

THE AA GROUP DONATION PLANS

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME GROUPS

Money and Recovery:

Alcoholics Anonymous has no dues or fees for membership and takes no money from any outside agency. AA's sole source of income is voluntary donations from members and no member may give more than \$6,000 dollars in any one year or more than \$10,000 by bequest.

We in AA are proud of our independence and our financial responsibility. One of the miracles of Alcoholics Anonymous is that we have learned how to do a lot with only a little money. However, even AA cannot get by with any money. These suggestions are aimed at helping inform groups and members about the relationship between recovery and money and what AA's tradition means in practice.

Why we contribute:

Tradition Seven (short form): "Every AA Group ought to be fully self - supporting, declining outside contributions."

Bill W. wrote the following in 1955, it can be read out at a meetings when donations are asked for: Our spiritual way of life is safe if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility - one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skim when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid. When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer." (The Language of the Heart, p.221).

What should a group do?

A group should ask for donations in a positive fashion at the close of every meeting.

- A group should look after its money
- The money should be used to pay for the rent of the room, for tea and coffee and for literature and group needs, e.g., banners. Aside from immediately needed monies a small amount (perhaps one months rent) should be kept by way of prudent reserve.
- Any surplus money should be held until the end of the month and then at a conscience group or a meeting a decision should be made that the surplus be passed on using the 60 /30 / 10 split.

What is the 60/30/10 split?

The 60/30/10 split is the recommended percentage split that Groups apply to their surplus funds and forward on to the other levels of the service structure.

- **60%** To be forwarded to your local Inter-group or Service Centre.
- **30%** To be forwarded to GSO, P.O.Box 6458 Wellington NZ
- **10%** To be forwarded to your Area Assembly

This above recommended split may not suit all Groups as there may not be an active Inter-group or Service Centre in the vicinity of the Group. The decision of how surplus funds are split is a matter for the Groups conscience. It should be remembered that every group is located within one of the 3 Areas in New Zealand. These Areas hold Assemblies and send delegates to the New Zealand General Service Conference. As a consequence the Area Assemblies need to receive donations to fund their operations.

There are other variations that Groups may apply e.g. 50-30-20, 60-20-20

Other options:

For groups that may not have an active Inter-group or Service Centre in their region. It is suggested that these groups adopt a split between their Area Assembly and GSO this may be a 60-40 split or whatever ratio is determined by the Group Conscience.

Tradition 8 (long form) gives us guidance particularly in respect of holding funds."Then to, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."