

FOLLOWING THE MONEY WHERE DO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS GO?



I remember when I first came to AA I was worried that I was getting involved with some kind of religion. Most of the meetings were held in churches, they said the Lord's Prayer, and they passed a collection basket. When I started to clear up, I realized that although we learn to start placing our dependence upon a Higher Power, AA is NOT a truly religious program. I'm free to believe whatever I want to believe. However, that did not stop me from wondering where all that money went. So early on, I asked questions, and got some answers, but it wasn't until I actually became involved in service that I realized that our group contributions are the lifeblood of AA.

Each group must first be responsible to its members by collecting enough money to cover group expenses such as rent (first and foremost), then coffee, literature, and a prudent reserve. This is expressed by the Seventh Tradition, "Every AA Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

The second responsibility of each group is to contribute anything above their prudent reserve to the other levels of service in AA. Without this continuing Twelfth Step support, our service offices would soon close and the alcoholic seeking help would have nowhere to turn.

Here in RI, when your group offers a contribution to Area 61:

YOUR MONEY goes towards carrying the message of recovery to those in prison by maintaining a Corrections meeting list, arranging for clearance of individuals to bring meetings into correctional facilities and bringing literature to prisons (ACI and Wyatt Prison) through the Corrections Committee.

YOUR MONEY goes towards carrying the message of recovery to those in treatment centers by maintaining an institution meeting list, bringing meetings and literature to treatment centers all over the state, and arranging to help those leaving institutions through the Bridging the Gap Program, which provides a local AA point of contact for the individual when he/she is leaving a treatment facility. This is provided by the Treatment/Accessibilities Committee, which also provides support to those who are visually impaired, physically impaired, or homebound.

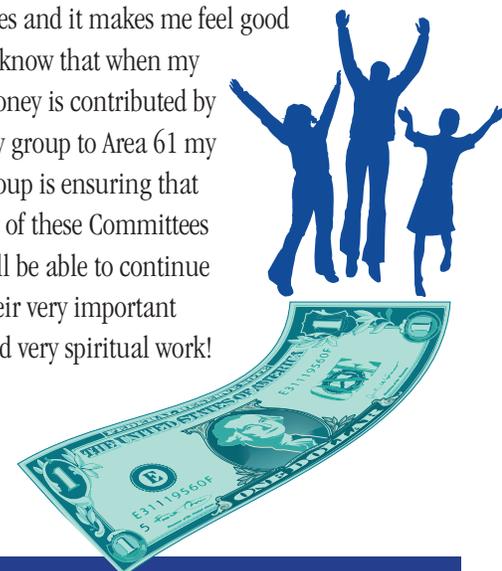
YOUR MONEY goes towards meeting with professionals who come into contact with us about what AA is and what AA isn't. When invited, (by clergy, social workers, medical

personnel, teachers, etc.) this committee speaks at schools, colleges, or to any other group about our experiences with alcoholism. Did you ever see an AA ad on a bus? Have you ever heard a public service announcement on your radio? An ad in the paper? An article about sobriety in the paper? Whether it's the printed word, public media or a community presentation, this Committee (Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information) is there.

YOUR MONEY goes towards preserving RI's rich AA history, group records, and conducting events such as Longtimer Meetings (which are taped), which will continue to tell the story of our Fellowship to those who come after us, through our Archives Committee. Our Area Office (located at 3649 Post Rd. in Warwick), is a treasure trove of local AA history.

YOUR MONEY goes towards getting the word out about "The AA Grapevine" magazine, our beloved monthly meeting in print. It is a valuable tool of recovery to AA groups and individuals. The Committee also operates a Pass the Book program whereby groups provide Grapevine subscriptions to each middle and high school library within the state.

I'm so happy I learned where all this money goes and it makes me feel good to know that when my money is contributed by my group to Area 61 my group is ensuring that all of these Committees will be able to continue their very important and very spiritual work!

