

Al-Anon Fundraising

Background

The Southern California World Service (SCWS) Board has received several questions/concerns regarding fundraising conducted by Districts, AIS and conventions. The two main concerns are:

- A. Requests for Cash Donations directly from 7th Tradition funds or Group's treasury
- B. Types of Raffle Items requested (Avoiding Commercialism)

Information from our *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, 2018-2021.*

- A. Committee members involved with fundraising have approached Districts or Groups asking for donations to be taken from the District/Groups treasury or 7th Tradition basket (rather than passing around a separate envelope/basket).

This would not be an appropriate use of the District's/Group's 7th Tradition.

“Our Tradition of self-support suggests that the expenses for the group's operation such as rent, literature, insurance, public outreach, supplies, post office box rental, Group Representative and Information Service Representative expenses be met first. Funds in excess of an ample reserve are used to help support local and Area structures and the World Service Office.”

(*Service Manual* p. 107: Use of Group Funds)

- B. Some raffle items have been seen as contradictory to what is suggested in the *Service Manual*.

Items such as Spa Packages (naming a particular spa), products advertising a specific company, theater tickets for a particular theater, gift cards to a named company, etc. could be seen as promoting specific businesses or entities, or imply affiliation with those outside entities.

“Raffling various articles at meetings or other gatherings is a matter of autonomy but to avoid commercialism in the fellowship, it is suggested that these items relate in some way to our spiritual principles. Items such as Al-Anon or Alateen books, subscriptions to *The Forum* or the donated products of the creative efforts of individual members are suggested. In keeping with our principle of self-support we do not solicit or accept items from outside the fellowship.”

(*Service Manual* p. 106: Avoiding Commercialism)

For additional information:

Service Manual p. 101: Financial Matters

Reserve Fund Guideline, G-41 (See al-anon.org “Members”, “Member Resources”, “Guidelines”

Seventh Tradition, S-21