

Memo

To: Area Chairpersons, Area Delegates

From: Diana Lewis, A.A.W.S. Self-Support -subcommittee secretary,
212-870-3460 / nominating@aa.org

cc: General Service Board Trustees, A.A.W.S. / AA Grapevine non-trustee
Directors and G.S.O. Staff

Re: Request for Fellowship Sharing on experiences using Virtual Baskets
– **deadline, February 9, 2022.**

Dear A.A. Friends,

Warm greetings from G.S.O. We are all sending you best wishes. We look forward to hearing from you.

The A.A.W.S. Finance Self-Support Subcommittee considered a proposed agenda item from a previous year, and forwarded a recommendation that was approved by the A.A.W.S. board:

“The A.A.W.S. Finance committee perform a request for sharing from the Fellowship about using various “virtual” baskets, especially in terms of our Traditions; and forward a report to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee for further consideration on updating Conference-approved literature and service pieces with this shared experience.”

The Finance committee asked the subcommittee to develop questions and to collect Fellowship Sharing. The Self-Support subcommittee developed questions for the Fellowship to consider that were aligned with the service structure: starting with A.A. groups, local committees, General Service Conference, and General Service Board.

The Self-Support subcommittee hopes that you will forward this request to groups, local committees, Treasurers, Finance Committees, and local service entities within your area.

The subcommittee hopes that the following questions will encourage Fellowship Sharing:

1. Did Virtual Baskets change your group's ability to carry the A.A. message to still-suffering alcoholics near you?
2. What type of software or App has your group/meeting used to pass Virtual Baskets?

3. Did your group have any challenges using Virtual Baskets?
4. What were some of the easiest things about using Virtual Baskets?
5. How did your group conscience interpret the Traditions when discussing to use/not use Virtual Baskets?
6. How have Virtual Baskets evolved your group's participation in the Seventh Tradition?

For example, in some groups, more (or less) members participated in the 7th Tradition because of using virtual baskets. Additionally, some groups decided to not have a Virtual Baskets and contributed in other ways.

7. What changes (if any) did Virtual Baskets have on your group's contributions to AA service entities¹?
 - a. Did your group decide instead to ask members to make individual online contributions to Central Offices/Intergroups, District, Area, or to G.S.O.?
 - b. Did members reference your group when making these individual contributions to these service entities?
8. In the spirit of Concept Seven¹ and the balance of power between the Conference Charter¹ and the trusteeship of the General Service Board:
 - a. Have Virtual Basket contributions produced any practical or traditional changes to the final effectiveness of the Conference?
 - b. Do you believe Virtual Basket Contributions that are made throughout the General Service Structure still preserves the A.A. Group as the most important entity in Alcoholics Anonymous?
 - c. Do individual contributions (either one-time or recurring) to the General Service Board produce any practical or traditional changes to serving the A.A. Groups?

Please email secretary, Self-Support-subcommittee, nominating@aa.org with your experiences **on or before, February 9, 2022.**

¹ The [Self-Support page](#), [A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts Essays](#) or the [Concepts Checklist](#) might be useful references.