



Best Practices for a Digital 7th Tradition

Online meeting spaces make it difficult to “pass the basket.” Some Groups have set up digital 7th Tradition contributions using PayPal or Interac e-Transfer to deal with this challenge. Now might be a good time to review an essential piece of AA literature, Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.

Each Group is autonomous and might consider taking a group conscience on whether digital contributions are an option, and which platform best suits their Groups’ needs.

Why collect 7th Tradition for an online meeting?

- Our regular 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 – literature, and refreshments. After an extended closure, we may experience a large influx of people who are motivated to re-join the fellowship in person.

Intergroup and the General Service Office still have operating expenses such as...

- Websites – which we may now rely on more than ever.
- Phone lines, rent and insurance on any office space.
- Utility and other ongoing expenses.
- Paid Special Workers who deserve our continued support. Their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us.

Our Districts and Areas still have expenses...

- Regular expenses to support the work of committees and events that will take place when the crisis has passed are still there.
- Web services support for Groups.
- Expenses for venues for events that have been cancelled may still need to be met. The expense of re-arranging for venues to reschedule events is very real.

Let’s continue to support these folks during the crisis.

We realize that even though the immediate need for virtual connections is relatively inexpensive, the real expenses of our fellowship continues. Please consider continuing to practice our 7th Tradition and make contributions to the service entities that support your Group – your Intergroup, your District and the General Service Office. Individual members may choose to contribute to GSO directly – visit aa.org for information.

Planning for Digital Contributions

Understand the role of the Treasurer

Read the pamphlet, [The A.A. Group Treasurer](#) to learn about the role of treasurer within the Group. Here you will learn the importance of selecting a treasurer, how to safeguard and distribute Group funds, what a “prudent reserve” is, and more.

Take a Group Conscience

A Group conscience is recommended as each Group or District who wishes to contribute will need to explore the options of receiving and making digital contributions.

Caution your members

The digital landscape connects us and helps A.A. members stay sober and safe. It also enables us to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. It is important to note that not all “Groups” are indeed registered Groups. We have heard that fake groups and meetings are out there. Scams and phishing are real and a threat to all members. Do your homework before you send a digital payment. Safety in the digital age needs to be top of mind. Our common welfare should come first.

Selecting a Digital Payment Platform

Interac E-transfers – General Information

- Interac e-Transfer is a funds transfer service between personal and business accounts at participating financial institutions.
- Most Canadians who use on-line banking can send funds and any personal account holder in Canada can accept funds.
- The money is not actually transferred by email. Only the instruction to retrieve the funds is transferred by email.

How it Works

- The sender opens an online banking session and chooses the recipient, the amount to send, and a security question and answer (if the receiving account is not set to auto deposit).
- If a security question is required, the receiver must answer the security question within 3 attempts, or the funds are returned to the sender.
- If the recipient is subscribed to online banking, the funds are deposited instantly or within a few hours with no extra charge.



- The auto deposit feature allows senders to send money and be received by the recipient without the recipient having to answer a security question.
- The funds are deposited immediately upon initiating a transfer.
- The sender incurs any applicable fees when sending an e-transfer.

The first step is to find out whether your bank account can send e-Transfers. If you have on-line banking, you can check under your account information. Follow the instructions as provided by your Financial Institution. This is an easy and safe way to contribute to your Group. And in turn, your Group can choose to contribute to their District (if e-Transfer is an option) and Area (see area83aa.org for instructions).

PayPal – General Information

PayPal is a popular online payment system that lets you contribute online without having to re-enter your information for every transaction. You can easily set up a PayPal account and start using it in a matter of minutes. PayPal accepts debit cards and Credit Cards. The recipient incurs the fees when PayPal is used for contributions. PayPal charges a percentage of the contribution and a transaction fee. Please visit paypal.com for more information.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

Area 83 Self Support Chair selfsupport@area83aa.org

Area 83 Treasurer treasurer@area83aa.org