

# Keeping Our Money Safe

Josh D   
Area 55 Panel 76 Delegate

## Context of the current situation:

“While the work of the group treasurer often involves many details, it is important to remember that **the money the treasurer oversees serves a spiritual purpose: it enables each group to fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message** to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is the fundamental work of A.A., and to continue it the group must keep its doors open.” - [The A.A. Group Treasurer](#)

# Our literature provides principles to follow - not a blueprint

“Question: What actions can a group take to protect its funds from misuse?”

Answer: Policies and procedures groups have implemented to protect their funds include:

- Setting a cap on ATM withdrawals
- Setting a cap on debit card purchases
- Requiring two signatures on checks and teller withdrawals
- Requiring the treasurer to provide a copy of the monthly bank statement at each month's business meeting”

[A.A. Guidelines - Finance](#)

“Safeguarding the Group's Money:

The group treasurer takes reasonable precautions to safeguard the group's funds. Many groups keep the group's treasury in a bank checking account in the group's name, often requiring at least two signatures on all checks. This provides security against accidental loss; it also provides ease of disbursement and a continuing record of income and expenses. Monthly bank statements are normally sent directly to the group treasurer, who can bring them to the group's business meeting.”

[The A.A. Group Treasurer](#)

Concept I: *The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*

“If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. **Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship.** Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress.”

- Concept I Essay

# Leadership - A Shared Responsibility

“Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere.”

- Concept IX Essay

# Leadership - A Shared Responsibility

“Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks.”

- Concept IX Essay

# Possible Actions for Protecting Our Seventh Tradition Contributions

- The many actions already taken by Area 54 trusted servants, including today's meeting
- Separating duties of depositing and disbursing funds; reconciliation to include both of these trusted servants, plus a third who does not handle the money
- Forming an ad hoc committee to revise Area 54 Guidelines
- Intentional training, onboarding, and support for incoming treasurers and potential treasurers - expand the skills, knowledge, and practices required for successful service as treasurer
- Including privacy-protected bank statements in financial reports
- Shared area responsibility for finances
- Spreading knowledge of the how and why of Tradition 7 to all levels
- Prayerfully considering standing for a service position in Panel 77

# Ideas to consider in today's discussion

- Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
  - How can we strive for the outcome of this situation to be unifying for Area 54?
- Shared responsibility: what part can each of us play in the path forward?
- Impact on trusted servants:
  - Panel 75, Panel 77, and beyond
  - We inherited what we inherited, but the future inherits what we give them