

The Seventh Tradition

“Every W.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Workaholics Anonymous (W.A.) is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and help others to recover from workaholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop working compulsively. There are no dues or fees for W.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

100% of all contributions support recovery from workaholism.

We are all responsible for our own recovery and for carrying the message to other workaholics. If all of us waited for someone else to facilitate our meetings and pay the costs associated with our local group's meeting space or our World Service Organization's (W.S.O.) publications, our fellowship would cease to exist – and recovery as we know it would not be possible.

Whenever a member donates time, money, or energy, that action helps us to achieve our goal of being self-supporting through our own contributions. Giving fosters the belief that we have enough to spare, which can help us to overcome the fears that once drove our frantic behavior. In W.A., the spirit of Step Twelve manifests when individual

members sponsor each other and accept positions within their W.A. groups or with the W.S.O. – as well as when they simply set an example by relaxing or playing. W.A. groups and the W.S.O. do, however, also require monetary support to operate. A sound program of personal recovery would be mindful of the various service needs within our fellowship.

For many recovering workaholics, contributing financially can be a safe alternative to offering other forms of support until serenity and balance are achieved. Whether an individual chooses to contribute, for example, a dollar per meeting to his/her W.A. group or the equivalent directly to the W.S.O. on a quarterly basis makes little difference. This is because most W.A. groups – after covering rent and basic expenses such as literature and refreshments – send at least a portion of their remaining funds to support the fellowship as a whole.

The W.S.O. recommends that each group, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet their unique financial circumstances. The W.S.O. has emphasized that the exact amount or percentage that each group donates – and the precise frequency with which such support is provided – is less important than the commitment to send something on a regular basis. Such gifts are utilized to cover W.S.O. expenses such as telephone/internet bills, website maintenance fees, and costs associated with meeting support, general outreach, the annual conference, and literature publication and distribution.

Why is it so important to be fully "self-supporting"?

W.A. is fortunate that our brothers and sisters in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) worked through a number of issues for us. Bill W. and Dr. Bob started A.A. in the 1930's, initially taking private contributions and hiring management companies and consultants. Unfortunately, in doing so, they started to lose control of the organization. It then became clear that it was vital to the survival of A.A.'s core principles that they maintain responsibility for the fellowship. In order to do this, they determined that they ought to decline "outside" financial contributions or influences of any kind.

Other fundamental truths discovered by A.A. were that independence stimulates member engagement in group recovery, and that allowing individuals to contribute to the fellowship in whatever ways they choose helps to keep the focus on personal recovery. They made the decision to trust a power greater than themselves, and the result is that A.A. is now one of the few organizations that is both self-supporting and debt-free.

W.A. decided to honor A.A.'s experience by adopting the model of self-support. One day at a time, we choose to count on each other for the resources and the power of the collective to keep our groups and the W.S.O. service structure intact. The result is a stronger fellowship and healing support for the workaholic.

Self-support begins with me because I am part of "we," I am part of my group, and I am part of W.A.

The W.S.O. needs your support to ensure that the message reaches other workaholics in need – both locally and internationally.

What can I do to help?

- Provide financial contributions to your group, to the W.S.O., or both.
- Sponsor other workaholics.
- Make and return outreach calls.
- Volunteer to read, share, or time-keep at meetings.
- Get to a meeting early to greet newcomers or to help set up.
- Stay at a meeting late to answer newcomer questions or to clean up.
- Accept formal service positions with your group and/or the W.S.O.
- Contact the W.S.O. to join committees – help with the annual conference, new literature projects, etc.
- Submit "your story" to the W.A. newsletter.
- Start a face-to-face meeting.
- Distribute flyers/pamphlets in your community.
- Work the Twelve Steps, utilize the Tools of W.A. – and keep coming back!

Tax deductible contributions can be made via credit card, debit card, or Paypal on the W.A. website – or by filling out and mailing this form along with a check payable to:

W.A. World Service Organization
P.O. Box 368
Austin, Texas 78767-0368 U.S.

Name:
Address:
City, State or Province, Zip/Postal Code:
Location of meetings:
Date of Contribution:
Contribution Amount:

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS SUPPORT**

**Workaholics Anonymous
World Service Organization**

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**THE SEVENTH
TRADITION**