

Call for continued participation in our Seventh Tradition  
from the General Manager of the General Services Office  
to all members

On Thursday, January 25, 2024, the General Manager of the General Services Office, Bob W., wrote to once again inform us that, following his November 17, 2023 letter to the Movement in which he shared in more detail the challenges and the need for a sustainable increase in contributions from members. The response over the past two months has exceeded all expectations. In December, there has been an increase in the number and the total amount of contributions, with over 9,000 groups and members contributing, compared with an average of 6,900 contributions. Contributions totalled over \$1.65 million. November contributions also increased, following the G.S.O.'s request for assistance.

On a year-to-date basis, contributions also reached a record high of over \$10.8 million, compared with the \$10.5 million forecast for 2023.

Collectively, we continue to face difficulties in meeting our expenses. Overall publication sales in December were strong, but profits for 2023 will be under budget.

Reduced sales and profits from publications were the main reason for the loss of income. While contributions increased after the pandemic, profits from publications declined sharply.

The purchasing volume for our publications is based on the needs of the Fellowship. It's very important that AA publications remain affordable, so that they can be distributed to as many people as possible and that we ensure that those in need of them can access them.

This means that we cannot count on an increase in profits from our publications to solve our financial problems.

In addition, the ability to replenish the Reserve Fund is also proving complex. At the end of December 2023, the remaining balance of the Reserve Fund would cover approximately 7.28 months of operating expenses, less than the 9 to 12 months expected.

Your extraordinary response at the end of 2023 is also echoed in the participation principle of our Seventh Tradition. More frequent and more significant contributions, but also greater representation of our groups and members are required to get out of the current rut.

Bill W.'s insights on the Seventh Tradition reinforce the answer to our financial challenges:

“But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. 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)

For 2024, several projects have been postponed in order to achieve a balanced budget. So, the stakes are high. It's about getting our message of recovery out to all those who desperately need it, wherever they are.

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Our director's appeal is eloquent:

"Let's keep this up to ensure ongoing participation! Your group, or you personally, may be considering a recurring contribution to the General Services Board. The process is very simple through our contributions site, accessible at [aa.org](http://aa.org). You'll have the option of making a one-time, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual contribution."

Bob W. concludes by aptly and wisely reminding us that there is no better investment in the future of AA than our participation; it allows Alcoholics Anonymous to carry on and be accessible to anyone who needs it, wherever he or she may be.

Thank you for your generous support.

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