

# Welcome



More will be revealed ...

# Funding Our Primary Purpose

“Too much money in the  
till causes far more  
trouble than too little”



# Funding Our Primary Purpose



- At every level of service in NA, we have at one time or another faced the challenge of trying to carry out our work with limited funds.





# A Fictitious Example ...



- For example, a Narcotics Anonymous service committee is looking forward to the convention to bring in money to replenish reserves.





# But ...

- ... the weather gets so bad that hardly anyone can travel, and the convention takes in far less money than expected.
- By the time the hotel costs and other expenses are paid, the convention has lost money.
- As a result, reserves won't be filled, literature orders might be cut, or fewer meeting directories will be printed.



# The Aftermath ...



- Trusted servants argue about how the situation could have been handled better, or about how to use the little money that remains available.



- It might take months, or even years, to recover from such a loss.



# Funding Sources & Responsible Management



- This scenario raises questions about both the sources of NA funding and the responsible management of those funds.
- The money that pays for our services comes from contributions freely given by members, as well as income from our own efforts, such as events, merchandise and literature sales.



# Our Primary Purpose



- There is a point at which these efforts can, however, begin to stray from our basic principle of addicts freely helping addicts.
- In our enthusiasm and creativity, we sometimes have ideas for events or fundraisers that have little or nothing to do with our primary purpose, and therefore wouldn't be appropriate for us.





# Striking a Balance



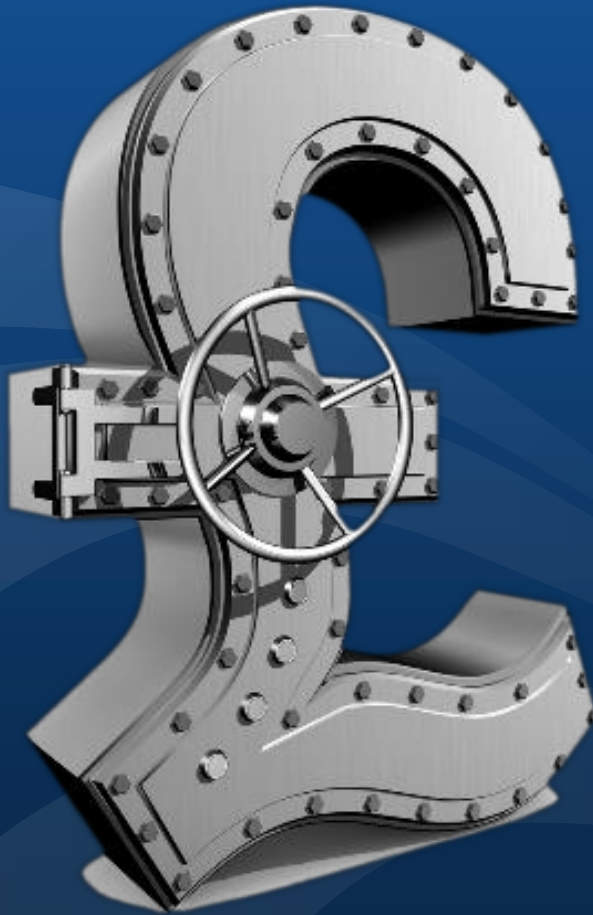
- Group conscience is the means by which we can sort this out and strike the proper balance.



# Tradition 7 & the NA member



- At the moment, the NA member in the group who puts their money in the pot believing it to pay for the rent, tea, literature and carry out our primary purpose via the service structure at Area, Region, Zone and World; is possibly unaware that a large part of that money is ring-fenced or set aside in an account for months..



# 'Matters of Property, Prestige & Money ...'



- We must always be aware that 'Matters of property, prestige and money will divert us from our primary purpose'.





# 'Matters of Property, Prestige & Money ...'



Our conventions and fund-raisers grow ever bigger requiring bigger venues (*Property*).

We believe our convention to be bigger than another with more attendees at the perfect venues with well-known speakers (*Prestige*).

