

IV.

FINANCE

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Finance

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 9 a.m. - Noon

Room: Oak

Chairperson: Missy Rasmussen

Secretary: Zenaida Medina

Conference Committee Members

Panel 69

Troy B.DiD.

Missy R.

Margie S.

Panel 70

Tom A.

France F.

Donny M.

Randy S.

Pete V.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.
- A. Review the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
 - 1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.
 - 2. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
 - 3. Consider draft language related to the "virtual basket."
- B. Review Self-Support Packet.

Note: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2020 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM A: Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.

Background:

1. Email from Area 66 delegate

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Finance
Item A.1
Doc. 1

I would like the Area to consider sending in the following Agenda Item to the next General Service Conference for their consideration. We did talk about it at the last area assembly, to be taken back to the groups and further discussed at the next assembly.

In the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" on page 12, I would like to see the percentages on the pie chart changed back to the following:

(top chart)

30% to district

20% to area committee

10% to G.S.O.

40% to intergroup or central office

(bottom chart)

60% to district

30% to area

10% to G.S.O.

In the pamphlet, they are currently the following:

(top chart)

10% to district

10% to area committee

30% to G.S.O.

50% to intergroup or central office

(bottom chart) if no intergroup/central office

40% to district

30% to area

30% to G.S.O.

Here is my reasoning. I do not think that group contributions to G.S.O. should have the same percentage (and certainly not a higher percentage) than district and Area because a district in our area has only a total of between 5 to 40 groups in which to receive group contributions coming in. (We all know that not 100% of groups are able to send any contributions at all.) Our area only has 200 some odd groups to receive contributions from. On the other hand G.S.O. has all the groups in Canada and the USA to receive contributions from. It seems logical that the less amount of groups you have to receive contributions from, the higher the percentage you need to get in order to carry the message *locally*.

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YES, I DO KNOW THE CHARTS ARE JUST AN EXAMPLE. As a past area treasurer, I also know that many groups in our area take the pie charts as almost gospel. Our area has always struggled financially even though we send out a yearly letter from the treasurer explaining how we use the money and asking for the groups to consider sending in contributions and we make the treasurer's report available to all. I believe we have struggled more since the percentages were changed in the pamphlet in 1996. I was the area treasurer in 1994-1995 and have watched contributions from the group continue to dwindle since then, after the pamphlet was changed. Now I believe we are at a critical point in our area. Our treasury is lower than it has been in a very long time. Since the area consists of 96,000 square miles and is mostly rural, I can see us having trouble defraying the cost of our next delegate to travel throughout the area to give the conference report. This does not even consider the cost to continue to hold assemblies.

Linda F [REDACTED]
Area 66, Panel 48

2020 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM A: Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

2. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.

Background:

1. Email from Area 61 past delegate

Mary K. Area 61, panel 68 Delegate

Rhode Island

Conference Coordinator General Service Office

Dear Patrick,

Warm greetings from Area 61, Rhode Island! Our Area has asked me to forward the following motion for consideration for inclusion on the agenda for the 70th General Service Conference:

The pamphlet Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix is a concern of Area 61, RI and we believe it affects other areas as well.

MOVE:

Specifically, the center and bottom pie charts illustrated on page 13 of the pamphlet depict the seemingly sanctioned division of contribution funds between service entities. As the delivery of services varies, sometimes greatly, from Area to Area, and between districts, and among central offices/intergroups, we believe that GSO should not make any suggestions about contributions to these entities. Instead, we propose that the one pie chart without filled-in percentages (top illustration) be retained and the **following text** be added to p. 7 and p. 13:

“Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.”

BACKGROUND:

Our Area feels that the middle pie chart illustrated on page 13 of said pamphlet construes a seemingly sanctioned division of funds between 4 entities (10% to district; 10% to area committee; 30% to GSO and 50% to intergroup or central office). Although Area 61 believes these are but suggestions, this pie chart is sent out in monthly mailings to every group in RI Area 61 by the central office.

The main problem with these amounts is that these numbers seem to refer to the duties each entity provides. These duties can be found in the same pamphlet on page 7, where it states that the local intergroup or central office provides, among other duties, “institutions work; public information and cooperation with the professional community

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activities.” The crux of the problem is that these services are provided by the area committee in RI AREA 61.

Area 61 also provides ALL meetings in our Correctional Facilities and coordinates all the CPC and PI outreach throughout the state. The meetings in our Correctional facilities in RI depend solely on Area 61 for literature, meeting lists and the Bridging the Gap program.

All these services cost money. Sometimes we must wait for money to buy literature, do some outreach, or perform some type of service. We always seem to be operating at or near our prudent reserve. And one of the reasons we feel that this is happening is that the pie chart does us a great disservice.

Perhaps a different approach is necessary.

In short, we believe it is each group’s responsibility to figure out its contribution plan based on an informed group conscience.

(See attached example).

Thank You,

Mary K.

Area 61, Panel 68

SELF-SUPPORT:Where
Money &
Spirituality
Mix

This is A.A. General

of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a 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.*"

How can groups participate?

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 (for example, rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, Grapevine literature, local meeting lists, G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions) and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities:

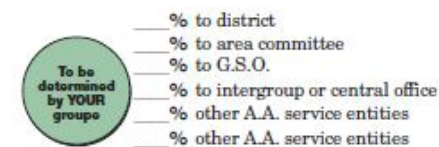
- **The local district**, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.
- **The area committee**, which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area; sends a delegate to the annual 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 Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordinates group activities; and facilitates 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 around the world; publishes A.A.'s literature; and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

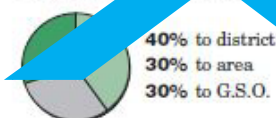
Contributions to A.A. Service Entities

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

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

**OR**

If you have no intergroup or central office:

**Q Where should I send contributions?**

A For contributions to G.S.O., make checks payable to "General Service Board" and send to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
or visit Contributions online at aa.org

For contributions to other A.A. service entities, contact your district committee, area committee, and local intergroup/central office for addresses. You can enter the addresses in the spaces provided on the next page to save for easy reference. And remember that these addresses may change when a treasurer rotates.

Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

2020 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM A: Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

3. Consider draft language related to the “virtual basket.”

Background:

1. Memo from A.A.W.S. Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Support Chair
2. Proposed change to “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

Memorandum

September 12, 2018

To: David R [REDACTED], Publishing Director
Ames S [REDACTED], Managing Editor

From: Cathy B [REDACTED], Chair, A.A.W.S. Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Support

Re: Status on Conference Finance Committee Additional Committee Considerations

The AAWS Finance Committee assigned several of the Conference Finance Committee Additional Committee Considerations to the AAWS Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Support.

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and made the following suggestions to the Publishing Department: Adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the “virtual” basket, to the section Passing the Basket in the service piece “The A.A. Group Treasurer” and also be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and the Guidelines on Finance.

The Ad Hoc Committee is passing these additional considerations to the Publishing Department to draft sample texts of what could be added to the services pieces mentioned above and provide a draft passage for consideration by the 2019 General Service Conference. Please provide a status update at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

cc: Greg T [REDACTED], General Manager
Albin Z [REDACTED], Director of Administration and Services
Robert Slotterback, Director of Finance
David N [REDACTED], A.A.W.S. chair
Rick W [REDACTED], Conference coordinator

Proposed INSERT (A) for “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”:

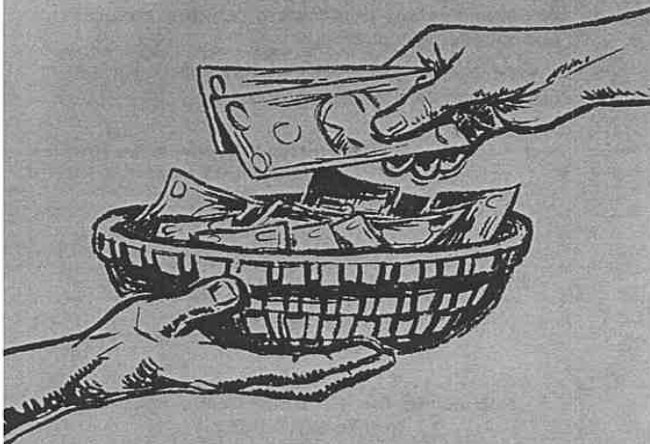
Q Some members of our group wanted to pass a “virtual” basket – to collect Seventh Tradition contributions digitally. How could we do this?

A A number of groups have utilized digital payment platforms as an adjunct to passing the basket in the conventional sense in order to provide opportunities for cashless contributions. There are different payment platforms to facilitate this service and it is up to the group to determine which one to use. Some groups have found that a smartphone app-based payment platform is the most efficient, seamless and minimally disruptive solution for providing a digital contribution. Experience suggests that the treasurer is a likely choice to handle digital contributions, though some groups add more than one trusted servant to share the responsibilities or create a new service position to inform the group about digital payment options and assist other group members who are interested in contributing this way.

(see page 12 of “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” attached)

SELF-SUPPORT:

Where Money & Spirituality Mix



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

Q Does G.S.O. have any specific information for our group or group treasurer about how to handle our group's finances?

A Yes. There are two excellent publications available from G.S.O., A.A. Guidelines on Finance and the pamphlet "The A.A. Group Treasurer," which provide specific information to groups regarding practical matters related to their group finances, such as setting up bank accounts, obtaining tax ID numbers, and outlining the responsibilities of a group treasurer.

Q Doesn't all A.A. money go into one pot? In other words, when our group contributes to central office (intergroup), isn't our money distributed to the area, district and G.S.O., as well?

A No. Each A.A. entity — group, district, area, central office and G.S.O. — provides a specific service and is autonomous. Each is separate from the other.

Q Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?

A No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

Q After group expenses for rent, prudent reserve, etc., what is your informed group conscience for distribution of excess funds?

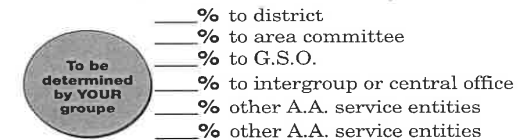
A Sample distribution plans follow:

Insert (A)

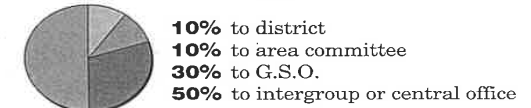
Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

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



OR



OR

If you have no intergroup/central office:



Q Where should I send contributions?

A For contributions to G.S.O., make checks payable to "General Service Board" and send to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
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or visit Contributions online at aa.org

For contributions to other A.A. service entities, contact your district committee, area committee, and local intergroup/central office for addresses. You can enter the addresses in the spaces provided on the next page to save for easy reference. And remember that these addresses may change when a treasurer rotates.

2020 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM B: Review Self-Support Packet.

Background:

1. Contents of Self-Support Packet

Self-Support Packet Contents

Self-Support Card	F-42
Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix	F-3
The A.A. Group Treasurer	F-96
A.A. Guidelines on Finance	MG-15
Your Seventh Tradition Contributions Flyer	F-203
Birthday Contribution Envelope	FR-5