



The AA Group Treasurer

Traditions highlighted at break-away session – (Traditions Pamphlet):

Trad: 7 Short Form - 'Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions'

Trad: 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 obligations whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those AA 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.'

Trad: 4 – 'Each Group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole'.

1. Spirituality & Money

- 1.1. Contributing via the kitty is a spiritual act - *'There was a place where money and spirituality would mix and that is in the hat': (refer 12steps and 12 traditions - pg. 163).*
- 1.2. All monies contributed to AA: is by AAs only, collected in the name of AA, for AA.
- 1.3. This money is used to fulfill our primary purpose – carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers (the AA message contained in Chapter 5 in the Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pgs. 58 to 60).
- 1.4. Newcomers when they come in may be short of funds but they soon learn the spiritual value of any actions that supports our primary purpose once they have accessed the message of hope.
- 1.5. No funding should be received from outside facilities for anything (refer last sentence in Tradition 7, long form).

2. Choosing a Treasurer (incl. rotation and length of sobriety)

- 2.1. Recommended sobriety – 2 to 3 yrs.
- 2.2. Recommended duration of serving term – 1 year, rotating. There may be exceptions to this :
 - Where there isn't anyone to take over from the Treasurer - the group should however work toward nominating an alternate treasurer in order to effect rotation (*rotating committees enables true democracy, limits authority and prevents any member from governing or directing the group – we are servants [tradition 2 - 12 x12 pg 134] of servants*)
 - Where the group is young and the person nominated for the role has less than 2 years sobriety it was suggested that the member work the 12 step programme, stay close to their sponsor and consult with the group on all matters around income and expenses (story related w.r.t. a Treasurer who collected a sum of money from an at home meeting and relapsed on it as not yet ready to handle larger sums of money)
 - When a member declines a Treasurer nomination, respect it. They may have a valid reason for doing so, which we are not aware of.

3. Passing the Kitty

- 3.1. The contributions are done voluntarily (tradition 7) and not coerced, ultimately for AA as a whole and the money does not belong to the group itself. The group is the conduit. They collect, they use some to keep their doors open and then pass the rest on to CSO & GSO where it belongs and where it can be put to good use):

All contributions are welcome, no matter how big or small– it's the act of giving that counts as previously in our active days we were always on the receiving end.

3.2. It is suggested that all contributions go via the kitty from an anonymity and humility point of view. Group members ought not to support the group in their personal capacity:

- although in some instances where there is only one or two members this may well happen or they may be supported by other groups financially, but not for long – the 7th tradition therefore states *'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'*
- No one need know what we purchase for the group or how much we contribute if done through the kitty (Tradition 12 on anonymity)
- There may also be those who cannot afford as much or anything at the time, so best for all that kept anonymous (again, a spiritual act)
- It was noted that some groups are not being asked for a prescribed rental amount by their facility/landlord but rather for a donation. In one instance the group had a separate collection box available at their group meeting on the night and whatever was collected from AA members in this box for the month was donated to the facility, in order to adhere to their 7th tradition principle.
- Once the kitty is collected on the night, it is counted by 2 people - the Treasurer and another member to ensure an accurate count. The amount is then recorded in the Secretary's notebook along with a record of all readers (chapter 5, etc.), chairperson/speaker as well as literature purchased.

3.3. Pledges

- Pledges made by group members are usually collected at the business meeting
- A new member will contribute when they feel ready to do so and should not be pressurized to do so
- These are once again, voluntary contributions – and again made anonymously
- No-one need know how much is being contributed, by whom and whether anything is being contributed at all
- The Pledge becomes part of the group's income for the month.

4. Safeguarding the Group's Money

- 4.1. The kitty collected every week can be kept in a safe place by the Treasurer who is accountable for the safekeeping of this money.
- 4.2. Alternately, the literature indicates that the money can be kept in a bank account with at least 2 signatories and the account ought to be in the Group's name.

5. Disbursement of a Group's Funds

- 5.1. It's the group's responsibility to manage the monies collected in AA's name. The treasurer makes proposals in his/her Treasurers report at the monthly business meeting.
- 5.2. So the group decides on and approves how money is spent, remembering that we are spending AA's money and that the money once in the kitty, has a spiritual purpose (refer item 1.1 above).
- 5.3. If there are any monies to be disbursed outside of the business meeting it ought to be discussed with group members available on the group meeting night or telephonically depending on what the item is – if its milk, no not necessary (*trusted leader*) if it's an additional month of rent, yes it is.

5.4. Monies collected through the kitty are used for: Teas, Coffees, Biscuits, Rent, e.g. it is used to enable the group to keep its doors open for the still suffering alcoholic (which includes the group members too).

5.5. Literature Sales:

- Literature sold is recorded on the Treasurer's report every month (refer template provided) and used to purchase the same item again through CSO.

5.6. Recommended: 70% CSO/30% GSO split in contributions after group expenses in order to keep their doors open and enable them to fulfill their primary purpose, makes sense given the fact that the money belongs to AA as a whole:

- In one instance as part of carrying the message, a group is currently looking at replacing and providing libraries in the area with an English and Afrikaans Big Book and has contributed a 'set' amount approved by the group to CSO & GSO, until these purchases have been made.

6. Treasurer Reports

6.1. A Treasurers Report is maintained and presented to the group on a monthly basis at the group's business meeting. (Copy of suggested template embedded):



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6.2. Prudent Reserve:

- This is an amount of money held in reserve to cover at least 1 to 3 months' operating expenses, should the kitty collection not cover the monthly expenses at any given time. It is suggested that groups do this as soon as they have sufficient funds to do so and before they start their 70/30 contribution split to CSO and GSO respectively
- The following examples were mentioned:
 - In a group the kitty was taken by a worker at the Treasurers home and immediately reported to the group. The group's conscience was to continue with kitty collection and members to bear this in mind when contributing. In a very short space of time the group managed to collect sufficient funds to gather a prudent reserve and contribute to CSO & GSO – a blessing (again, through grace)
 - In the same group, a month's prudent reserve is held and has not been used as yet since the reserve was put in place for the second time, a couple of years ago (since the above instance) - kitty collections have been sufficient to date.

Literature for Referencing:

- The Group Treasurer's Notebook
- Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix : Service Material SM-03
- The AA Group : Pamphlet P-16
- The A.A. Group Treasurer : Pamphlet F-96
- The Traditions – Pamphlet: P - 17
- The Traditions illustrated – Pamphlet: P - 43
- The Twelve Steps and 12 Traditions