

Yes! Let's Celebrate My Sobriety Birthday!

"Every AA wants to make sure of his survival from alcoholism, and his spiritual well-being afterward."

— Bill W., *The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings*, p. 166 (Reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)

Why Contribute

- **Supporting AA's Mission:** Contributions help ensure that AA can continue its mission of helping those struggling with alcoholism. ...our primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. (Tradition 5)
- **Gratitude:** It's a way to express gratitude for the support and fellowship that AA has provided throughout the years.
- **Service:** It's a form of service, one of the key principles of AA, which is about giving back and helping others in their recovery journey.
- **Anonymity:** Contributions are typically made anonymously (Tradition 11) and Tradition Seven— Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- **Timing:** Members often make these contributions around the time of their sobriety anniversary, but there's no strict rule about when or how much to contribute within in limits. It's entirely voluntary.

Making Contributions

Send contributions to:

SCV Central Office (non-profit)

26951 Reuther Ave B-4
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
(Check payable to: SCV Central Office)
(Electronic: <https://aascv.org/7th-tradition/>)

District 7

P.O. Box 599
Acton, CA 93510
(Check payable to: District 7, CCAA, Please put Group # on check)
(Electronic: <https://area93district7.org/make-a-contribution/>)

Central California Area 93 (non-profit)

PMB #140
606 Alamo Pintado #3
Solvang, CA 93463
(Check payable to: CCAA, Area 93, Please put Group # on check)
(Electronic: <https://area93.org/contributions/>)

AA World Services (GSB) (non-profit)

P.O. Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116
(Check payable to: General Service Fund AA., Please put Group # on check)
(Electronic: <https://contribution.aa.org/>)

Practical Tips

- **Local Group Discussion:** If your group doesn't already have a tradition for birthday contributions, it might be worth discussing how you'd like to handle this in a group conscience meeting.
- **Encouraging Participation:** Gently remind members about this tradition, perhaps in the weeks leading up to personal birthdays/ anniversaries, and explain the impact of their contributions.
- **Record-Keeping:** Some groups keep a record of anniversaries and contributions (anonymously) to recognize milestones and ensure that funds are appropriately directed.
- **Limits:** Contributions are limited to \$10,000 per member per year and are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3) of those entities that operate as a non-profit.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

— Bill W., *The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings*, p. 221 Reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

How Birthday Contributions Work in AA

Amount Based on Years of Sobriety:

Members often contribute an amount that corresponds to the number of years they have been sober. For example, someone celebrating 5 years of sobriety might contribute \$5, while someone celebrating 20 years might contribute \$20 or more.

Where to Contribute:

- **Local Group:** Contributions can be made to the member's Home Group or local AA group, which passes the funds thru the AA Service structure.
- **Central Office:** Contributions can be made to the Santa Clarita Valley Central Office, which support your local meetings and groups.
- **District or Area Service Committee:** Contributions can also be made to the District 7 and Area 93, which helps organize and support AA activities at a broader level.
- **General Service Board (GSB):** Some members choose to send their contributions directly to AA's General Service Board, which supports AA's work at the national and international levels, including literature production, outreach, and maintaining the organization's infrastructure.

*"Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, *we are all going to foot the bill."*

— Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix pamphlet (F-3) (Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

"Why should not each of us tell himself: 'Yes, we were once a burden on everybody. We were takers.' Now that we are sober and by the grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about face and become thankful givers? Yes, it is high time we did."

— Bill W., The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings, p. 102 (Reprinted with permission of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)

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What is the Birthday Plan?

In Alcoholics Anonymous, it's a common tradition for AA members to make contributions to the organization to celebrate their sobriety anniversaries, also known as AA birthdays. This is a way for members to give back to the organization that has supported their journey to recovery.



Santa Clarita Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

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This pamphlet is made possible through the contributions of A.A. groups and A.A. members to the SCV Central Office.