



Digital Contributions At Group Level

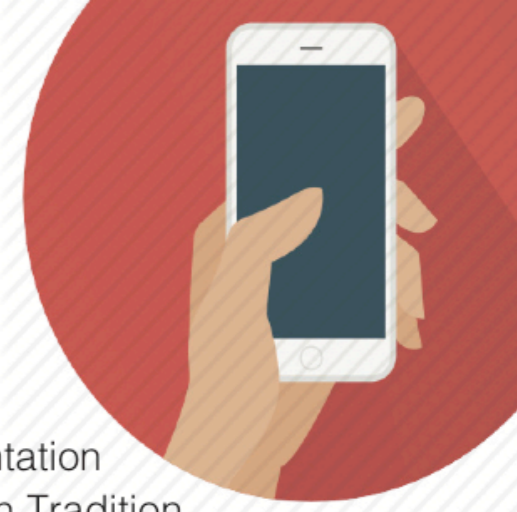
Who? AA members and meeting treasurers

What? Digital Payments made online or any hand held mobile device.

Where? At meeting locations, after meetings at home, Central Office.

When? During 7th Tradition, anytime at meetings. Buying AA Literature.

How? Any selected payment platform.



Suggestion for Digital Contributions

This is an informational document for AA meetings considering the implementation of a digital payment solution for their 7th Tradition collection and other AA services. The subject matter requires a fair amount of research to produce a truly informed group conscience.

Research Results

A smart phone app based payment platform is the most efficient, seamless and minimally disruptive solution to an AA meeting. Out of the multiple payment platforms our committee researched, we found some to score highest across the standards we established. Other platforms that were researched are included in the chart below.

	venmo	PayPal	Square Cash	tilt	Txt2Give	give by cell
Ease of Use	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Transaction Fees	⚠	⚠	⚠	⚠	⚠	✗
Privacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ownership	✓	⚠	✗	✓	✗	✗
Member Mgmt	✓	✓	✓	⚠	⚠	⚠
Transferability	✓	✓	✗	✓	⚠	✗

This “is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.” If you’re interested in our evaluation methods, please contact digitalcontributions@aasf.org.

Q&A on Digital Contributions At Group Level

Q: Would an 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