November 2016

Dear Members of the Fellowship,

On behalf of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, I would like to express my gratitude for your willingness to participate in the Seventh Tradition. Without the support of members like you, the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous might not reach the suffering alcoholic around the world – or around the block. Yet, your contributions – of time, money, and service – allow the General Service Board and the General Service Office to provide a wide range of services both for alcoholics who are still suffering and those who are trying to reach them with our message of hope and recovery.

Please see the attached Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet for information about those services funded by your “dollars in the basket.”

A.A. needs more than just money, and the General Service Board greatly values the time and effort A.A. members around the world expend in “passing it on” – sharing freely what has been so freely given to them. Simply put, our Fellowship relies on one alcoholic reaching out to another.

So, as the Fellowship reflects on Gratitude Month (October in Canada and November in the U.S.), please accept the thanks of the General Service Board for the contributions you have made in the spirit of love and service.

In fellowship,

Terry Bedient
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
Chairman of the General Service Board

Attachment: Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (F-203)
YOUR SEVENTH TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS
Carrying Our Message Beyond Your Home Group

When you or your home group contributes to the General Service Office (G.S.O.)
your contribution helps an alcoholic around the corner or around the world.

Here are some of the ways that happens:

1 The G.S.O. Publishing Department has coordinated translations of the
Big Book in 68 languages and translations of other A.A. literature in more
than 80 languages. Further translations are constantly in process.

2 Each year G.S.O. staff responds to over 90,000 emails, letters, and
phone calls from A.A. members, suffering alcoholics, professionals,
students, the press and others interested in A.A. Thus accurate and
consistent information about A.A. is provided.

3 Staff communications often help someone find local A.A. meetings,
link members in service, and support the start of A.A. in countries
where there are no A.A. meetings.

4 G.S.O. maintains and updates the aa.org website that averages over 30,000 visits per day.
The website provides information about A.A., including how to find A.A. in their community,
and provides help to members and those seeking help with their drinking problem, as well as
to families and friends of problem drinkers, and professionals.

5 G.S.O.’s Publishing Department publishes and distributes
all A.A. Conference-approved literature. Approximately
8 million books, pamphlets, video and audio products are
distributed annually. Some of this literature is specifically
designed for sight- or hearing-impaired members. Box 4-5-9,
news and notes from G.S.O., is published four times a year
in English, French and Spanish.

6 G.S.O. coordinates the Loners-Internationalists Meeting
Correspondence Service (LIM), which is often the only link
to A.A. for many A.A. members in remote areas, homebound,
or deployed in active military service.
The Corrections coordinator at G.S.O. responds to over 6,500 letters a year, primarily from incarcerated alcoholics. Letters often request literature and many express gratitude for a Big Book supplied or a link to an outside member who can take a soon-to-be released alcoholic to his or her first meeting on the outside.

G.S.O.’s Corrections staff member also coordinates a Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), which each year connects over 1,000 alcoholics behind the walls with outside members in order to share A.A. recovery by mail. Sharing From Behind the Walls, containing excerpts from inmate letters to G.S.O., is printed four times a year.

The G.S.O. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities desk responds to letters and communications from residents or patients in treatment centers and connects them with local committees. The staff member on this assignment supports groups and members in making the A.A. message receivable to alcoholics with special needs.

Professionals are frequently the first contact for an alcoholic seeking help. The Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) staff member at G.S.O. provides information about A.A. to hundreds of professionals each year, often sending them basic literature. This assignment also coordinates A.A. exhibits at over 25 national conferences of professionals in various fields each year and publishes the newsletter About A.A. for professionals.

The Public Information desk coordinates the production and broadcast of audio and video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to help reach the still-suffering alcoholics. Each year PSAs produced by Public Information are broadcast on television and radio. The most recent PSA, Tengo Esperanza (I Have Hope), was aired approximately 30,000 times the first year of its release. The Public Information staff member also responds to approximately 600 emails per month from the press and other media, A.A. members and the general public.

G.S.O.’s Archives documents the activities of Alcoholics Anonymous for the future and makes the history of the Fellowship accessible to A.A. members and other researchers. Each year the Archives staff responds to over 1,500 requests for information and research. Markings: Your Archives eNewsletter, an electronic newsletter, is published three times a year.

General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 • www.aa.org