



Narcotics Anonymous®

IP No. 24

**“Hey!
What’s the
Basket For?”**

spiritual focus of our program and certainly does not help us in creating an atmosphere of recovery. It is important for us to understand the spiritual principles on which all of our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are based. When we sincerely try to practice these principles, we find that giving is not only a privilege, it helps us immensely in our recovery and our spiritual growth. To give is to receive, and the more we give, the more we get back—spiritually, mentally, and physically. This is true for the group as well as the individual.

We contribute to NA services at an area level, too. An area service committee (ASC) works for our primary purpose in ways that an individual group can't. Group contributions are vital to an ASC to pay for meeting lists, public announcements, mailings, helplines, literature for members in hospitals or institutions, copying expenses, and literature for public information. The spirit of our Seventh Tradition is also carried on in our regional and world services.

In order to truly carry out our primary purpose, our groups must behave in a financially responsible way so that we can contribute to the NA message being carried at every service level, in every country, to every addict seeking recovery.

It costs money to keep our meetings and our services open and operating. We don't accept outside contributions. If we don't pull together to keep Narcotics Anonymous alive and working, nobody else will do it for us. And we wouldn't have it any other way. Each of us needs to do our part to support the fellowship that supports our recovery. Each of us needs to do what we can to ensure that no one like ourselves seeking recovery need die without having had the chance to find a better way of life. We need to do that because personal recovery—ours

and our fellow addicts'—depends on NA unity. NA cannot remain united without the cooperation of individual NA members—us. Ultimately, passing the basket becomes an expression of Narcotics Anonymous unity. As our First Tradition tells us, "Our common welfare should come first. Personal recovery depends on NA unity."

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