



San Francisco and Marin Intergroup

Dear Intergroup and Trusted Servants:

Please read the following letter from San Francisco and Marin Intergroup at A.A. meetings you attend. We depend on every member to share this important message about our financial status and the state of contributions. Many thanks to those A.A. meetings and individuals that already contribute to Intergroup. We are so grateful for your support!

READ AND POST AT ALL A.A. MEETINGS:

Your contributions to San Francisco and Marin Intergroup (aka Central Office) help fund essential 12th Step services, including running Central Office, selling A.A. literature, publishing a meeting schedule, maintaining a website and many more. Imagine our Fellowship without these services.

In the spirit of transparency, we are writing this letter to share the current budget deficit that San Francisco and Marin Intergroup is experiencing due to a significant decline in group contributions, coupled with rising costs coming out of the pandemic. Currently, only 24% of all A.A. meetings contribute to Intergroup.

The 7th Tradition reminds us of the importance of self-support. We are asking A.A. meetings—both in-person and online—to practice the 7th Tradition and contribute. We understand everyone is experiencing rising costs. Intergroup's rising costs coupled with the declining contributions has prompted us to reach out to the Fellowship with this reminder about the 7th Tradition and to ask for your support.

Intergroup depends on contributions from groups and individuals to ensure we are here tomorrow for the alcoholic who still suffers. For those who are already contributing, we are very grateful! If you are able, we'd kindly ask you to consider digging a little deeper. Thank you for your consideration and support!

As our co-founder Bill W. said, *"We AAs were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now that we are sober, and by the grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about-face and become 'thankful givers'!"*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What You Can Do:

- If your in-person or online group does not have a Treasurer or 7th Tradition practice, consider adding them as part of practicing [self-support](#).
- If your group already practices the 7th Tradition, consider adding \$1 to \$2 more to your individual contribution.

- Encourage your group treasurers to disperse 7th Tradition contributions on a more frequent schedule (monthly/quarterly).
- **Gratitude Month** in November is an important way to express your gratitude for your gift of sobriety. The additional contributions from Gratitude Month support Intergroup directly. Talk to your groups about Gratitude Month and the services Intergroup provides that are funded by contributions.
- Send group and individual contributions to aasfmarin.org/contributions.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How can I support Intergroup if my meeting is struggling to make rent?

We understand some A.A. meetings are practicing the 7th Tradition and struggling to meet expenses. At the same time, many meetings are not contributing to service entities. Talk to your members about our 7th Tradition practices to arrive at a contribution level that's right for your group. There's ample literature available to guide these discussions, such as [Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix](#) and [The A.A. Group Treasurer](#).

What are Intergroup's operating costs?

Similar to A.A., Intergroup is self-supporting through contributions from the Fellowship and literature sales. Due to the decline in group contributions, lower book sales and rising costs from inflation, Intergroup is projecting a deficit of more than \$33,000 in 2022. The forecast for 2023 could be much larger if the current trend continues.

What is Intergroup doing to limit its expenses?

San Francisco and Marin Intergroup conducts a rigorous ongoing practice of reducing expenses and relying on volunteers rather than costly outside contractors. Nonetheless, some of our costs are fixed. For example, rent at Central Office is increasing 15% in November 2022.

Will Intergroup be forced to use its prudent reserve?

Intergroup anticipated a budget deficit in 2022, however, it also expected contributions and book sales to return to pre-pandemic levels. This has not happened. Intergroup cannot sustain a similar deficit in 2023. If the current trend continues, Intergroup will be forced to use its prudent reserve.

To support your local A.A. Intergroup, visit aasfmarin.org/contributions or scan the code:

