Such a commitment might work like this: First, take care of basic group expenses (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature and a prudent reserve "emergency" fund).

Divide the remaining funds according to whatever division suits your local needs.

A Regular Contribution Plan (contributing on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis) can be especially convenient for both your group and G.S.O.

**For example:**



*. . . . . to your intergroup or central office*

To support phone service for 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.



*. . . . . to your General Service Office*

To support group services throughout the U.S./Canada and the General Service Conference; help Lone Members and groups in institutions; and carry the A.A. message worldwide.

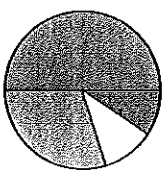
*. . . . . to your area committee*

To support area assemblies, delegates' expenses, public information, cooperation with the professional community and institutions work.

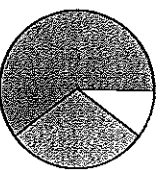


*. . . . . to your district*

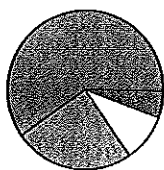
To support the district's work of communicating with groups, providing district group conscience for the assembly, and serving as link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.



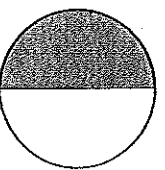
50% to intergroup or central office  
30% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee  
10% to district



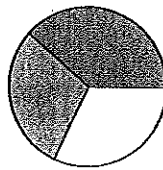
60% to intergroup or central office  
30% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee



60% to intergroup or central office  
25% to G.S.O.  
10% to area committee  
5% to district



50% to G.S.O.  
50% to area committee



30% to G.S.O.  
30% to area committee  
40% to district

*If you have no intergroup/central office, suggested contributions might be:*

*whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.*

## WHO . . .

### • manages G.S.O.'s share of your group contributions?

The General Service Board's Finance Committee meets quarterly to review and approve G.S.O.'s budget and the audited financial accounts.

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A.A.'s financial affairs are an "open" book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the *Conference Report*. The account books themselves are available at the General Service Office for scrutiny at any time.

### • manages the other portions of your group contributions?

Intergroup or central office funds are generally administered by steering committees composed of representatives of the groups they serve.

Areas and districts generally have volunteer treasurers who administer funds contributed by groups.

### How you as an individual member can contribute to G.S.O.:

On your A.A. birthday: Contribute \$1.00 for each year of sobriety — or as much as you wish to give (up to \$1,000). You may request that your group be credited. Limit is \$1,000 a year.

### Other kinds of contributions:

*Requests in wills:* acceptable only from A.A. members on a one-time basis, and not in perpetuity. The limit is \$1,000.

*Special contributions:* funds realized from conventions, conferences, dinners, area get-togethers, etc. (no limitations on these contributions.)

## Contributions

### For contributions to G.S.O.:

Make checks payable to  
General Fund and send to:  
General Service Office  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

### For contributions to others:

Contact your intergroup/central office, area committee, district committee for specific details.

Intergroup/Central Office

Area Committee

District Committee

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Service Conference approved literature.

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# Self-Supporting Through our own Contributions

Gratitude = Participation

Suggested Plans for  
Group Contributions  
Toward All A.A. Services