Alcoholics Anonymous® www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Dear A.A. Friends,

November is considered by many A.A.s as "Gratitude Month." It is a time when A.A. groups often choose to make special contributions to their local service offices or committees and to the General Service Office (G.S.O.) We do this because it is a very direct and spiritual way to participate in Twelfth Step work. Many of us also feel more a part of A.A. and a sense of fulfillment of one of our deep spiritual needs, the desire to belong.

In the pamphlet "Where Money and Spirituality Mix," Bill W. asks "Now, where do A.A.s services – worldwide, area, local – fit into our scheme of things?" and "Why should we provide these functions with money?" He responds, "The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office... or the world service Headquarters... these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion – to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us".

G.S.O. coordinates many services that help groups and members fulfill their purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Although there are many examples of these services, of particular mention is the recent development of the Language Services Department at G.S.O. It has centralized the function of translation of our literature and thousands of documents into several languages each year. This new department also coordinates essential interpretation services that allow for direct interaction and communication with other A.A. structures around the world. These services ensure full participation and help to unify our worldwide Fellowship. This is a clear example of an "A.A. service designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible..." and where money and spirituality mix with the services provided from G.S.O.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.

Bob W.

General Manager, G.S.O.

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