Let's talk about…
Self-support and how we fund NA World Services

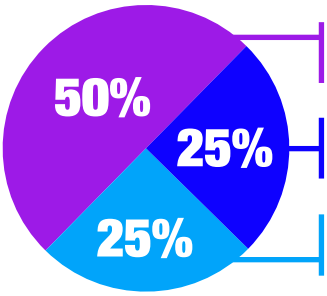
A practical discussion guide for group business meetings

Let's face it: every level of service in NA depends on our support. NA World Services is no different; it needs direct support from our members and groups to carry our message and provide services worldwide. We hope this handout can inspire a conversation in your homegroup and in our Fellowship as a whole about the best ways to fund services at every level in NA today. It's time to think about how our groups structure their monthly contribution practice.

> "If you love something, you do all you can to help it flourish and grow."
>
> — a trusted servant sharing about their commitment to acts of support

How Should Groups Distribute Their Monthly Financial Contribution?

Ideally, after paying their expenses, groups send money directly to each level of service to help pay for the work done on their behalf. In 1992, the Fellowship approved several examples, one of which we see illustrated in IP #24 and #28. It is one of many possible models groups can use (though you may notice it doesn't provide for zones, because they didn't even exist then!)



- 50% goes to the area, which supports local Hospitals & Institutions, Public Relations, local websites and phonelines, meeting lists, and more
- 25% goes to region—keeping NA alive and free locally. Many regions provide broader coverage for Public Relations efforts and other services that support the areas in supporting the groups
- 25% goes to NA World Services—supporting the Fellowship and carrying the NA message worldwide through translations, communications, Fellowship development, free and subsidized literature, and technology

This isn't too complicated, and it allows groups to ensure that their funds are supporting all of the services needed to support them, and NA as a whole.

Of course, each group is autonomous and will decide for itself what its financial needs are and what its own contribution model will be (some split equally three ways, others use percentages all their own), but this simple example provides a starting point for that group discussion.

Why Groups Should Contribute Directly to Each Level of Service

Our Fellowship has decades of experience declining all outside contributions, but we are still learning how to support ourselves. Improving our practice of self-support is the only way we can obtain the financial resources we need to carry our life-saving message.

Some groups have been leading the way. Overall, it's a shift in our practice as a Fellowship, a change in the way some of us practice our principles but not in the principle itself. Consider the possibility: self-support means we contribute directly, not just that we buy literature and merchandise from ourselves.

Direct contributions from service bodies, groups, and individual members are predictable and secure ways to fund our services. We have learned over the decades that passing funds to the nearest level of service—and hoping some will be passed along—doesn't work very well. We end up supporting services at the local level through fundraisers and events, and supporting World Services through literature sales. There has to be a better way—and there is.

For groups and members alike, self-support is a matter of principle: we choose it deliberately, not because it's convenient. It's a commitment to help carry the message. It's an act of support, demonstrating our understanding that our group is part of something larger. And it's an investment in the future, a commitment to the addict who still suffers that we'll be there for them when the time comes.

Each group contributes to support the services that bring the addict to our door: the meeting lists, websites, H&I meetings, PR efforts, and so much more. We have created a whole service system to support the groups in the most important work we do: carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. In turn, groups and members support those services with their time, energy, creativity, attention—and funds.

A commitment to direct support for NA World Services is a commitment to the Fellowship as a whole. It's a way of serving Narcotics Anonymous selflessly, freely, and a way we pay it forward: planting the trees we will not sit beneath, for those who are still to come.

Talk It Through

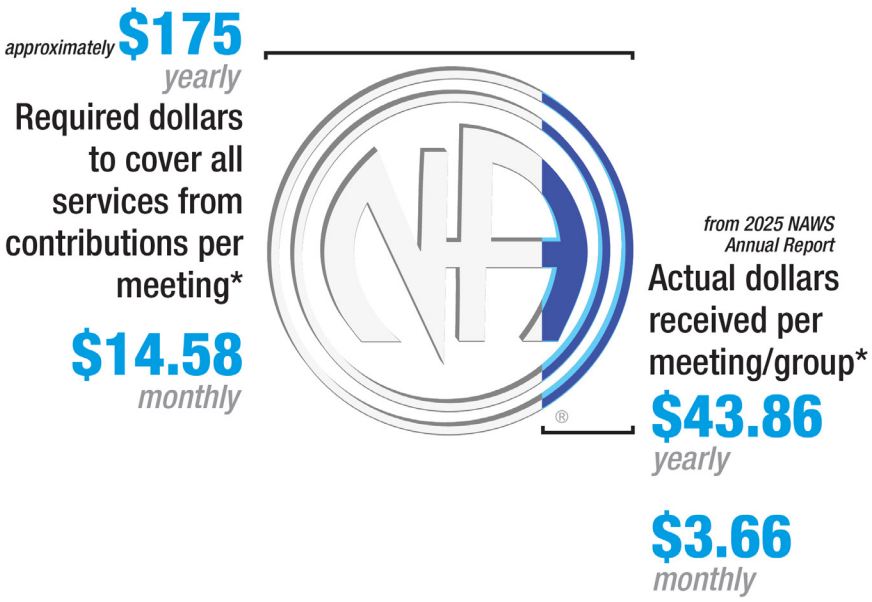
- Where does our group's contribution money go right now?
- Is our group able to contribute enough to cover for some groups that are less financially able?
- Do we as a group feel that we are carrying our weight in supporting Fellowship services now?
- Has something stopped our group from contributing regularly—or from contributing at all?
- What's one small, realistic step we could take every month?

Do the Math

If services were funded only through group contributions, and every group contributed equally, the amount per year to fund the services we provide now would be about $175 per meeting. That sounds like a big number, but it's less than $3.50 a week. Some of us spend more than that on the coffee we bring to the meeting! Of course, some groups are able to give more freely than others—just as some members are.

What we currently contribute to NA World Services $_____

What we could afford to contribute to NA World Services $_____



*The number of meetings from Russia and Iran are not included in this calculation, as the funds are retained within those countries and are not available for international use.

Note: Figures are rounded and based on current World Services expenses divided across registered weekly meetings.

How to Contribute

Directly to NA World Services: **na.org/contribute**

Questions about where funds go or how to set up recurring giving: **wb@na.org**

Our aim is not to raise the most money but to support the work that carries the message.