

# DISTRICT 70 7TH TRADITION INVENTORY

## 7TH TRADITION 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 obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. 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. *Reprinted from SMF-187 with the permission of A.A. World Services.*

This District 70 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition inventory is just for our groups and members information.

District 70 is not directing any group on how or where to make contributions.

Included is some background material from Conference Approved Literature.

The contribution and number of groups in our district contributing to District 70, Northern Illinois Area 20, and General Service Office, percentage of groups participation, and amounts and averages is shown.

There are 26 registered groups in District 70. I used this current number of groups that we have at this time.

It could have been more or less groups covering the contribution periods. I chose to go with the present number for convenience.

26 registered groups in District 70 that can make contributions with a group service number.

The District and Area contributions is for 11 months. G.S.O. contributions is for 6 months.

### **26 GROUPS IN DISTRICT 70 / BOONE & WINNEBAGO COUNTIES / 2021**

*The District and Area contributions were figured on an 11 month period; that was the information that I had. I only had a 6 mo. period available for contributions from the GSO because they were behind in getting info out because of Covid.*

<u>DISTRICT 70 CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>NIA 20 CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>G.S.O. CONTRIBUTIONS</u>
16 GROUPS OUT OF 26 DONATED TO DISTRICT 70 WHICH = 62.0%. ROUNDED UP IS 27% OF THE GROUPS	9 GROUPS OUT OF 26 DONATED TO NIA 20 WHICH = 34.61%. ROUNDED UP IS 35% OF THE GROUPS.	9 GROUPS OUT OF 26 DONATED TO G.S.O. WHICH = 34.61%. ROUNDED UP IS 35% OF THE GROUPS.
THE TOTAL 11 MONTH DONATIONS WAS \$7,463.65	THE TOTAL 11 MONTH DONATIONS WAS \$3,222.47	THE TOTAL 6 MONTH DONATIONS WAS \$2,419.78
THE AVERAGE DONATION PER GROUP WAS \$466.48 FOR AN 11 MONTH PERIOD	THE AVERAGE DONATION PER GROUP WAS \$358.05 FOR AN 11 MONTH PERIOD.	THE AVERAGE DONATION PER GROUP WAS \$268.86 FOR A 6 MONTH PERIOD.
Our average percent of groups contributing to the 3 service structures are:		
District 70	16 groups out of 26	62%
Northern IL Area 20	9 groups out of 26	35%
General Service Office	9 groups out of 26	35%

<p><b>Where Money and Spirituality Mix</b>  “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.”</p> <p><i>page 5</i></p>	<p><b>Whose Job Is It?</b>  “The paradox of A.A. is that financial independence and the support of our Fellowship by alcoholics and alcoholics alone not only enhances A.A.’s importance to each of us, but stimulates our engagement in our own recovery... A.A. is ‘our thing,’ from our group’s treasury to the balance sheets at the General Service Office.”</p> <p><i>page 8</i></p>	<p><b>The Bottom Line</b>  “Now that we are sober in A.A., the word ‘support’ has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give — not take — in material terms.”</p> <p><i>page 8</i></p>
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Our contribution at the District level is good and has been supporting our 12 Step projects. Our District contributions to NIA20 are the highest percentage of all the districts. Percentage of donations to the G.S.O. from NIA20 districts is 25.18%. Our contribution level is at 35%. Also this is the highest percent of the districts in NIA20.

My figures may be off. They came from my records and the records from NIA20 treasurer. Some groups from District 70 contributed to NIA20 and to G.S.O., but did not get credited for it. It is important when your group makes a contribution to include the name of the group, group address, note that the group is in District 70, NIA20, and the group’s service number.

My figures for NIA20 and G.S.O. could be off a little too. But District 70 is in the top percentage of groups in contribution participation. This does not mean we are at the top for amount of money. I did not look for those figures. Nor do I wish to single out a group that is or is not contributing.

During Covid, the group contributions were down at the G.S.O., but way up from individual members.

<b>IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION</b>		
<b>GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Amount contributed by groups	\$6.0 million	\$6.9 million
Number of groups contributing	24,779	28,180
Percent of groups contributing	34.8%	40.6%
Average group contribution	\$238.95	\$245.94
<b>INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Amount contributed by individuals	\$4.3 million	\$1.9 million
Per capita contribution	\$6.81	\$6.09

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Since the Mid 1980's our G.S.O. has not been self-supporting through our individual group contributions. We have been funding our G.S.O. office with literature sales to non AA members, Treatment centers, and book stores.

The importance of donations to the G.S.O. the cheaper we can sell our literature the more we can carry the message of A.A.

I remember when the Big Book was \$5.00 each for years. It is now \$10.00 plus. The closer the GSO gets to a break even point, the more that they can reduce, or at least maintain, the cost of literature. The cheaper the literature is, the more we are able to carry the message of AA.

#### From the pamphlet: Where Money and Spirituality Mix, page 11

Question: How much does it cost, per group, for G.S.O. to supply basic services?

Answer: At the end of 2017, the annual cost of services per group was \$153.00, while the average contribution per group was \$126.00. The shortfall between these two figures is made up from income from A.A. publications. Reprinted from F-3 with the permission of A.A. World Services.

These figures have pretty much stayed the same over the years. In regards to a bigger percentage spent on each group than taken in.

The amount of money spent on each group by G.S.O. was \$153.00. The average amount of money taken in by each group by G.S.O. was \$126.00. So the contributions were 18% short of a break even point.

The average contribution to the G.S.O. of all the groups in the U.S. & Canada is 40.06%. District 70 is 35%. so we are high in percentage in NIA20 as far as contributions to G.S.O. But we are below average for over all contribution from U.S. & Canada.

Please discuss this with your group, about donations to our Service Structure of A.A. (District 70 , Northern Illinois Area 20, and the General Service Office) Since our Intergroup office has closed, it would be a good time for your group to look at your contributions. There is good information in two A.A. pamphlets: Where Money & Spirituality Mix and The A.A. Group Treasurer. Also for more information on A.A. finances, email me or see the attached document: ECRF 2021 Picnic Table.

As an individual member of A.A., If you have been sober for 10 – 20 – 30 – 40 plus years and you are still putting only a dollar in your group's basket meeting, you could ask yourself why.

Thank you, In Service,

Steve C. D.C.M.C. District 70

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