We need ring-fenced money and more fundraising because it was such a success we want to do it again next year (*Money*).



# Hoarding NA Funds



- We hoard our money from the fear that a loving higher power won't be there to guide us. If we believe that a loving higher power steers our ship then we need to let go and let them.
- Hoarding NA funds stops people joining together in unity to raise those funds.



# Seed Funds



- Our seed funds are no longer seeds –  
They've born fruit and become orchards.





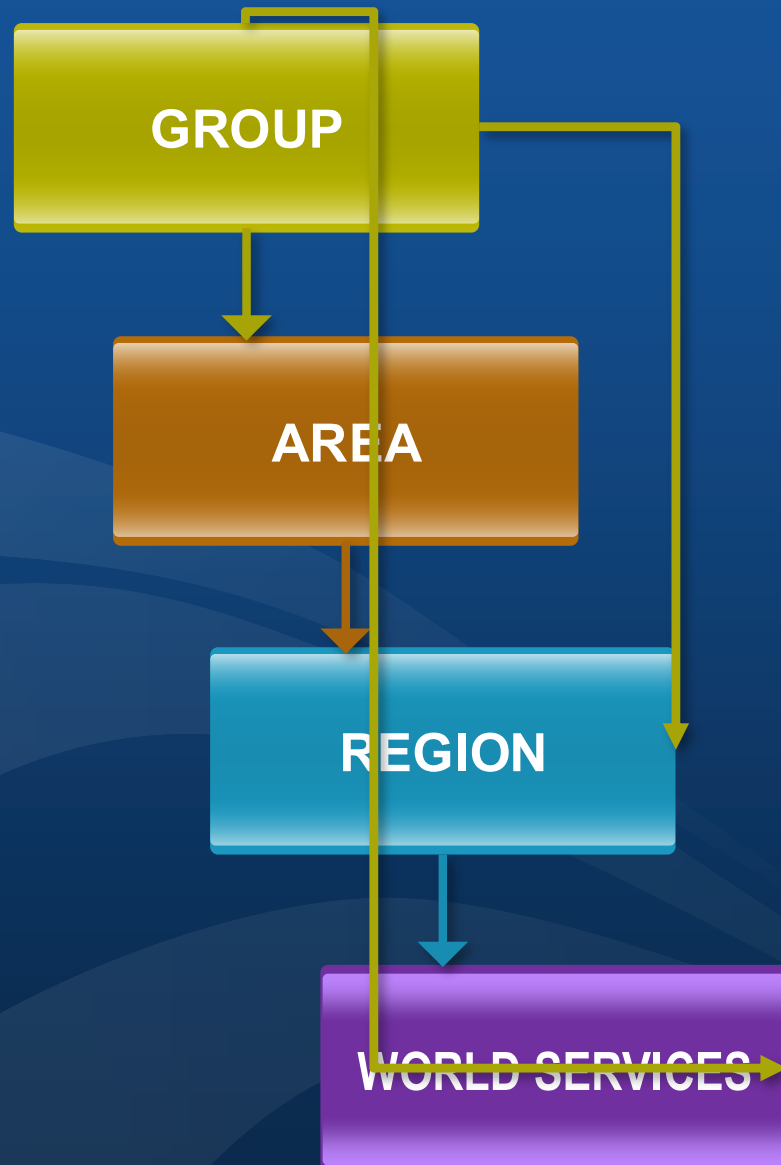
# NA Member Contributions



- With a steady, reliable flow of member contributions we may deal with these types of issues less frequently.
- Our service committees will then be more able to develop practical, realistic budgets and provide more reliable and efficient services to make our message more available.



# The Flow of NA Funds



- When we give enough money in our groups, and our groups contribute directly to each level of service, we stabilise our services and become a more reliable presence in our communities.



