

# **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 do 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](http://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.

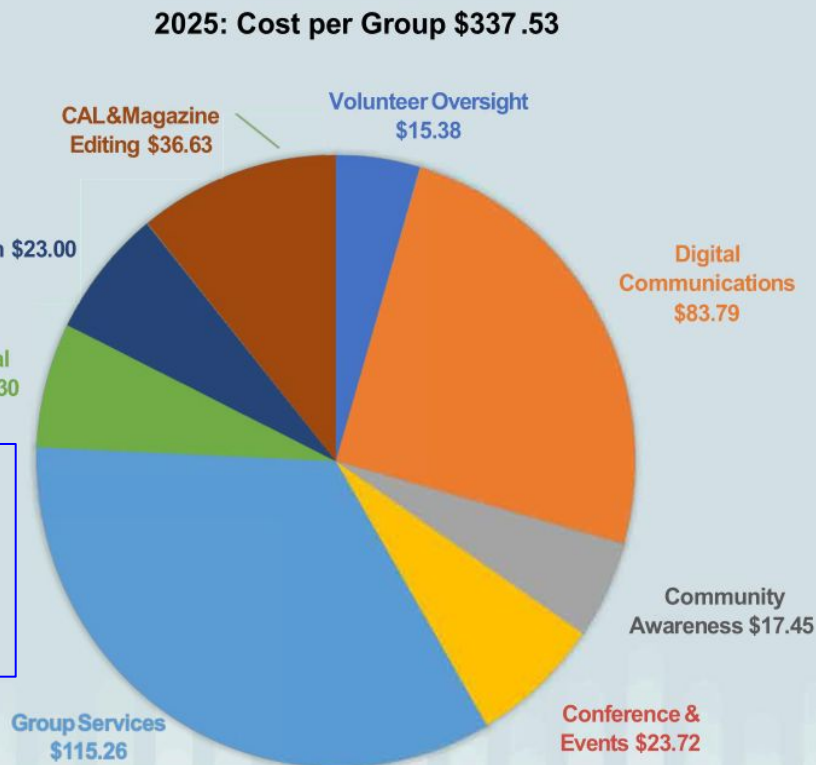
# How Area Funds Work (cont'd)

- 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 do WSO's funds work?

In 2024, WSO  
spent  
**\$337.53 PER  
GROUP.**

In 2024, only **62%**  
of all Groups  
contributed to  
WSO.



# How Surplus Funds Work

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.

# How Surplus Funds Work (cont'd)

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)

"Al-Anon Service Arms Districts,  
Al-Anon Information Services (Intergroups),  
Literature Distribution Centers (LDC), **Areas**,  
General Service Offices (GSO),  
and other Al-Anon/Alateen service entities may also  
contribute in a spirit of unity  
directly to the WSO without limit."

(*Service Manual*, pg 105)