

Contributing to the World Service Office (WSO)

Why does the Area contribute to WSO?

How do your Group's funds work?

Every Al-Anon Family Groups membership is the source of its funds.

Group funds are used to support Al-Anon's purpose of carrying its message of help and hope to those who still suffer.

(2022-2025 Service Manual, pg. 52)

Group Funds (cont'd)

Groups (both in-person and electronic) create a financial budget to:

- Pay rent and/or virtual meeting platform expense
- Plan for the purchase of literature
- Purchase refreshments
- Provide the Group's trusted servants' expenses to attend business meetings
- Purchase *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* as a public outreach project
- Contribute to the service arms (i.e, District, AIS office, Area, and WSO).

There may be extra collections for special local projects within the District or Area. (Service Manual, pg. 53)

Group Funds (cont'd)

The spiritual principle of prudence suggests that groups avoid accumulating money beyond current needs and a small but ample reserve. (*Reserve Fund Guideline*, G-41)

Group contributions support all levels of Al-Anon service:

- The District
- Local Al-Anon Information Service (AIS/Intergroups)
- The Area (Southern California World Service)
- The World Service Office (WSO)

(*Service Manual*, p. 53)

How Area Funds Work

The Al-Anon Family Groups in the Area are the source of the Area's funds.

The Area creates a financial budget to:

- Maintain the Area website, scws-al-anon.org, which provides information about
 - Alateen (meetings & training Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service/AMIAS)
 - Plan and host (pay rent &/or Zoom account) Area meetings (i.e., Assemblies, Area World Service Committee/AWSC meetings, SOS, Longtimer's Event, etc.)
 - Offset expense for District/Group Reps to attend in-person AWSC meetings and Assemblies.

How Area Funds Work (cont'd)

- Provide liability insurance for in-person registered/Active/listed AFG groups
- Provide Group Records updating—so that we (especially newcomers!) can find AFG meetings
- Provide equipment and travel expenses for Coordinators, when necessary
- Provide funds for the Delegate to attend the annual World Service Conference in Virginia Beach
- Maintain storage unit for Area Archives and financial records.
- Fund special projects, as suggested by Coordinators. Area Coordinators serve as the link between WSO departments and local trusted servants.

How Surplus Funds Work

Your **Group's** Treasurer keeps track of your group's income and expenses and your group's ample reserve.

- Periodically, your Treasurer distributes any surplus funds to the other service arms.

The **Area** Treasurer keeps track of the Area's income and expenses and our Area's ample reserve.

- When the Treasurer sees that we have surplus funds, s/he recommends that we contribute the surplus to WSO, to contribute to services to the worldwide fellowship.

How Surplus Funds Work (cont'd)

In addition to our Traditions: SCWS is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and a charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity per the Internal Revenue Service.

- It is mandatory for nonprofits to use funds in accordance with their mission.
- While there is no limit to how much money a nonprofit can have in reserve, our ample reserve is equal to one year's budget (currently \$70,000). (*Reserve Fund Guideline*, G-41).
- Nonprofit organizations do not “hoard” funds. This is an added incentive for our Area to contribute our surplus to the worldwide fellowship.

How Surplus Funds work (cont'd)

Why does the Area have surplus funds?

- Our Area's AFG meetings contribute generously.
- Our current expenses are lower than our income (our Area expenses have been much lower during the pandemic because we're not meeting in person, so we're not paying rent).
- If our Officers and/or Coordinators have not used Area funds for special projects, our surplus funds are forwarded to the WSO, as the appropriate service arm "beyond" the Area.
- If our members want Area funds to be used differently within the Area, they can approach the Officers and/or Coordinators at any time to suggest special projects that are appropriate for the Area to undertake.