# Sharing Our Message



- The ability of our service committees to make plans and follow through does not then depend on factors beyond our control, such as how many people attend our events or buy T-shirts.
- Free from the pressure to generate large profits, our events can stay focused on celebrating recovery and sharing our message.





# Taking Care of Our Resources in NA



- The stability of our resources is only part of the story.
- Taking care of what we have is also an important part of self-support in NA.
- Our resources are limited, so they must be used wisely.



# Service System Success



- If we want our service system to be successful, we must provide it with the money needed to accomplish the work, as well as the time and energy to make the work possible.
- The funds we pass along to the service system do not belong to any particular committee; they belong to NA.



# Eleventh Concept



- Our concepts remind us, “When all levels of our service structure receive direct financial support from the groups, the bonds of mutual responsibility are strengthened between them.”  
*(Eleventh Concept essay)*





# Financial Responsibility



- As members, it's our job to make sure the money we contribute is used responsibly:
  - prioritizing our needs
  - seeking cost-effective methods of service delivery
  - selecting capable and qualified trusted servants
  - insisting on accountability through clear financial reports
  - encouraging our groups and committees not to hold on to large sums of money.



# Financial Responsibility



- Our Eleventh Concept discusses the importance of using NA funds responsibly.
- When we exercise our responsibilities as members, we strengthen the ties that bind us together.
- We see that our contributions make a difference, and we stay in touch with whether or not our service system has what it needs to function.





- Finally, the principle of self-support in Narcotics Anonymous, as expressed in our Seventh Tradition, ensures our ability to carry our message on our own terms.
- Our Second Concept essay clearly defines the responsibility for funding the services that further our primary purpose:
- “Since the groups have created the service structure to perform certain tasks, the groups are also responsible to provide the necessary funds.”



# Self-support in NA



- At all levels, our groups fund our services so we can remain free from outside influences and control.
- We do not accept any donations from outside of NA; everything has its price.
- Self-support in NA is all about taking care of the gift we have been given:
- Freedom from active addiction and the opportunity for a new way of life.





# Together We Can ...



- “Together we can help ensure recovery is available to every addict seeking relief from the nightmare of addiction.”



# Pause for Discussion



# ASCs



- We attend ASCs to assist our groups and help carry the message through our H&I and PI subcommittees.
- We rely on the contributions from NA members via our groups to provide funding so that ASCs may function and thus provide the means to help each Area reach out to the still suffering addict.



# Struggling to Develop



- Some ASCs struggle to develop their fellowship and reach the addicts that they know need our help
- They communicate to the region, through their RCMs, that funds are very hard to find.
- We must never lose sight of our solid foundation, one addict helping another, in every Area of our fellowship.







- Just as we step aside when our service commitment has ended to allow someone else the privilege to serve, the same philosophy should be applied when holding our local Area convention, campout etc.
- If our seed funds are so great as to not allow the next person the privilege to get together with other addicts and find a way to generate the funds needed to hold the Area celebration, then we've missed something very important.



# Trusting in a Loving Higher Power



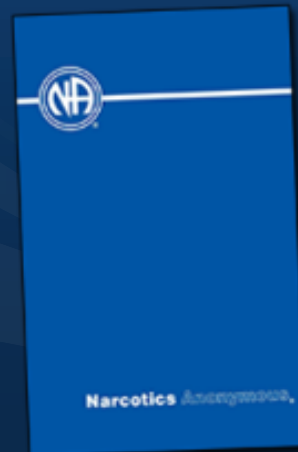
- We're not allowing our members to step up to the plate, to make those bonds that tie us together when faced with a challenge in NA service.
- But most importantly we're not trusting in a loving higher power to bring these people together to make it happen.



# Funding Conventions



- Our conventions grow ever more prestigious, whilst countries around the world don't yet have the Basic Text translated into their language and Areas, some very close to home, struggle to find the funds to finance themselves.



# Funding Conventions



- Conventions and other celebrations are an important part of our fellowship and should always remain so.
- Conventions, particularly area conventions are events we all look forward to, a chance to meet old friends and new, to carry our message of hope, and perhaps hear about service at different levels.