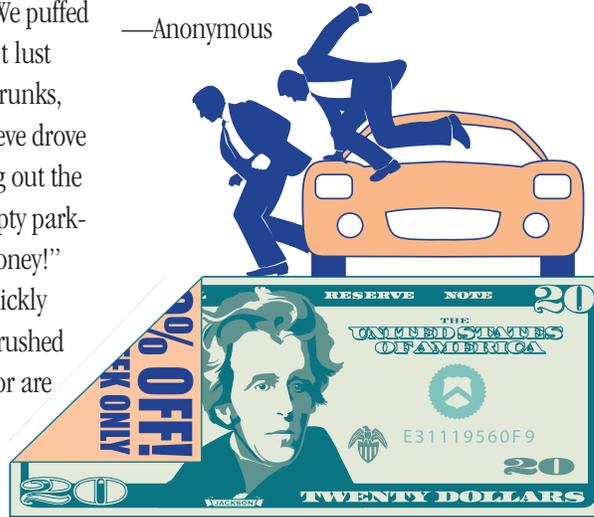


RULE 62: DON'T TAKE THE CASH TOO SERIOUSLY

We were young, we were sober, and we were driving home from a meeting in Steve's little sports car. It had been a discussion meeting and the topic had somehow come around to money. Steve was noting that someone had misquoted a famous quote. They had said: "Money is the root of all evil." Steve said the actual words are: "Lust for money is the root of all evil." We puffed ourselves up and both agreed—we don't lust for money—not us, no sir, we may be drunks, but we don't lust for money. Anyway, Steve drove along. After a few minutes, I was gazing out the passenger window, when I saw a big empty parking lot filled with cash. I screamed, "Money!" Steve slammed on the brakes and we quickly stopped. I can remember thinking as I rushed to the cash, is it every man for himself, or are we going to split this 50-50? I thought I had a head start, but Steve jumped across the hood to catch up with me.

I guess it wasn't to be 50-50 after all. When we got to the cash we quickly realized that it was imitation cash on one side, with an advertisement on the back. We sheepishly looked around. Steve commented that maybe someone was peeking out a window and laughing at us. I thought, or maybe it's God laughing at us. Anyway, that was probably my first encounter with Rule 62 from this magnificent program: "Don't take yourself too seriously."

—Anonymous



The last Assembly was held on April 15 at St. Kevin's Church in Warwick. It was the Pre-Conference Assembly featuring break-out groups discussing many of the items which were on the agenda at the General Service Conference held a couple weeks later. Our Area drew our conclusions and gave our Area Conscience to our Delegate, Kenny D, who represented us (Area 61) at the GSC. Our Assembly also featured our 1st Annual Sweet or Savory Pie Challenge. The winners were District 7 with Chicken Pot Pie, and 2nd place tie between Districts 6 & 7 with Shepherd's Pie and Buffalo Chicken Pot Pie, respectively, in the Savory portion of the contest. The winners in the Sweet portion of the contest were District 7 with 1st Place Elvis Pie (awesome!), 2nd was Sugar Pie in District 7 and Chocolate Velvet Pie placed 3rd by District 5. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone for making this a huge success!

Area Officers

Delegate Kenny D.

Area61Delegate@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Alternate Delegate Mary K.

Area61AltDelegate@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Area Chair Steve L.

Area61Chair@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Secretary Jeff N.

Area61Secretary@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Treasurer Paul B.

Area61Treasurer@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Registrar Ted D.

Area61Registrar@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Committee Chairs

Archives Chair Patrick K.

Area61Archives@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Convention Chair John H.

Area61ConventionChair@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Public Information Chair Cindy A.

Area61CPC-PI@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Corrections Chair Mary S.

Area61Corrections@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Grapevine Chair Tim P.

Area61Grapevine@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Treatment/Accessibilities Chair Jeff W.

Area61Treatment@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Upcoming Events:

Area 61 Assembly - Saturday, June 24, at St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane, Warwick 9:00 AM - Lots of important business plus the 2nd Annual Great Chowder Cook-Off!

Joy Of Service - Friday, May 19, 6:00 PM at the Living Sober Group, St. Joseph Church, 1109 Main St., Hope Valley

Joy Of Service - Tuesday, July 18, 7:30 PM at the Apponaug Group, St. Barnabas Church, 3257 Post Rd., lovely downtown Apponaug (Warwick)

Area 61 Committee Meeting - Monday, May 22, 7:00 PM, Area Office, 3649 Post Rd. in Warwick (5th Tradition workshop preceding at 6:15 PM)

Northeast Regional Forum - June 2-4, Mars, PA

Joy Of Service - District 4 - August 13 at 7:00 PM - Sunday Night Hope, Hope Congregational Church, 120 Wampanoag Trail, Riverside

OCEANVIEWSTOON



SELF O' STEAM