

THE WHY AND HOW OF SUPPORTING AA SERVICES ENTITIES WHEN MEETING VIRTUALLY

Although we are not meeting in a physical space, should we not strive to maintain our same level of support to AA service entities we have contributed to during normal circumstances?

THE WHY

Why Continue 7th Tradition and H&I Collections in Online Meetings?

Many regular meeting locations still have operating expenses...

- Meeting facilities may rely on our regular rent to help pay their rent, utilities, and employees;
- Meeting supplies will still be needed when our meetings reopen – coffee, paper products, literature, refreshments. When meetings resume, there may be a large influx of people who are motivated to re-join the fellowship in person.

Our Central Offices still have operating expenses

- They still have expenses, such as the website – which we rely on more than ever now – and paid Special Workers who need our continued support; their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us.

The General Service Office still has operating expenses such as...

- Website; phone lines, rent and insurance on office space; utility and other ongoing expenses; paid special workers. Here is a [complete description](#) of how our 7th Tradition contributions carry the message beyond our home groups.
- In due course we will need to replenish the Reserve Fund to restore financial stability.

Our Districts and Areas and H&I still have expenses...

- Regular expenses to support work of committees and events that will take place when the crisis has passed
- Web services support for groups
- Potential expenses for venues for events that have been cancelled; expense of re-arranging for venues to reschedule events.

➤ Information about the 7th Tradition, the Group's Role and Services Provided by AA Service Entities: [Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix.](#)

“Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us — the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A.”

THE HOW:

What options does my group have to maintain contributions at its typical levels?

1. Prior to the 7th Tradition, the Treasurer can state the importance of trying to maintain the groups' typical contributions levels -- explaining whatever expenses the group still has (ex: still paying room rent) and that Intergroup, Districts, Areas, the GSO and H&I Committees still have operating expenses.
2. Consider offering a virtual basket option (Venmo, Pay Pal, CashApp etc.).
 - For Help Setting Up a Digital Basket: See the "Selecting a Digital Payment Platform" section on this page: "[best practices for a digital 7th Tradition.](#)"
 - Let members know that they have the option of allocating some (or all) of their contribution to H&I by making a note to that effect in the "what's it for" comment (ex: if a contribution is \$3, in note say "please put \$1 toward H&I).
3. For those group members who do not use virtual payment apps, provide information on options to contribute to AA service entities directly for one-time or ongoing contributions:
 - Put the various service entity donation links (as shown in the table below) in the chat and/or
 - Offer to email people the various links to those interest who put their email in the chat requesting the information (since many will not take the time to click links and donate during a meeting.
 - For an "old school" approach, keep a basket/hat/tin/jar/whatever at home for cash and then bring it to the group when real-time meetings resume.
4. Distribution of funds by the Treasurer to the AA service entities can be done in the timeliest manner – monthly vs. quarterly and through electronic payment were possible.

AA Service Entity	Online Payment Option	Check By Mail
General Service Board [1]	Yes- ACH, PayPal, and Debit/Credit Card https://contribution.aa.org/	General Service Office Box 459, Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163.
California Northern Coastal Area of General Service (CNCA)	https://www.cnca06.org/contribute/group	Payable to "CNCA" Mail to: P.O. Box 884222 San Francisco, CA 94188-4222.
Alameda North General Service Committee (District)	N/A	Payable to: "District 07 Alameda North" [2] Mail to: District 07 Alameda North PO Box 187, Oakland, CA 94604
East Bay Intergroup (aka Central Office)	https://eastbayaa.org/donate/	Payable to: East Bay Intergroup, Inc. [3] Mail to: East Bay Intergroup, Inc., 4096 Piedmont Avenue #407, Oakland, CA 94611
Northern California Hospitals and Institutions Committee	https://www.handinorcal.org/contribute	Payable to: NORCAL H&I Mail to: P.O. Box 192490 San Francisco, CA 94119-2490. Please note your Area # on the check

[1] For questions or problems with online GSO contributions call: (212) 870-3400 or [email the office](#).

[2] Replace this information with details for you own local district.

[3] Replace this information with details for you own local Intergroup/Central Office