

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON PRACTICING THE SEVENTH TRADITION AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In recent years a number of groups have utilized digital payment platforms to provide opportunities for members to make cashless contributions. There are different payment platforms to facilitate this service, and it is up to the group to determine which one to use. Experience suggests that the treasurer is a natural choice to handle digital contributions. Some groups, however, share the responsibilities among trusted servants or even create a new service position to inform group members about digital payment options and assist those who are interested in contributing this way.

- 1. Q. Our group is meeting virtually as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our meeting costs are low, so why do we need to take a Seventh Tradition collection?**
 - A.** The spirit of self-support ensures that even minimal expenses are borne by the whole group rather than by individual members. In addition, many groups want to continue support for other A.A. services. Local intergroup/central offices still have bills to pay, such as rent and utilities. Many have employees who are working hard to keep meeting information updated and respond to calls for help. The Online Intergroup of A.A. also has its own costs which require support, and many districts and areas continue to have expenses as they support the work of committees and plan future events. Furthermore, the General Service Office needs to cover its operating expenses in order to continue providing services. Literature sales, which traditionally help pay for services, currently are much lower than usual.
- 2. Q. If our group decides we want to “pass the virtual basket” how would we get started?**
 - A.** Often a group will have their treasurer or other members gather shared experience and information on different digital payment options, then present that to the group for discussion at a business meeting.
- 3. Q. What kind of options are available?**
 - A.** Here are some of the digital payment platforms that groups using: Apple Pay, Cash-App, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle. Information on options being used locally may be available from your intergroup/central office, district or area.
- 4. Q. How would we decide between them?**
 - A.** Groups often compare the costs and benefits of each platform, considering things like ease of set up and use, payment processing fees, security, privacy, and how commonly known it is. Some groups offer multiple options for their members.
- 5. Q. Once the group decides, then what?**
 - A.** Often it will be the group treasurer who sets up the account and links it to the bank account the group is using (for more information on setting up bank accounts and tax ID numbers, see the links below). It is helpful to choose a username for the account that is simple and intuitive since it will be shared with those attending the meeting. Groups usually avoid

using a personal email that reveals someone's full name so as not to compromise that person's anonymity. Often at the beginning of a digital meeting, or during a break, groups will share the username through the chat or a screen share as they make an announcement about practicing the Seventh Tradition. It is recommended that groups do not share the username as part of the meeting's public online information.

6. Q. What about anonymity?

- A.** Some digital payment platforms have social components that members may want to disable to protect anonymity. For example, members have shared about changing the privacy settings on Venmo so contributions are only visible to the sender and recipient. A couple of intergroup/central offices have posted helpful guides to practicing the Seventh Tradition at virtual meetings:

[Best Practices for Online 7th Tradition Contribution from SF and Marin Office](#)
[Remote meetings 7th Tradition Best Practices from New York Intergroup Office](#)

For more information on the Seventh Tradition and shared experience for A.A. group treasurers:

[The A.A. Group Treasurer](#)
[Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix](#)
[A.A. Guidelines on Finance](#)