# The Flow of NA Funds



- We must be aware of how that service structure is funded and how the flow of funds must always be fluid.
- It's the members in the groups, through their GSRs, that have asked the fellowship to create all the areas of service that we have and it's their Tradition 7 contribution that funds these.



# The Flow of NA Funds



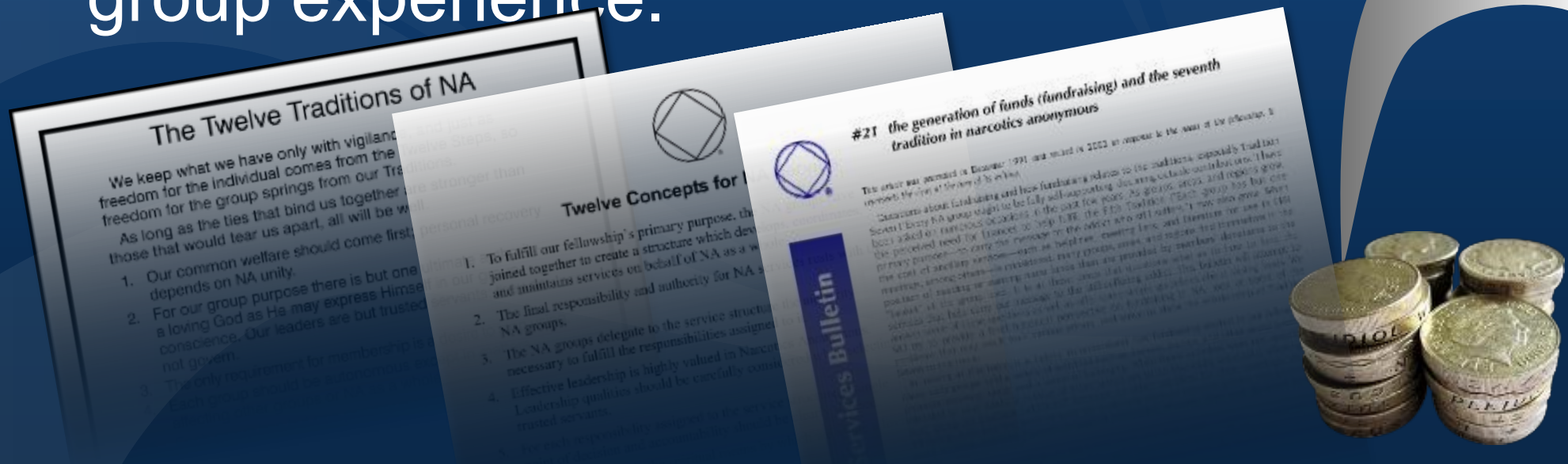
- It is therefore very important that the group members are made aware by their GSRs that part of their Tradition 7 contribution may be held in an account at Area (ring-fenced) for future Area events.
- In the same way this transparency is vital at regional level. NA funds serve no addict when sitting in the bank.
- Fluidity of funds allows us to be both proactive and reactive in service; our conscience in our groups reflects this commitment, and instructs our service committees.



# The Flow of NA Funds



- Our guidelines clearly suggest to us that we do not hoard money.
- Our guidelines are there to steer us away from problems that have already been faced by our fellowship, we learn from our group experience.



# RSC Contributions



- At Regional level, the RSC body is responsible to maintaining an appropriate prudent reserve, and for continuing the funds flow.
- Money is moved through the service structure according to the conscience of the fellowship.
- At present the UK RSC has a policy for contributions to be assessed and agreed by RCM's at every RSC meeting based on funds we have available. The agreed contribution is split 50% each to NAWS and EDM.





# The Ties That Bind Us Together



- We all do amazing work in NA.
- One addict helping another in any way, shape or form, makes recovery possible.
- As long as the ties that bind us together remain stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well.



THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER



# Thank You

