

# PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE AREA ASSEMBLY STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES

## Name of Motion: Reschedule GSO Send-Off Calculation

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| 1. | Submitted to the Area Chairperson (This is a good time to send the motion to translation.) |
| 2. | Reviewed by the Area Committee   |
| 3. | Presented to the Area Assembly   |
| 4. | Area Assembly votes—majority vote required to distribute for group consideration           |
| 5. | Distributed to all GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Delegate and Alternate Area Delegate    |
| 6. | GSRs review with Groups—Group Consciences taken  |
| 7. | Final vote by Area Assembly—two thirds majority vote required for adoption                 |

NOTES:	a. All proposed new text is presented with <u>underline</u> .
	b. All proposed deletions are presented with <del>striketthrough</del> .
	c. Explanations of changes are presented in [brackets].
	d. Identify the location of the current text in the A.A.S.&G.
	e. Identify the intended location of the amended text in the in the A.A.S.&G., if adopted.

Financial Impact to the Area Assembly			
Direct Costs (-)Savings (+) (Actual \$ spent by the Area Assembly to produce or secure change.)		Indirect Costs (-) or Savings (+)possible related costs to sub-committees, support costs or maintenance.)	
\$	Description	\$	Description

Concepts and Traditions that apply	
Concept or Tradition	How it applies
Tradition 7	Groups elect to <del>send</del> distribute their funds to support A.A. as a whole in accord with their informed group conscience. Groups electing to make financial contributions to Area 08 give financial support to the 12-Step work we perform. The Area performs 12-Step work as trusted servants carrying the message. It keeps its funds at work carrying the message. <b>“There was a place in A.A. where spirituality and money would mix, and that was in the hat!” Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Traditions Seven, page 163.</b>
Tradition 9	As a level of the service structure, Area 08 and its committees are able to access funds that pay the expenses for the work it performs. The Area’s annual budget reflects the expenses for the 12-Step work intended to be performed during the budget year. In following A.A. Tradition, all excess funds should be sent on to keep funds at work carrying the message. This is why Area 08 contributes to GSO. The Area must ensure it has covered its responsibility to perform the work available to it to carry the message. <b>“Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Traditions Nine, page 175.</b>

**Motion:** This motion is being brought forth to change the text on Section VI. Sub Section H. 2. to read as follows:

### Current Text:

~~2. At the end of any calendar quarter, all funds in excess of three months (25%) of the current years approved budget will be sent to the General Service Office in New York.~~

### Proposed Text:

2. The Area shall deposit all funds received as a result of contributions in Cash on Hand. The amount of funds that were in excess for the budget year will be calculated as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the budget’s calendar year. In January of the

following year, a GSO send-off amount will be developed and recommended by the Treasurer and Finance Committee. The recommendation will take into account anticipated expenses, as well as anticipated contributions based upon historical data going back no less than five years. The recommendation will be delivered to the Area Committee no later than the February Area Committee Meeting. The amount to be sent to GSO will be determined by a 2/3s vote of the Area Committee.

### **Background:**

This motion has no intention to dispute or interrupt the practice of contributing unused funds to the General Service Office. Area 08's practice of sending off unused funds is in accord with A.A. principles and fully supported. What this motion offers is a consideration of when in the calendar year to calculate and send off unused funds provided by the groups and districts for use in the Area's 12-Step work.

This motion is asking to:

1. Reschedule the GSO send-off calculation from its current setting of quarterly to annually; and
2. Provide an additional check for the need for these funds in fulfilling the intended 12-Step work as approved in the budget by the Area Assembly.

In following the Area's well-intended, current guideline for GSO send-off calculation, the Treasurer is instructed to retain the cash for no more than 1/4 of the specific year's budget. There are specific budget line items identified to be excluded from the calculation in order to preserve their availability. However, its budget-approved expenditures made by trusted servants, as well as the calendar of Area events within the 12-month budget, cannot be planned in amounts that neatly or even predictably fall into equal quarterly amounts. The expenditures and the supporting contributions do not neatly occur in predictable annual quarters.

The risk for the budget, which is an accounting of the expenses required in performing the 12-step work forecasted for a specific calendar year, is not actually held by Area 08. Trusted servants spend their own resources of time and money in the performance of Area work in complete trust that reimbursement funds of budget-approved expenses will be available. The Area has no means of borrowing money, e.g., credit cards, line of credit, etc. If the dollars are not in the bank, the Treasurer does not issue checks. The absence of funds means trusted servants cannot be reimbursed for budgeted expenses incurred during the performance of their 12-Step duties.

Our trusted servants, Area officers and standing committee chairs, base their budgets on the expenses required to perform the 12-step work they forecast or intend to perform during the following calendar year. (Please see VIII. B. of Area 08's Structure & Guidelines: "Funding of Standing Committees: Standing Committees will be supported for any expenses, compatible with the Financial Guidelines, as approved by the Area Assembly." ) There is no provision in the budget expenditure processes or reporting that allow the expenses to be forecast for a specific quarter.

To automatically calculate and send-off funds without regard to the Area's responsibilities may require additional funds to be requested from the groups. The well-intentioned respect of the Area's guidelines may later in the year require a request for funds from the groups that may unnecessarily pull funds from other 12-Step work to which groups may have been able or wanted to contribute. Rescheduling the send-off calculation from quarterly to annually gives respect to: Area 08's budget process; its trusted servants who perform the work in belief the expenses held within the approved budget will be reimbursed to them; and to the contributing groups. This rescheduling action is sought in respect for the fact that groups have many A.A. entities to which they may elect to contribute their 7th Tradition contributions in their support of the 9th Tradition.

Simply because a cost is listed on the budget does not always mean the money will be spent. Expenditures primarily depend on the availability of trusted servants to perform the work. If the work is not done, the money is not spent. The complete listing of all projected costs on the annual budget is a report to be considered a valid and reliable communication tool to the groups. The dollars listed is a full and timely disclosure of the work to be funded and minimizes the surprises or emergencies for which we would need to return to the groups. This planning minimizes any need to unexpectedly request funds from the groups, thereby placing them in the position to provide for emergent requests for money. A placement of this calculation after the close of a budget year may help to mediate such risk and allows the groups uninterrupted adherence to their individual contribution consciences.