

---

## **A.A. Guidelines on Finance**

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/mg-15\\_finance.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-15_finance.pdf)

### **Box 4-5-9 - Winter 2017 - “Passing the (Digital) Basket”**

[https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en\\_US/en\\_box459\\_holiday17.pdf](https://www.aa.org/newsletters/en_US/en_box459_holiday17.pdf)

*The original version of this FAQ can be accessed at the Intercounty Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous website: <http://www.aasf.org/digitalcontributions>*

#### **Q: Would a digital contribution method replace cash in the basket?**

A: All groups operate autonomously but our experience suggests that a digital contribution method would serve in addition to passing a basket for cash contributions.

#### **Q: Does this violate traditions?**

A: No, using a digital payment platform to collect 7th tradition contributions does not violate AA's 12 Traditions. Although some payment platforms do have social sharing features which can indicate an association with AA, a word of caution and diligence is advised to ensure proper privacy settings are utilized.

#### **Q: Are there fees associated with using a digital payment platform to contribute digitally?**

A: When a group member makes a 7th tradition payment to their group, there are typically no fees associated with most payment platforms as long as they make the payment using a debit card or direct from their bank account. However a fee is typically charged to the group member when making a payment using a credit card synched to a payment platform. Our research did not find any payment platforms that charge the recipient (in this case, an AA group) for accepting a payment.

#### **Q: Are other groups already using a digital contributions solution for the 7th tradition?**

A: Groups across the US have begun adopting various digital contributions solutions and the number of groups is growing. San Francisco & Marin County's Intergroup has successfully implemented Venmo to collect contributions.

#### **Q: Who handles the administration for a digital payment platform at my group?**

A: Each meeting is autonomous and will answer this question for itself through group conscience. Our experience suggests that the treasurer is a likely choice to be the group account administrator. Some groups add more than one trusted servant to share the responsibilities such as a GSR, IGR or secretary. Another alternative is to create a new service position specific to understanding the implementation of a digital payment platform and assisting other members who are interested in contributing digitally.

#### **Q: Is there someone I can talk to further or get more information about this?**

A: Yes, email [digitalcontributions@aasf.org](mailto:digitalcontributions@aasf.org)